

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

A few weeks ago, we began looking at the 10 plagues that God brought upon Egypt before the Exodus of His people from their bondage. We covered the first seven plagues:

1. **The Plague of Blood**, Ex. 7:14-24 → Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile; others...
2. **The Plague of Frogs**, Ex. 8:1-15 → Heket, (Heqet,) goddess of birth, with a frog head
3. **The Plague of Lice**, Ex. 8:16-19 → Set or Geb, god of the desert storms
4. **The Plague of Flies**, Ex. 8:20-32 → Khepri, and Uatchit, represented by the fly.

5. The Plague on Livestock (Hathor), Ex. 9:1-7

6. The Plague of Ashes Boils and Sores (Isis), Ex. 9:8-12

7. The Plague of Hail in the Form of Fire (Nut),
Ex. 9:13-35

8. The Plague of Locusts (Seth), Ex. 10:1-20

9. The Plague of Darkness (Ra), Ex. 10:21-29

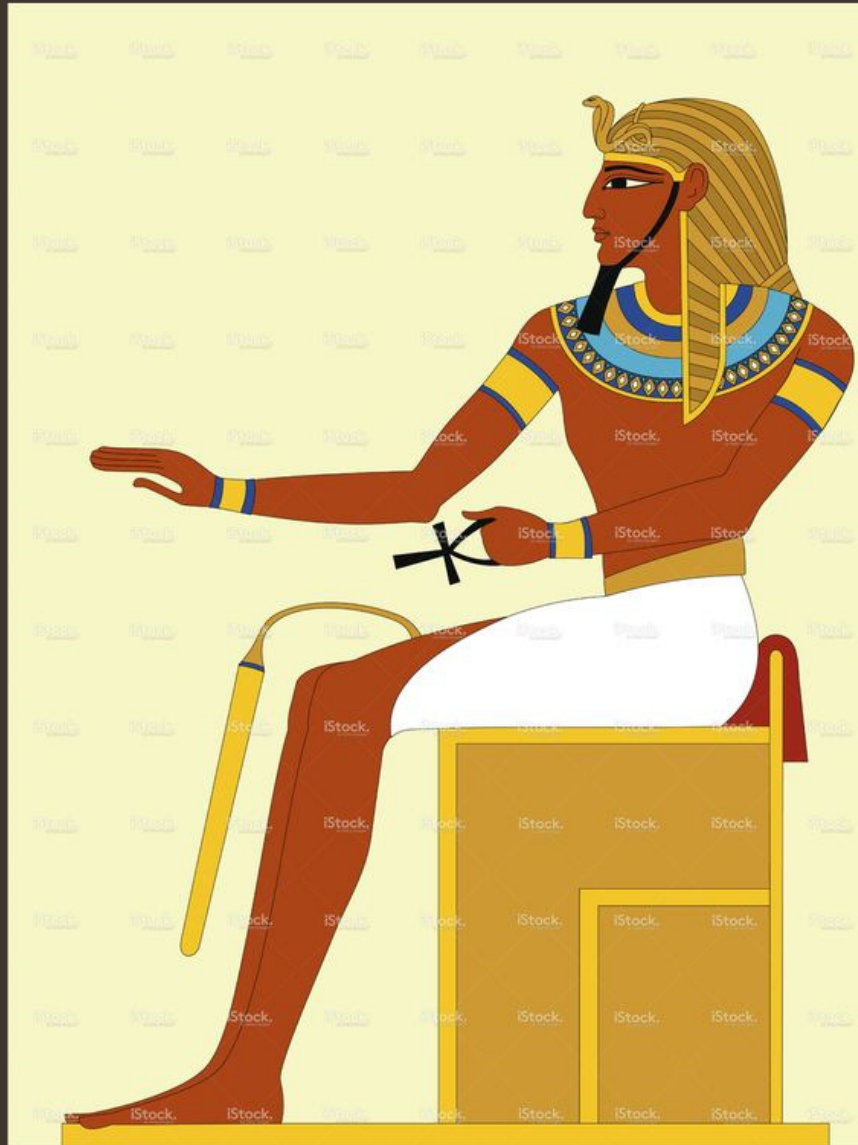
- ❖ Remember that one of the purposes of the plagues is for God to show His strength and power over the gods of Egypt.

