

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of Our Inheritance

#23 God Declares War on the gods of Egypt - The Demons Of Darkness

Galatians 3:16-17 tells us it was 430 years from Abraham's call to the Law. The Israelites had been sojourners in Canaan and Egypt. Now they were enslaved in Egypt under the rule of the Pharaoh [type of Satan] who did not know Joseph.

For over eighty years, [80-144 years of the 430], God watched and worked behind the scenes as the Egyptians oppressed and persecuted His people. [God, Where Are You?]

Recall: Joseph and his generation have died. Many Israelites have only known life in Egypt with their pagan gods. They believed God existed, but it seems they doubted He could, or would, break the yoke of their bondage.

The time had arrived when God would intervene on behalf of His "firstborn" and take vengeance on those who had persecuted and afflicted Israel.

Ex. 4:22 Thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn.

Ps. 103:9 The Lord is slow to anger and plenteous in mercy, but, "He will not always chide; neither will He keep His anger forever."

Note: The placement of the plagues in Israel's history.

God had previously demonstrated His power over the plans of Satan, the enemy:

1. In Gen. 6, God intervened in the affairs of man with the Flood. He destroyed the corrupted seed of man as a result of the union of the fallen angels with the daughters of men which produced the giants in the land [Nephilim].
2. ~106 years later, He frustrated Satan's [the Enemy's] plans at the Tower of Babel, confused their languages and forced man to spread out.
3. Since the call of Abram as the father of the nation, Israel has been a sojourner or pilgrim in a land that was not theirs. God has been preparing His people for His purpose and plan.
4. The time is nearing for God to deliver His people and Lead Them To Their Inheritance.
5. Now, God was going to show His power over the gods of Egypt. A Battle Of The Gods!

Purpose of "The Plagues of Egypt": God's mighty arm descended upon Pharaoh and his land.

I. The Plagues Were An Indictment and Judgment Of The gods [demons] Of Egypt.

The influence of the "gods" in Egypt, with their magic, myths and rituals provided the Egyptians with a lasting place in history and led the following generations into an immense, enlightening description of the ancient mythologies, including a wealth of information regarding the dynamics and supernatural possibilities of paganism.

Religion In Egypt: Polytheistic

Religious practices were centered around the Pharaoh who descended from the gods.

Facts Regarding Ra, Osiris and Isis

1. Egyptians believed the oceans both preceded and in some way contributed to the creation of the living cosmos.

2. They believed Atum [sun god, Ra] independently created himself from a singular expression of self will. He was a creator god and the first god to exist on earth.
 - a. This was an act visualized by the Egyptians as a divine egg that appeared upon the primordial waters of the all-filling ocean called Nun, out of which Atum [he who created himself] emerged.
 3. Atum [He-She] orally copulated himself and regurgitated his children, Shu and Tefnut, who assumed the positions of god and goddess of air and moisture.
 4. Shu & Tefnut became lost in the universal ocean of Nun. Atum exhibited his paternal care by sending out his Eye to look for them. [His eye can detach itself.]
 5. The Eye of Atum succeeded in finding the child gods and eventually returned to discover that Atum had grown impatient during the wait and had created himself a second eye.
 6. In order to placate the hostility that soon developed between the 2 divine eyes, Atum affixed the first eye upon his forehead where it was to oversee and rule the forthcoming world of creation.
 7. The Eye of Atum became the jealous, destructive part of the sun god, Ra.
 8. To avoid getting lost again in the all-filling waters of Nun, Shu and Tefnut procreated Geb, the earth and Nut, the sky.
 - a. This provided the more stable elements of earth, nature and the seasons.
 9. Later, Geb [the earth] was conceptualized as cohabiting with Nut and producing 4 children.
 - a. Seth, Osiris, Isis and Nephthys
 - b. Osiris and Isis grew into important cult deities.
 10. The Egyptians believed that Osiris, with the help of his sister-wife Isis, had nearly overthrown and replaced Ra as the most powerful of the gods.
 - a. This action so enraged Seth [Osiris' brother] that the hateful and jealous sibling [Seth] killed Osiris.
 11. Seth's murder of Osiris was followed by the jackal-headed god, Anubis, assisting Isis with the embalming of her slain husband-brother.
 - a. The jackal-headed god became the "god of embalming."
 12. Isis in mourning: summoned the wisdom of Thoth - head of ibis holding a writing palette
 - a. She combined his wisdom with her own proficient magical skills and produced a resurrected Osiris.
 - b. The resurrected Osiris impregnated her with Horus, the god of daylight.
- Horus' Story was written 5,000 years ago. Born of a virgin, Isis; Birthday is Dec. 25; Eastern star led 3 wise men to him at birth; taken to Egypt to escape the wrath of typhoon; taught in the temple as a child; baptized by Anup the baptizer at 30; had 12 disciples; performed miracles; walked on the water; raised El-azur-us from the dead; transfigured on a mount -Titles: way, truth and life, good shepherd, etc. He was crucified, buried in a tomb and resurrected.
13. Horus avenged his father's death [Osiris] by killing the evil brother, Seth.
 14. From this time forward, Osiris was considered the chief god of the deceased and the judge of the netherworld - the dark and dreary underworld region of the dead.

