

“WHO IS THE LORD?”

The LORD God and the Ten Plagues of Egypt

Introduction

- 1) **Exodus 5:1-2** – Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Let My people go.’” Pharaoh responds, “**Who is the LORD**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?”
- 2) Pharaoh made the slave labor of Israel even more grievous (vv. 6-21)
- 3) “I am the LORD” (6:1-8): God would show who He is by bringing Israel out of bondage
 - a) Involved hardening Pharaoh’s heart and multiplying signs and wonders in Egypt (7:2-5)
- 4) The ten plagues brought upon Egypt contain important lessons about who the LORD God is

I) The LORD Who Speaks

- A) God had spoken, but Pharaoh would not “hear” [learn and obey] (7:16)
- B) It is important to hear, fear, and heed the word of God (9:19-21; 12:38)

II) The LORD Who Is Exclusive

- A) God acts as the one and only true God (8:10; 20:2-3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6)

III) The LORD Who Is Unequaled

- A) Man cannot do what God can do, even by tricks (8:18-19; Acts 8:9-13)

IV) The LORD Who Makes a Distinction

- A) God made a difference between Egypt and Israel (8:23; 2 Tim. 2:19; Rev. 7:3)

V) The LORD Who Is Greater Than False Gods

- A) Plagues were a judgment on the false gods of Egypt (12:12; 18:10-11; Num. 33:4)
- B) All false gods, doctrines, and religions will be judged by God (Matt. 15:7-9, 13-14; 1 Jn. 4:1)

VI) The LORD Who Hardens Hearts

- A) God “hardened” Pharaoh’s heart by commanding what he did not want to do (9:1, 13)
- B) God foreknew that Pharaoh would harden his heart (3:19; 4:21; 7:3, 13, 22; 8:15, 19, 32)
- C) God “hardens” hearts when men refuse His word and exalt themselves (9:7, 17; Rom. 9:18)

VII) The LORD Who Is Longsuffering

- A) The plagues continue because Pharaoh refused to obey God (9:13-17)
 - 1) Pharaoh could have prevented the ultimate end resulting in his son’s death (4:22-23)
- B) God gave instructions as to how to protect the people and livestock (9:18-19)
- C) Pharaoh: “I have sinned this time” (vv. 27-28); but “sinned yet more” (vv. 34, 30)
 - a) Lord does not like one who promises but does not do (Matt. 21:28-31)

VIII) The LORD Who Demonstrates His Mighty Power

- A) Heard and told to generations to come (10:1-2; Josh. 9:9; 1 Sam. 4:8)
- B) Evil men will suffer the wrath of God’s punishment (10:3-4; Rom. 1:18)

IX) The LORD Who Divides Light from Darkness

- A) God’s people dwell in the light (10:23); darkness is the destiny of evil (Matt. 25:30)

X) The LORD Who Graciously Provides Salvation and Life

- A) Death would “pass over” the houses with blood on the door (12:23) – deliverance!
- B) The wages of sin is death (11:4-5; Rom. 6:23), with filth, disease, fear, frustration – no hope!

Conclusion

Do you know the one true God, and Jesus Christ, His Son? Hear and obey His word today!

Why the Plagues of Egypt are Miraculous Events and Not Simply Natural Events

- 1) Intensification (8:3-4)
- 2) Prediction (8:9-11; 9:29)
- 3) Discrimination (8:22-23; 9:4)
- 4) Orderliness (gradual severity; 7:3)
- 5) Moral Purpose (9:14, 27)

The Purpose of the Plagues of Egypt

- 1) Bring about deliverance of the oppressed people of Israel (6:2-8)
- 2) Demonstrate the mighty power of God to Egypt and Israel (7:3-5)
- 3) Judgment on the false gods of Egypt (12:12; 18:10-11; Num. 33:4) – see chart below
- 4) Demonstrate the failures of Egyptian religious officials (8:18-19; 9:11)
- 5) Judgment on the exaltation, pride, and rebellion of Pharaoh (9:16-17; 10:7; 11:3)
- 6) To provide continual lessons about God’s power, His willingness to deliver, and His ability to perform what He has promised (10:2)

– adapted from *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*, John J. Davis

“Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue then; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that **I am the LORD**” (Ex. 14:4)

The Plagues and the Gods and Goddesses of Egypt		
Plagues	References	Possible Egyptian Gods and Goddesses of Egypt Attacked by the Plagues*
1. Nile turned to blood	Exodus 7:14–25	Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god guardian of the Nile; and others
2. Frogs	8:1–15	Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head
3. Gnats	8:16–19	Set, god of the desert
4. Flies	8:20–32	Re, a sun god; or the god Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly
5. Death of livestock	9:1–7	Hathor, goddess with the cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility
6. Boils	9:8–12	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god, Isis, goddess of healing
7. Hail	9:13–35	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility; Set, god of storms
8. Locusts	10:1–20	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility
9. Darkness	10:21–29	Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess
10. Death of the firstborn	11:1–12:30	Min, god of reproduction; Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, goddess who protected children; Pharaoh’s firstborn son, a god

*Egypt was a very complex polytheistic religious culture over its history, with more than two thousand gods dedicated to various aspects of daily life, society, nature, and the supernatural realm. These deities were described with various names, forms, and assorted roles. The plague passages of Exodus 7-12 do not directly or indirectly reference any specific god or gods (like the Bible does later with *Baal*, a god of the Canaanite religion), so this chart represents one attempt to identify the possible Egyptian deities that may have had an association with the circumstances of each plague. - mwg