

## LEPERS AND RIVERS

Of late I have been reading<sup>1</sup> an excellent book about a doctor working with leprosy patients in India and later in the State of LA. This doctor did things which would make me unworthy to shine his shoes, little different than many others who do missionary work in dark places. His correlations of the human body functions with spiritual principles are simple and clear.

But in reading about Dr. Brand's insights of linking the aspects of the human body to parallel aspects of the Body of Christ, I was struck by the absence of any references to, or questions about, the root causes of the leprosy. This was in no way critical of the work, just an observation. As reflection time on the book waxed for days, I began to realize Dr. Brand was called to be a man of healing, and to exercise his specific calling within certain boundaries. Those boundaries of his calling did not encompass roots and causes. Doctors are primarily called to be mercy givers, at least ostensibly so.

This gap of understanding remained with me several days. As normal events on the ranch unfolded, I felt frustrated, out of the Spirit, uneasy. As I confessed my sour attitude, quickly a chain of insights came into being. For whatever reason, I shall relay this chain in reverse order, starting with the most recent and working backwards in time.

Crudely expressed, leprosy is the manifestation of the destruction of nerve endings; the person cannot feel dryness in his eyes; he does not blink, his eyes dry out, going blind in the process. The ends of his limbs are systematically and mechanically destroyed due to no feeling of pain. Leprosy's expression is organic and relatively short-term; ***its cause is neither***. The time line is less than 50 years.

The bent of my creative imagination then expanded to a series of time lines ranging from the short-term to the extremely long-term. (In the case of Aaron's sister Miriam murmuring (slandering) against Moses, leprosy is the short-term judgment.)

But most of the time, the Word<sup>2</sup> describes the diseases from a curse as being "long-lasting, chronic, progressively worse and worse, ending in death, debilitating, ruinous, despicable, horrible. Curses on a family last for generations, stemming from an act or series of acts by an individual or individuals; some may be of no blood relation, as in the case of Saul<sup>3</sup>. The time line for this series is on the order of scores of years. Confirming this, the Word<sup>4</sup> repeatedly deals with requital of sins to the third and fourth generation. Now we have a time line of around 100 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Brand, Dr. Paul, Yancy, Phillip, 1987, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. Zondervan Publ., Grand Rapids. MI.

<sup>2</sup> Deut.28:1-13, 16-66, et al.

<sup>3</sup> II Sam 21

<sup>4</sup> Jer. 32:18; Ex. 34:7, et al.

We then go to the inherent fallen nature of Man (thus the spiritual ancestor of the leper) to be rebellious. Now we have a time line of 1000s of years.

My thoughts then catapulted to a geologic problem with which I had been struggling some 15-20 years. As is my bent, I asked the question, "Why do the main rivers in Texas flow a certain direction for a long distance, and then change azimuths?" My experience has taught me for every geologic event there was a root cause, an event which dictated the result.

Indeed there was an event which dictated why Texas rivers flow **as we see them today**. In uncovering the numerous geologic overprints under these rivers, the answer finally appeared. During the Middle Pennsylvanian Period, there was a mountain-building orogeny which caused the Ouachita Mountains of AR and TX to uplift. The mountains in AR are still visible; the ones in TX are buried under much younger strata. Very large strike-slip faults (San Andreas types) accompanied the mountain-building, which in turn fractured the strata. More easily eroded, this fractured strata began to host drainage systems which developed over time. Thus the position and direction of river flow we see today were caused by events **300 million years ago!**

We see **and accept** things as they are, but in large measure omit the "why". **All things** have a cause. Being content with the "what is" leaves us vulnerable. No wonder we are in such a sad, poor and accursed state.

One wonders how God feels about this....

April 7, 2015

Ben-Issachar.

Postscript: April 9, 2105

This story apparently did not end with the signing of my pen name at the end. This morning's watch by the window in the dark brought a deep troubling. Over the years He has given me much insight; my mental and emotional disturbance stems from there being little depository for it all. Dr. Brand's seminal work is quite acceptable, quite pleasant to read, from which one is uplifted and encouraged, an admirable work. Would that I were so fortunate...

But not so with that which I have been given; Dr. Brand's excellence and worthiness leaves me with a soul-wince. Jesus has made me in such a way I find no such acceptance and admiration; all brotherly fellowship and peer approval in any form has virtually been eliminated. As I held but for a moment an improper vision of Quasimodo, my attitude was lifted up to Him. So quickly does He respond to a broken heart, so quickly. I realized **His** reception on three levels, and was brought low.

When Jesus healed, cast out demons and fed the multitudes, people all around flocked to Him in droves. But as He progressively taught the stringencies of the Kingdom, the crowds began to thin out. He began to link “sin no more” with the sickness of which the individual was just healed. They often returned to their old haunts of familiar demons, with whom they were comfortable. **His** words weren’t comfortable. Eventually Jesus asked His disciples, “Will you leave me also?”

And when He spoke on the third level of stringency, namely the cross, even His disciples balked at the idea. When He actually hung there, they scattered like quail.

So it is this quiet morning by the window in the dark, with the clock ominously showing 3:33 (a reminder to Jer.33:3); **people flock to medical doctors**. The same is true for those seeking lawyers to get them out of a bind with the law.

But when single-proprietor MDs and lawyers begin to speak about proper eating habits and personal responsibility, the listening and seeking falls off dramatically. (That is why the manipulation to make everything medical corporate; it makes it controllable).

Then I put my pen down and laid my writing pad beside the chair. I asked the Captain, “What do I do?” The answer filtered through the dark;

“Those solely seeking health, wealth and personal welfare are Outer Court people; their motive is dominated by the Salvation of Man. I *will* heal, but only for a season.

“The proclaiming of holiness of mental and physical behavior is a reflection of the Holy Place. Those entering this realm are to take on the aspects of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; this is the Purity of my Bride.

“Where the Cross is expressed, death to self reacts violently. Self personalities cannot exist in the Holy of Holies, only that of the Glory of God, the Eternal One. Few enter.”

As they treated Jesus, the Son of the Almighty One, so they will treat me. He has not made me a healer of diseases and ailments, but a holder of a plumb bob, a cured leper exposing unholy roots and causes, a defender of my Father’s holiness...

Ben