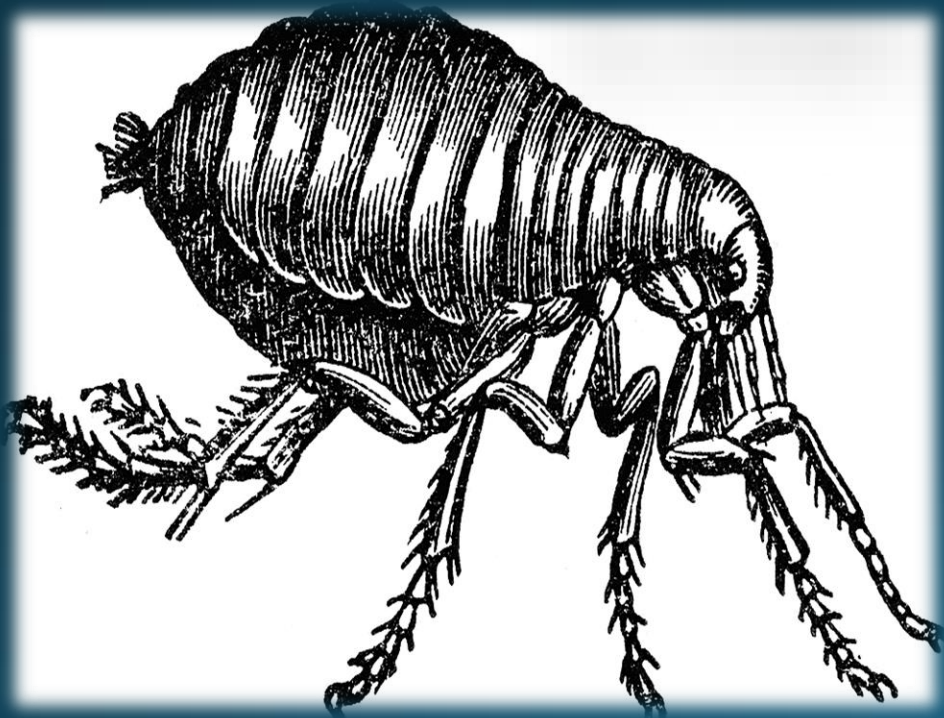


I've Got Fleas



More than a nuisance...

...a parasite

...carrier of disease

...bringer of death

We've all got "fleas"

They can come in the form of:

- fear,
- loneliness,
- emptiness,
- anxiety, and yes,
- sin.
- A passage indicating we all suffer from some type of "infestation"-
 - Romans 5:12-19

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam...

17 For if by one's man offense death reigned through the one...

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men resulting in condemnation...

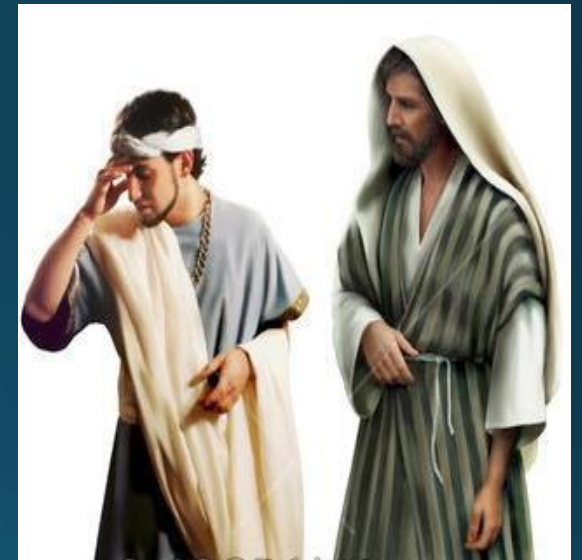
19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners...

What the passage is and isn't teaching:

- It isn't teaching original sin or else:
 - **Matthew 18:2-4** makes no sense...
 - It is a contradiction of **James 1:12-16**...
 - And it renders the promise of God made in **1 Corinthians 10:13** meaningless.
- It is teaching that:
 - That once Adam sinned, all men became susceptible to committing sin...
 - ...and that all men need a rescue from the "fleas."

How do men deal with the “infestation of the fleas”?

- They simply ignore it.
- A passage to notice:
 - **Matthew 18:16-22**
- What “fleas” had infested his life?
- There was fear, anxiety, emptiness- these gave way to his sin.



- Some seek to get rid of it through **human reasoning** and **selfish** means.



A passage indicating this:

Ecclesiastes 1:2

Note his depressed view of life:

vanity of vanities (1:2)

Therefore I hated life (2:17)

Note all the things he had tried to rid himself of the “fleas”:

Wisdom, pleasure, alcohol, possessions, and wealth

- By what “fleas” was Solomon infested? Fear, loneliness, emptiness, anxiety and sin (see 1 Kings 11:4-13).

Why was he struggling to get rid of the “fleas”?

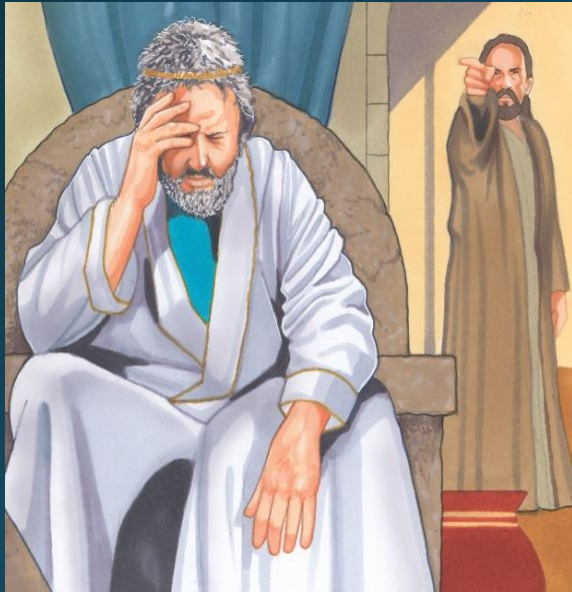
“I said in my heart- 2:1 (cf. Proverbs 23:7)

“Whatever my eyes desired, I did not keep from them (2:10)

Some pursue the acknowledgement of transgression to exterminate the infestation.

What “fleas” had invaded David’s life? Fear, anxiety, and sin.

- Note Psalm 51:1-4



There are two parts to this extermination plan:

God's part (vv. 1,2)

man's part (vv. 3,4)

We can be free of an infestation if we remember the following passages:

- I have FOUGHT the good fight of faith (2 Timothy 4:7)

TRUST in the Lord with all your heart, and **L**ean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5,6)

MAKE your call and **E**lection sure... (2 Peter 1:10)

ABIDE in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming (1 John 2:28)

SEEK first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)