

Doctrine of the Plague of all Plagues

1. There was no plague more dreaded in the ancient world than that of leprosy.
 - *Matthew 18:8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.*

2. There are three kinds of leprosy.
 - Nodular or tubercular leprosy.
 - Anesthetic leprosy.
 - A mixture of the two.

3. Leprosy is still prevalent in the world.
 - Fact. There are about 800,000 present cases of leprosy.
 - Fact. India, Indonesia, and Myanmar account for 70% of all the cases in the world.
 - Fact. In Africa, the second most affected area, leprosy is overshadowed by the AIDS epidemic, the resurgence of major tropical diseases, social unrest and armed conflict.
 - Fact. Brazil accounts for 80% of cases in all of Latin America.
 - Fact. There are about 86,470 known cases of leprosy in the United States.

4. Leprosy as a sickness finds a spiritual parallel in sin.
 - Leprosy makes the body weak, and sin sickens the soul. *Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

 - Leprosy alters the way the body looks, and sin alters the way man looks. *Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

 - Leprosy created a separation from society, and sin caused loss of fellowship with God.

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

 - Leprosy was a deadly disease, and sin brought forth death. *2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

- Leprosy brought forth fear, shame, and misery. In like manner, sin causes nothing but shame and sorrow and misery. *Romans 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.*
5. Because some forms of leprosy could be cured, hoped lived. And in like manner there as a cure for sin in the saving work of Jesus Christ at Calvary. The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanses from all sin (1 John 1:7).
 6. What does it mean to be cleansed?
 - To be cleansed means to be cured. Jesus cured the leper (Mark 1:40-45) and He cures the soul spiritually. There is a restoration to religious health. Whatever damage was done by the Fall has been reversed.
 - To be cleansed means to be changed. The physical condition of the leper was changed with his complete cure. Spiritually, the soul is fundamentally and forever changed when cleansed.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
 - To be cleansed means to find new freedoms. The leper was able to return to society after being cleansed, or cured by Christ. Spiritually, the soul, once dead in trespasses and sin and alienated from the face of God, is able to return to the throne of grace when cleansed by Christ. *Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*