

“THE LORD IS GOD!”

EXODUS Chapters 7 – 10

> **INSIGHT:** Remember the children of Israel had been in Egypt for 400 years and had become greatly oppressed and enslaved, cries were heard and Moses was sent as a deliverer. Moses approached Pharaoh, demanding that he let the people go, Pharaoh responded by saying, “*Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go*” (Exodus 5:2). Thus began the challenge to show whose God was more powerful.

> Chapter 7 – “God is the LORD!”

(v1-7) **God prepares Moses** – As God calls us, He will prepare us to fulfill His plan for His GLORY!

(v8-13) **God uses the rod of correction to the seat of Pharaoh’s understanding.** It’s believed that these magicians are mentioned in the New Testament in **2 Timothy 3:8**, known as **JANNES** (*he who seduces*) AND **JAMBRES** (*he who is rebellious*). Although Jannes and Jambres are not named in the Old Testament, they are common figures in late Jewish tradition. According to legend, they were the two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses’ demand that the Israelites be freed. They sought to duplicate the miracles of Moses in an attempt to discredit him before Pharaoh (Ex 7:11-12,22). Observe the magicians who imitated what God did through the rod of Moses; we must remember that the Antichrist will be an imitator of Christ, but truly he is a great deceiver! (Gain understanding for the last day’s deception in 2 Thess. Ch. 2.)

- **Understand the TEN PLAGUES:** Each of the Ten Plagues were aimed at the **gods of Egypt**, and were designed to give proof to the power and love of God for His people Israel. Through these judgments and miracles both the Hebrews and the Egyptians would come to “know that the Lord is God” (Ex. 6:7; 7:5, 17; 8:22; 10:2; 14:4, 18).

> EVIDENCE of the ten plagues against the Egyptian Empire is not only found in the Bible, but also in secular records. For example:

- The ***Ipuwer Papyrus*** is an ancient document that provides a possible independent record of the ten plagues in Egypt. It describes a great disaster that took place in ancient Egypt. The oldest copy dates to around **1400 BC**, placing it close to the time of the Exodus (circa **1446 BC**). The *Ipuwer Papyrus* is the sole surviving manuscript of an ancient Egyptian poem officially designated as *Papyrus Leiden I-344*.

- **The poem is known as “The Admonitions of Ipuwer.”** A new edition is available now entitled “*The Dialogue of Ipuwer and the Lord of All.*” Dutchman Giovanni Anastasi purchased the *Ipuwer Papyrus* in 1828, and it is now housed in Leiden, the Netherlands, at the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden.

(Sidenote: The *Ipuwer Papyrus* speaks of the first, fifth, seventh, ninth and tenth plagues.)

- **FYI** - Egyptologist David Rohl, who doesn’t claim to be a Christian, has written two books on how biblical accounts relating to Egypt, Joseph, and Moses are astonishingly accurate. He believes Joseph and Moses were historic characters and cites Bronze Age slave lists containing Hebrew names, the grave goods of an underclass discovered at Avaris (the biblical Goshen), and Egyptian “plague pits”

full of skeletal remains.

(v14-25) **1st PLAGUE** – **The Nile and all Egyptian water is turned to blood and the fish die!** Pharaoh *refuses* (v14) to let the people go, which reveals his hardened heart toward God.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The first plague, turning the Nile to blood, was a judgment against Apis, the god of the Nile, Isis, goddess of the Nile, and Khnum, guardian of the Nile. The Nile was also believed to be the bloodstream of Osiris, who was reborn each year when the river flooded. The river, which formed the basis of daily life and the national economy, was devastated, as millions of fish died in the river and the water was unusable.
- **Ipuwer Papyrus:** The *Ipuwer Papyrus* says, “Plague is throughout the land. Blood is everywhere” (2:5–6). “The river is blood. . . . Men shrink from tasting—human beings, and thirst after water” (2:10). “That is our water! That is our happiness! What shall we do in respect thereof? All is ruin” (3:10–13).

> *Chapter 8 – “Frogs, Lice and Flies & Pharaoh Hardens His Heart”*

(v1-15) **2nd PLAGUE** – **All of Egypt is covered with frogs.** The frog was one of Egypt’s gods. Pharaoh does not keep his word, he’s a liar, a deceiver and he hardens his heart in rebellion against the truth of God.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The second plague, bringing frogs from the Nile, was a judgment against Heqet, the frog-headed goddess of birth. Frogs were thought to be sacred and not to be killed. God had the frogs invade every part of the homes of the Egyptians, and when the frogs died, their stinking bodies were heaped up in offensive piles all through the land (Exodus 8:13–14).

