

Women in the Word
November 5, 2024
Exodus 5:8 – 10:29

Who is your God? – Part 2

Questions from last week

1. What object are the gods/goddesses carrying?
It is an **ankh** – to the Egyptians, the key of life – both physical and spiritual, immortality, reincarnation



2. What was the duration of time for all the plagues and length of the strikes?
1 (blood) 7 days; 2 (frogs) thought to be a week; 3, 4, 5, 6 unknown time frame; 7 (hail) 1 day; 8 (locusts) unknown; 9 (darkness) 3 days; 10 (firstborn) 1 night

How long did the plagues last? Probably five or six months.

The Nile flooded in September (water to blood); the hail attacked the first crops – flax and barley -- which were harvested in February / March; locusts attacked the later crops – wheat and spelt – harvested in March / April.

The Exodus account does not spell this out, but scholars think this could be the time frame.

3. Could the strikes be attributed to natural phenomenon?
Some skeptics try to explain away the plagues with scientific theory. For example, (1) a red algae in the Nile occurs yearly; (2) frogs were driven out of the Nile by the annual flooding; (3) gnats come in swarms seasonally
The answer is NO!

The final plagues / strikes (7 – 9)

Plague / Strike 7

Hail

God sent Moses to Pharaoh with a strong warning.

Plague / Strike 8

Locusts

Plague / Strike 9
Darkness

Mocks the highest of all the Egyptian gods – Ra, the sun god.

Other purposes of the plagues:

- To answer Pharaoh's question, Who is the Lord? (Exodus 5:21). In the plagues, God showed Himself greater than any of the false gods of Egypt.
- To show the power of God through Moses (Exodus 9:16)
- To give a testimony to the children of Israel for future generations (Exodus 10:2)
- To judge the false gods – demons really – of Egypt (Exodus 12:12, Numbers 33:4)
- To warn the nations – more than 400 years later, the Philistines remembered the Lord God of Israel as the one who plagued the Egyptians (I Samuel 4:8)
- To testify to the greatness of God to Israel (Exodus 15: 11; Deuteronomy 4:34)

From Guzik, David, *Exodus*. Enduring Word: Goleta, CA, 2019.

Another excellent resource:

Merida, Tony, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Exodus*. B & H Publishing Group: Nashville, TN, 2014.

| The Plague/Strike | Egyptian god(s) Targeted | The Significance | Creation versus de-creation | Pharaoh's Response | Yahweh's Purpose |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| (7) Hail Accompanied by fire | Nut – goddess of the sky Isis & Seth – agriculture Shu – god of atmosphere Set - weather & storm Osiris – fertility & vegetation | Warned ahead of time to seek shelter / very frightening Destroyed crops; widespread damage Thought to destroy flax & barley – an early crop Goshen protected Economic ruin | God created life-giving vegetation on the third day. De-creation – destruction of crops The land's blessing is reversed. There are not different gods for aspects of creation | Claims to repent Exodus 9:27 Heart is hardened Insincere | God is making himself increasingly known to His people. "There is none like me." Exodus 9:13 – 17 |
| (8) Locusts | Senehem – protector god from locusts Osiris – fertility and vegetation Seth – storm god Nepit – goddess of grain | Locusts swarm the land destroying what was left from hailstorm – all vegetation Thought to destroy wheat crop – later harvest God blew the locusts away with a strong wind Economic ruin | Upsets the order of creation, normal growing seasons, bringing disorder | Another insincere repentance God hardened Pharaoh's heart Exodus 10:20 Pharaoh's servants say: "Let them go." Exodus 10:17 | "Know that I am dealing harshly with the Egyptians that they may know that I am the Lord." |
| (9) Darkness | Ra - the supreme god, sun god Horus – associated with sun, moon, healing Thoth – moon god | A mockery of the sun god; most worshipped of all the gods. Darkness so thick it could be felt (Ex 10:21) Prefigured the final judgment. Darkness is the realm of the dead | Complete inversion of first day of creation – "Let there be light." Now complete and oppressive darkness "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." I John 1:5 | Asks that Israel's flocks and herds be left behind. To Moses – "Get away from me." | "So you will know that I am the Lord." |

The Plagues of Egypt and Plagues in Revelation

After the rapture, God institutes plagues on the earth – now largely populated by those who refuse to enter into a saving relationship with Jesus or turn to God.

| Plagues of Egypt | Plagues of Revelation |
|---|---|
| Number | |
| 10 – signifying fullness | 7 signifying completion 7 churches (chp 3) (not a plague) 7 seals (chp 6) 7 trumpets (chp 7 – 9) 7 angels and 7 plagues (15) 7 bowls (16) |
| Animals | |
| Frogs, livestock, flies, locusts Serpent | Lamb – Christ’s sacrifice Lion – Christ’s power Serpent - Satan |
| Darkness and Light | |
| Darkness - judgment | Darkness – sun, moon, stars will be darkened Light – Christ is the light of the world; no need for the sun |

In Revelation, other similarities to Egypt include intense hail and fire; waters turn to blood; sun, moon, stars lose one-third of their light; huge locusts with the sting of scorpions; harmful and painful sores.

But praise the Lord, we will have a new heaven and a new earth with a river of life, and we will continually worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 5: 12, 13: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