Ex. 7:5 And **the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Ex. 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.**

Num. 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all *their* firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: **upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.**

10. The Plague of Death (Pharoah)



Canopic Coffinette of Tutankhamun

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- ❖ Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was worshipped by the Egyptians because he was considered to be the greatest Egyptian God of all. It was believed that he was actually the son of Ra himself, manifest in the flesh.
- ❖ The Egyptians believed their pharaoh to be the mediator between the gods and the world of men. After death the pharaoh became divine, identified with Osiris, the father of Horus and god of the dead, and passed on his sacred powers and position to the new pharaoh, his son. The pharaoh's divine status was portrayed in allegorical terms: his uraeus (the snake on his crown) spat flames at his enemies; he was able to trample thousands of the enemy on the battlefield; and he was all-powerful, knowing everything and controlling nature and fertility.

- ❖ Pharaoh, as the king of Egypt, was worshipped by the Egyptians because he was considered to be the greatest Egyptian God of all. It was believed that he was actually the son of Ra himself, manifest in the flesh.
- ❖ Pharaoh would in essence be the epitome of the antichrist.
- ❖ Isa. 31:3 Now **the Egyptians are men, and not God**; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

❖ The tenth and final plague unleashed upon Egypt was the most devastating of them all—the death of the firstborn. In this unfathomable tragedy, every firstborn child in Egypt, from the highest of nobility to the lowliest servant, perished in a single night.

Note the five declarations by Moses in Ex. 11:4-8:

Ex. 11:4 And Moses said, **Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:**

5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that *is* behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.

6 And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.

7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

8 And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger.

1. 11:4 – About midnight the Lord will go out into the midst of Egypt;
2. 11:5 – all the firstborn shall die, from Pharaoh to servants, including animals;
3. 11:6 – there will be a national tragedy like never seen before or again;
4. 11:7 – Israel will be spared “that ye may know that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.”
5. 11:8 – there will be an exodus for Israel from Egypt.

- ❖ When sinners come to Christ, there should be an individual exodus from the worldliness lifestyle of their previous bondage.

I. OBEDIENCE OVER OBSTINACY

- ❖ Pharoah was obstinate against God while Moses and the Israelites were obedient to God's commands.
- ❖ In Ex. 11:1-3, the Lord gave Moses the instructions needed in preparation for the exodus of Egypt – one more plague, and borrow riches from the Egyptians.

- ❖ Moses earned the respect of the Egyptians – 11:3, and the Israelites obeyed Moses.
- ❖ Moses was obedient to the Lord's commands, walking by faith, trusting Him and His leadership.
- ❖ The Israelites followed Moses' leadership, and experienced God's blessings.
- ❖ He protected His children, "...that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." (Ex. 11:7b)

- ❖ The Lord makes a difference with His children and expects His children to be different from the world – Heb. 6:9:

Heb. 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

- ❖ A few days earlier, the Israelites were turning against Moses. The Israelites were suffering, discouraged, and out of fellowship with Moses.
- ❖ After the plagues were favoring the Israelites, they were experiencing favor with the Egyptians, even to giving them... ”... jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.” (Ex. 11:2)

Summary

❖ Moses received these promises while at the burning bush:

Ex. 3:19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand.

20 And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, **when ye go, ye shall not go empty:**

22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put *them* upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

- ❖ The LORD did not give Moses all of the details of the plagues, but He fulfilled His promises.
- ❖ The LORD did not give Moses and the Israelites the plan for the Tabernacle when He provided the riches to the Israelites from the Egyptians.
- ❖ Pharaoh placed himself in competition against God, exalting himself as a god, demanding worship from those who should only worship the only true God.
- ❖ The plagues not only demonstrated God's power over the Egyptian gods but also highlighted His faithfulness to His promises made to His people.
- ❖ The most important element during this time of trial was simply to trust and obey.

Ex. 12:50 Thus did all the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.
51 And it came to pass the selfsame day, *that* the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

Conclusion

Prov. 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

8 Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but **the LORD directeth his steps.**