- a. In human form, Osiris was perceived as a mummy.
- b. He was loved as the guarantor of life after death.
- c. Yet he was feared as the demonic presence that decayed the bodies of the dead.

Egyptian's Belief Regarding Death:

1. Everyone had a *Ka*, a spiritual and invisible duplicate which would accompany you throughout eternity. They believed in "rebirth" after death.
2. Your *Ka* provided you with a resurrected body in the kingdom of the dead.
 - a. However, it could not exist without the maintenance of the earthly body. Therefore every effort was made to preserve the human corpse through the process of mummification.
 - b. In order for a person's spirit to live forever, it had to be able to recognize and return to the body it belonged to.
 - c. If the spirit could not recognize the body it belonged to, it would die.
- Mummification guarantees eternal life for the spirit.
- d. Wooden replicas of the body were also placed in the tomb, as a substitute in case the mummy was accidentally destroyed.
- e. They constructed burial tombs designed to hide and preserve the human body for eternity.
- f. Curses were placed throughout the tomb as a warning against intruders.

Egyptians Belief Regarding the Afterlife:

1. *Ka* departed from the human body accompanied by the hymns and prayers of the living.
2. It used the formulas memorized from the funeral texts to outsmart the horrible demons seeking to impede the *Ka*'s progress into the kingdom of Osiris.
3. Arriving at the judgment hall, the heart of the *Ka* was "weighed in the balance" by Osiris and his 42 demons. Your heart was weighed against a feather = symbol of truth.
 - a. If they found the deceased lacking in virtue he was condemned to an eternity of hunger and thirst.
 - b. If the *Ka* was determined to be an "outright sinner," it was cut to pieces and fed to Ammit, the miserable goddess and "eater of souls."
 - c. If the *Ka* was judged to have lived a virtuous life, the *Ka* was granted admission into the heavenly fields of *Yaru*, where foods were abundant and pleasures unending. The only toil here was serving in the grain fields of Osiris. However, you could avoid this by placing substitutionary statues into the tomb.

Egyptian Belief Regarding The 42 Demons:

1. They believed leaders from the fallen Watchers had become the underworld demons of Osiris. They were desperately afraid of them and spent a great deal of time trying to placate the judgment of Osiris and his 42 demons.
2. The worship of Isis, the sister-wife of Osiris, was vitally important.
 - a. Her magical skills were so powerful she forced the sun god Ra to reveal his secret name.
 - b. She conjured a magic serpent that bit the sun god, a reptile whose venom was so potent it brought Ra to the point of death. So he surrendered his hidden and powerful name.
 - c. She responded by uttering secret words that drove the serpent's poison from Ra's body.

- d. The magic words of Isis were considered by the Egyptians to be of the highest importance for the preparation and navigation of this world and the afterlife.
- e. She instructed her followers how, when and with what vocal tones the secret words were to be uttered. If the proper words were pronounced perfectly, they would have the effect of altering reality, manipulating the laws of physics and forcing the being or object to which they were directed into compliance, including evil spirits.

Note: Books depict Isis providing a spell for controlling the 42 demons of Osiris.

1. An amulet made of carnelian that is soaked in the water of ankhami flowers.
2. Place this around the neck of the dead person combined with spoken words of magic.
3. If performed properly, it would empower the Ka of the individual to enter into the region of the dead under the protection of Isis, where the Ka would thereafter move about without fear of the 42 demons.
4. The ONLY Egyptian who did not benefit from this spell = Pharaoh.
 - a. Pharaoh was considered to be the "son of the sun god" [Ra] and the incarnation of the falcon god Horus during his lifetime. He was "god on earth."
 - b. At death, the Pharaoh, became the Osiris, the divine judge of the netherworld.
 - c. On earth, Pharaoh's son and predecessor would take his place as the newly anointed manifestation of Horus.
 - d. Each new generation of the pharaohs provided the gods with a divine spokesman for the present world and the afterlife.