(v16-19) **3rd PLAGUE** – **Dust is turned into a lice infestation on both man and beast.** The magicians cannot duplicate this event and admit that this is “*finger of God*,” but Pharaoh’s stubborn pride refuses to let the Hebrews go as he continues to harden his heart against the Word of God.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The third plague, lice, was a judgment on Set, the god of the desert.

(v20-32) **4th PLAGUE** – **Flies, flies and more flies!** Pharaoh surrenders for a moment, but after the flies are gone he then refuses to fulfill his promise to “*let the people go.*” Pharaoh is a deceiver, just as Moses said in verse 29.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The fourth plague, flies, was a judgment on Uatchit, the fly god. In this plague, God clearly distinguished between the Israelites and the Egyptians, as no swarms of flies bothered the areas where the Israelites lived (Exodus 8:21–24).

> *Chapter 9 – “More Plagues & Pharaoh ALMOST let’s the People Go”*

(v1-7) **5th PLAGUE** - **All Egyptian livestock is killed by a pestilence.** Again Pharaoh’s heart is hard.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The fifth plague, the death of livestock, was a judgment on the goddess Hathor and the god Apis, who were both depicted as cattle. As with the previous plague, God protected His people from the plague, while the cattle of the Egyptians died. God was steadily destroying the economy of Egypt, while showing His ability to protect and provide for those who obeyed Him.
- **Ipuwer Papyrus:** The Ipuwer Papyrus says, “All animals, their hearts weep. Cattle moan” (5:5). “Behold, cattle are left to stray, and there is none to gather them together (9:2–3).

(v8-12) **6th PLAGUE – Boils on man and beast throughout Egypt.** You might say that Pharaoh was boiling over this last plague, like an egg in boiling water, so in the same way his heart was hardened.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The sixth plague, boils, was a judgment against several gods over health and disease (Sekhmet, Sunu, and Isis). This time, the Bible says that the magicians “could not stand before Moses because of the boils.”

(v13-26) **7th PLAGUE – Heavy hail destroys man and beast throughout Egypt,** but the children of Israel in the Land of Goshen are spared.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The seventh plague, hail, attacked Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, the crop fertility god; and Set, the storm god. This hail was unlike any that had been seen before. It was accompanied by a fire which ran along the ground, and everything left out in the open was devastated by the hail and fire. Again, the children of Israel were miraculously protected, and no hail damaged anything in their lands.
- **Ipuwer Papyrus:** The Ipuwer Papyrus says, “Forsooth, gates, columns and walls are consumed by fire” (2:10). “Lower Egypt weeps. . . . The entire palace is without its revenues. To it belong [by right] wheat and barley, geese and fish” (10:3–6). “Forsooth, grain has perished on every side” (6:3). “Forsooth, that has perished which was yesterday seen. The land is left over to its weariness like the cutting of flax” (5:12).

(v27-35) **Pharaoh has a change of mind, but not of heart.**

> **Chapter 10 – “The Moses Challenge: Humble Yourself!”**

(v1-11) In verse 3 Moses challenges Pharaoh to humble himself, in verse 7 Pharaoh’s servants have given up, but in verse 10-11 we read this smoother translation taken from the NIV “*Pharaoh said, "The Lord be with you – if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. No! Have only the men go; and worship the Lord, since that's what you have been asking for."* Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

(v12-15) **8th PLAGUE – A swarm of locusts cover the land.**

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The eighth plague, locusts, again focused on Nut, Osiris, and Set. The later crops, wheat and rye, which had survived the hail, were now devoured by the swarms of locusts. There would be no harvest in Egypt that year.

(v16-20) Pharaoh repents to escape the judgment; this is foxhole religion!

(v21-23) 9th PLAGUE – Darkness over the land for three days.

- **Egyptian gods refuted:** The ninth plague, darkness, was aimed at the sun god, Re, also known as Ra, who was symbolized by Pharaoh himself. For three days, the land of Egypt was smothered with an unearthly darkness, but the homes of the Israelites had light.
- **Ipuwer Papyrus:** The Ipuwer Papyrus says, “The land is without light” (9:11).

(v24-29) Pharaoh’s heart is hardened to the point of wanting to kill Moses. In time every human heart is revealed, a hardened heart like Pharaoh or a humble heart like Moses.

- What gods do we worship in America?

1 – MONEY

2 – SEX

3 – SELF

4 – PLEASURE (Party! Party! Alcohol and drugs!)

5 – POLITICS (Political parties)

6 – TECHNOLOGY (Is the solution to all things.)

7 – MILITARY MIGHT

8 – MUSIC

9 – CELEBRITY

10 – SPORTS

11 – EDUCATION

12 – MULTI-CULTURALISM (Accepting all beliefs and religions.)

13 – AMORILITY (No morals, no values, no rights, no wrongs.)

- Let’s remember the words of **James 4:6-10** - *That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*