

Signs of a Soft Heart: Third Triad of Plague

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Exodus: Redeemer and Redeemed / Exodus 9:13–10:29

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on personal experiences where you ignored spiritual "warning lights." What were the consequences, and how did you respond to these signs eventually?
 2. Regarding the Plague of Hail, the sermon highlights the importance of listening to and obeying God's Word (see Ex 9:19). Share a time when obeying God's Word brought significant change in your life or challenged you deeply. How did you feel, and what did you learn from that experience?
 3. Discuss the difference between godly sorrow and worldly regret in the context of personal repentance. How can we cultivate a heart that seeks true repentance?
 4. The Plague of Darkness symbolizes God's judgment and spiritual blindness. Discuss the concept of "light" in your life. What are the things that illuminate your life and home? How do you ensure that God's light is central in your life and family?
 5. Reflect on the sermon's closing thought about being humble in the face of God's correction. Share a time when you received correction or discipline from God or others. How did you react? Did it lead to growth and a softer heart towards God?
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Sermon Notes

- There are equally critical indicators of spiritual danger. Consider how serious the author of Hebrews take the matter: [Hebrews 3:13](#)

Hebrews 3:13 ESV

¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- Pharaoh had signs and wonders literally piled up in front of him and he hardened his heart—pay attention here—doubling down on his prior way of life in spite of overwhelming evidence it was the bad play.
- That is one way to conceive of sin: going headlong into disaster in spite of the best evidence that to the contrary. And Pharaoh is charging into his demise.
- God escalates the next three signs to show the true condition of Pharaoh's hard heart. By this time, Pharaoh has cheated God twice, seen the difference between Israel and Egypt clearly and God's favor fall on Israel.

There are four signs of a soft heart. I'll be making the argument that our lives ought to be the antithesis of Pharaoh's responses to God's revelation. Just as there are clear signs of a hard heart, there are clear marks of an soft heart before God.

A soft heart listens to the Word of God (9:13).

- Moses is sent to Pharaoh with a warning of a severe hailstorm as a sign of God's power. Storm devastates the flax and barley fields. Pharaoh asks for relief, but his heart remains hard.
- We are at a textual escalation—coming upon the literary climax—in the text both in terms of severity but even in the clues contained within the text itself. Moses is comparatively spilling ink in these last plagues This first plague here contains nearly as many verses as the entire first triad? Why? To show an escalation.

Importance of listening to God's word:

Exodus 9:19 ESV

¹⁹ Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.”

- Our threat is probably not a lack of Bible. For us, the people of Redeemer, is probably a noisiness to our lives. A busyness that has the appearance of godliness but misses the greater portion.

A soft heart does not cheat the mercy of God.

The Plague of Locusts (10:1-20)

- Despite the warning, Pharaoh's heart remains hardened. God sends a plague of locusts that devour what was left after the hail.
- Locust are a prophetic sign of judgement. Here and when God sends them against Israel--they are a sign to repent (Amos 4:4-13). God will send them upon his people in the OT for the same reason as here: to move them to repentance.
- Pharaoh's temporary repentance is insincere, highlighting the difference between true repentance and mere regret.—2 Cor “godly sorrow vs. worldly regret”
- Jesus illustrates what it looks like to cheat the mercy of God in the parable of the unforgiving manager.

A soft heart wants the light of God where they live (10:23). (What is illuminating your home?)

The Plague of Darkness (10:21-29)

- A darkness covers Egypt for three days, symbolizing God's judgment and the spiritual blindness of Pharaoh.
- Darkness over the land, is aimed at the sun-god, Re or Atum.
- Pharaoh is given a final warning, yet his heart remains unchanged, leading to the stage set for the final and most devastating plague.

A soft heart is humble in the face of God's correction

Each plague served as a correction from God, which Pharaoh pridefully rejected.

(See Jesus who was perfectly humble, learning obedience, to give it to us freely. Your heart today might be as hard as Pharaoh's, but Christ could soften it in a moment)

There are indicator lights in your own heart. Which ones are you ignoring?

There are clear signs of a soft heart, watch out for the deceitfulness of sin so that your own heart does not become hard.

Bibliography

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