

Exodus 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

Analysis

And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לוֹ עוֹד הִבֵּאֲנָא יָדְךָ בְּחִיקְךָ וַיֵּבֵא יָדוֹ) —The second sign: instantaneous **leprosy** (צָרַעַת, tsara'at, severe skin disease). **Leprous as snow** (מַצְרַעַת כְּשֶׁלֶג)—white, diseased skin. In Israel, leprosy symbolized sin's corruption, requiring isolation (Leviticus 13-14). Moses experiences both affliction and healing (v. 7) instantaneously—demonstrating God's power over life, death, health, and disease. This sign previewed God's judgment on Egypt (plagues) and healing for obedient Israel. Symbolically, Moses learns that God's power both judges and restores.

Historical Context

Leprosy (tsara'at) included various skin diseases, all rendering a person ceremonially unclean and socially isolated. The instant onset and healing demonstrated supernatural power over biology and disease—something no Egyptian magic could replicate. This sign also prepared Moses for intercession—experiencing affliction creates compassion for the afflicted (Hebrews 4:15).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' experience of both affliction and healing prepare him for ministry to a suffering people?
2. What does this sign teach about God's sovereignty over sickness and health, judgment and mercy?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה ה	ל ו	ע וְד	וַיִּבֶּ א	נ א	יָד ו
said	And the LORD	H0	furthermore	And he put	H4994	his hand
H559	H3068		H5750	H935		H3027
בְּחִיקוֹ ו	וַיִּבֶּ א	יָד ו	בְּחִיקוֹ ו	וַיִּקַּח ה	וְהִנֵּה ה	
into his bosom	And he put	his hand	into his bosom	and when he took	H2009	
H2436	H935	H3027	H2436	H3318		
יָד ו	מְצֹרַע עַתָּה	כַּשֵּׁלֵג:				
his hand	was leprous	as snow				
H3027	H6879	H7950				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 5:27 (Parallel theme): The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Numbers 12:10 (Parallel theme): And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