Judgment of the Egyptian god King

1. Ex. 3:9-10 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. [God instructs Moses:] Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

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".

- a. The essence of idolatry is the belief that every force has a god controlling it.
- b. More than 80 deities were worshiped in Egypt, but they could do NOTHING to deliver the land and the people from the judgments God sent.
- c. Not only did the Egyptians need to renounce their pagan gods as no-gods, but so did the Israelites, who also worshipped them.

Ezek. 20:1-9 Some of the Israelites had begun to worship the Egyptian gods. When they were delivered from Egypt, some took "their gods" with them!

Ps. 106:7 Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember the multitude of Your mercies.

Josh. 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt: and serve ye the LORD.

II. The Plagues Were A Demonstration Of God's Existence And Power

Imagine if Moses could have heard Jonathan Edward's famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." "All the kings of the earth, before God, are as grasshoppers; they are nothing, and less than nothing: both their love and their hatred is to be despised The wrath of the great King of kings, is as much more terrible than theirs, as His majesty is greater." God sent Moses and Aaron to stand before the ruler of one of the greatest kingdoms of the ancient world. God's message to Pharaoh: Release the Jewish people or Jehovah will declare war on you and your people. Attacks will continue until God's people are free.

Ex. 5:1-2 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, [1st mention] Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

And Pharaoh said, 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.

a. Pharaoh considered the Israelites his property; they were his slaves.

b. If Pharaoh obeyed the edict, he would be acknowledging a deity greater than himself.

c. Egyptians worshiped a wide variety of nature-gods and attributed to their powers the natural phenomena they saw in the world. There was a god of the sun, river, crops, etc.

d. Events like the annual flooding of the Nile, which fertilized their croplands, were evidences of their gods' powers and good will.

e. The plagues were a rebuttal to Pharaoh's response. God would reveal Himself to the Israelites and the Egyptians and prove Israel's God alone was Lord.

Ex. 7:5 "And THE EGYPTIANS WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD,

when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it"

Ex. 9:16 But indeed for this *purpose* I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in* you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

Effect on other nations: Joshua 2:9-11 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

I Sam. 4:8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods?

these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

III. The plagues were a judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptians for their cruelty and harshness.

Gen. 15:14 "But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions."

IV. The plagues were God's means of forcing Pharaoh to release Israel from Egypt.

Ex. 3:19-20 "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go"

V. The plagues were a prototype, a sample of God's future judgment.

a. The plagues which came upon the Egyptians for their sin were like those which Israel would experience, if this nation disobeyed the Law which God was soon to give them:

Deut. 28:27 "The Lord will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured."

The Sign of the Serpent: Exodus 7:8-13

1. The serpent was a special creature in Egyptian religion. Cobra = sign of immortality

2. Aaron's rod became a serpent by God's power. His serpent ate the magicians' serpents.

3. Pharaoh's magicians could "counterfeit" this miracle by producing serpents.

4. Satan can empower his people to perform "lying wonders." [II Thess. 2:9-10; Rev. 13:11-15]

5. Apostle Paul used these Egyptian magicians to teach an important truth in the last days.

a. Satan will attack God's truth and God's people by imitating the works of God.

b. Paul named 2 of the magicians in II Tim. 3:8. "Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth.

c. Jesus taught in the parable of the tares in Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43:

Satan is a counterfeiter:

Plants Imitation Christians in the world

II Cor. 11:26

Satan has an imitation gospel.

Gal. 1:6-9

Counterfeit righteousness

Rom. 10:1-3

Counterfeit ministers who spread his lies

II Cor. 11:13-15

Will produce a false Christ to deceive the whole world

II Thess. 2:1-12

Truth: Satan opposes God's work by imitating it.

In this way he minimizes the power and glory of God.

Pharaoh's attitude: Anything Jehovah can do, we can do better.

Thus began the challenge to show whose God was more powerful. God could have delivered the Hebrews from Egypt with one powerful and dramatic act, but He chose to prolong the process through a series of 10 plagues delivered over ~6-9 months.

When it seems the wicked are prospering and it appears God is doing nothing:

David gives us one negative instruction in Psalm 37: Don't Fret

He gives us 4 positive instructions: Trust in the Lord

Delight in the Lord

Commit Yourself To The Lord

Rest In The Lord

David assures us the Lord understands our situation. [37:12-20]

God will judge the Wicked. [37:32-40]

God will rescue the righteous from the clutches of the wicked. [37-40]

Fretting and Fear cannot stand before FAITH in the Living God.