

**Introductory remarks:** 30,000ft view; will post notes and further resources

### **How do we do theology?**

- Conversation with a person: I believe in a god, relationship, etc.
- Philosophy - omnis', etc.
- Rely on Revelation - acts in history canonized in Scripture

*We will retell the Exodus and discover what we can learn.*

### **The exodus**

- By the time of the exodus the Israelites knew nothing of the God of Abraham. They knew that they were slave in Egypt - and that Egypt was supreme (culture, military, gods).
- Hebrew Nation grew, Pharaoh pop control - 1st born sons into the Nile
- Moses survived Pharaoh's assault on Hebrew firstborns; finds himself in Pharaoh's household; murders an Egyptian that was beating an Israelite; flees and finds himself part of a small tribe of shepherds.

**Chapter 3** - while keeping sheep he finds himself in the presence of a bush on fire, while not consumed.

- Voice tells Moses not to come near but to take off his sandals- holy ground.
- Tells Moses he is the God of Israel and that he intends on delivering them from slavery to the promised land.
- Moses asks for God's name- God responds "I AM/I Will be what I will be"
- Moses is sent with God's blessing, the promise of signs and wonders. Leprosy and snake into staff

### **The match up**

- Egyptian pantheon & Pharaoh - *Exodus: Gods and Kings* - Chris. Bale
- I AM & Moses
- Chapter 7 - staffs into snakes; this isn't just magic trick, it is testing the power of the gods

### **Cosmic Warfare**

The plagues are targeted assaults on Egyptian Pantheon - three examples

- A. Hathor - cow/woman - goddess of love, fertility, and livestock - God destroys the Egyptian livestock but spares the Israelite herds
- B. Ra - eagle/man - god of the sun (thought to be the sun), 3 days of darkness.
- C. Pharaoh- son of Ra/incarnate- responsible for holding together Ma'at. Poetic retribution for pharaoh killing firstborn sons of Israelites - smear lambs blood over the posts of the house so the angel of death passes over.

The exodus finds completion in the parting of the Red Sea, the drowning of the Egyptian army, and the movement towards the promised land.

**Chapter 19 -The covenant** - fresh off this victory the Israelites find themselves at the foot of Mt. Sinai, In relationship with this God.

**They have been rescued - God's favor/grace comes first**

Exodus 19:4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;

6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

The Israelites were once oppressed slaves, and they became the treasured possession of the supreme God of gods - to be his priests and chosen nation in the world.

**What do we learn about God through this story**

- I. God is holy - there is none like him and he depends on nothing. He is not created, he is eternal. His name reveals there is no one like himself
- II. God is sovereign- he has no equal - destruction of Egyptian gods
- III. God is relational- yes trinity(more on this later)- God desires a relationship of love and blessing with his people.

**How does the story continue?**

*Despite being liberated from slavery to Egypt, the Israelites were unable to keep Gods covenant. Although they were rescued from material slavery, they and all humanity, were found to be enslaved to sin and death.*

## **The new exodus**

God did not send a representative, but instead himself.

- A. Jesus forgave sins, accepted worship, and owned the divine name upon himself - John 18 ego eimi
- B. Jesus displayed his supremacy over the enemies of sin and death by triumphing over them through his death and resurrection.
  - a. In the first Exodus, blood of an innocent lamb was smeared on the door frame so the angel of death would pass over, in the new Exodus the blood of Jesus, the lamb of God was shed so that the wrath of God would be poured out on him rather than us.
- C. Jesus brings us to eternal relationship with God through our faith in him.
  - a. In the Covenant of Mount Sinai, God brought his people into relationship with himself and gave them law. In the New Covenant, God brings people into relationship with himself through Jesus, giving them the Spirit of the Law - the Holy Spirit - with the promise of new and unending life.

This is God Almighty

Resources for Further Study:

ESV Study Bible Articles

*True Theology: Knowing and Loving God* page 2505

*The Bible and Revelation* page 2507

*What It Means to Know God* page 2509

*The Character of God* page 2510

*The Trinity* page 2513

J.I. Packer, *Growing in Christ*. ISBN-13:978-1-58134-852-2 (Pages 19-34)

J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*. ISBN 978-0-8423-3960-5

To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism. Questions 36-41

Michael D. Williams, *Far As The Curse Is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption* ISBN-13: 978-0-87552-510-5

Gerald Bray, *The Doctrine of God*. ISBN 0-830-1531-7

### **<sup>1</sup>Egyptian Gods Against Whom the Plagues Were Possibly Directed**

<i>Nile to blood</i>	Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile; others
<i>Frogs</i>	Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head
<i>Gnats</i>	Set, god of the desert storms
<i>Flies</i>	Re, a sun god; Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly
<i>Death of livestock</i>	Hathor, goddess with a cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility
<i>Boils</i>	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god; Isis, healing goddess
<i>Hail</i>	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of the crops and fertility; Set, god of the desert storms
<i>Locusts</i>	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of the crops and fertility
<i>Darkness</i>	Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess
<i>Death of firstborn</i>	Min, god of reproduction; Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, goddess who protected children; Pharaoh's firstborn son considered a god

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<sup>1</sup> <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/what-the-bible-tells-us-about-the-10-plagues-of-egypt>