

The Plagues

Exodus 12:12: “For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and I will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments – I am the LORD.”

Plague	Exodus	Deities of Egypt defeated
1. Nile turned to blood	7:14-25	The Nile: source of Egypt’s life Khnum: guardian of the Nile’s sources Hapi: the spirit of the Nile Osiris: the Nile was his “blood”
2. Frogs	8:1-15	Heqt: form of frog; god of resurrection
3. Gnats (lice, mosquitoes?)	8:16-19	the priesthood as representatives of the gods
4. Flies (swarms of insects)	8:20-32	Utachit: form of a fly
5. Death of livestock	9:1-7	Apis: bull of Ptah (creator god); fertility symbol Hathor (form of cow): goddess of love & beauty Mnevis: sacred bull associated with Re
6. Boils	9:8-12	Sekhmet: goddess with power to end epidemics Serapis: god of health Imhotep: god of healing and medicine Shu: god of the air
7. Hail	9:13-35	Nut: sky goddess Isis: goddess of life Seth: protector of crops
8. Locusts	10:1-20	Isis and Seth
9. Darkness	10:22f	Re, Aten, Atum, Amun-Re: sun god Khepre (a manifestation of Re) Horus and Harakte: sky gods Hathor: sky goddess Thoth: moon god
10. Death of the firstborn	12:29f	Osiris: giver of life The deity of Pharaoh

Notes:

- Other gods affected:
 - Wadjit: protector deity of Lower Egypt
 - Heka: god of divine energy and magic
 - Ma’at: goddess of order, balance, and harmony
- Demonstration of God’s power and sovereignty over Egypt.
- Confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh is actually between Yahweh and the false gods of Egypt.
- Difficult to identify all the gods. Probably best not to view it so much as a one to one correlation between the plagues and a particular deity, but more as a divine judgment against all the gods collectively in that none of their gods could counter Yahweh’s judgments.

See John H. Walton, *Chronological Charts of the Old Testament*, p. 43, and John J. Davies, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*.