**REASONS FOR THE PLAGUES**

**I CORINTHIANS 10:1-11**

Introduction: According to the text, it’s folly to ignore the Old Testament examples of the many plagues in Scripture. They serve a purpose that invites investigation. Plagues can be Biblically defined as anything from human diseases to natural catastrophes. (Ex. 11:1) We shall observe the reasons for them in something of a chronological order.

1. Hatred for mistreatment of the Jews – Pharaoh and Egypt stand out as a premier example which led to ten plagues. Ex. 7-12; Psalm 89:20-23
2. Failure to make provisions for an atonement - Numbers 8:19 The New Testament application is in Romans 5:8-12
3. Complaints about present provisions – Numbers 11:38
4. Slander and lack of faith – Numbers 14:36,37
5. Murmuring and complaining about God’s appointed leadership over Israel. The Bible records at least ten different times when Israel rose in rebellion against Moses and Aaron, resulting in judgments like fire (Numbers 11:1); prevented from an earthly inheritance (Numbers 14:23); earth swallowing up offenders (Num. 16:30-35); affinity with Korah the saboteur; 14,000 died of an undefined plague (Num. 16:49); many bitten by fiery serpents (Num. 21:6) etc., etc. Should the daily complaints of the media and liberal politicians be partially to blame?
6. Allowing alien, pagan religions to infiltrate Israel – Num. 25:1-5,9; II Chronicles 21:11-15
7. Numbering Israel for wrong reason – II Sam. 24 David was playing to his pride, evidenced by failure to obey the Biblical procedure. (Ex. 30:11-16)
8. The general overview is that all plagues are the result of sin (I Kings 8:35-40), and the seed ground for those is the human heart. – I Kings 8:38 This is reinforced by Moses in Deuteronomy 28:58-63
9. The plague of greatest proportions is still in the future, connected with the Battle of Armageddon – Zech. 14:12-15
10. Our best source of protection from any plague – Psalm 91:9-16; New Testament application – Mark 5:25-34