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Exodus 7-11

“Ten Plagues and the Last God Standing”

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The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Their cries went up to God and He was concerned about them. So God called and commissioned Moses (who was 80 years old), and his brother, Aaron (who was 83 years old) to be the Leader and the Spokesman for “Operation Exodus” — when God miraculously delivered the Hebrew slaves out of their bondage in Egypt and took them to the Promised Land of Israel. God would accomplish his plan through a series of ten plagues that rattled the nation of Egypt until Pharaoh was not only willing to let the Israelites go, he was also *very* eager to help them leave!

The details about the ten plagues or judgments that God brought upon the nation of Egypt are given in [Exodus 7-11](#). The first two of each series come with (1) a warning, and (2) a call to repentance. The last in each series came without warning.

The miraculous events that transpired in these chapters are the source of a great deal of criticism from many skeptics. Unfortunately, in the world today there are many “higher critics” that try to explain the miracles of the Bible in natural ways. When you try to explain the supernatural with a natural approach, you just end up looking silly. Skeptics, however, would argue that Christians are the ones who look silly for believing that these are actual plagues sent by the mighty hand of God. It’s interesting to note that there were Egyptian skeptics who even the skeptics who confirmed the reality of God’s signs and wonders. In the middle of the third plague, some of Pharaoh’s magicians and sorcerers acknowledged, “*This is the finger of God!*”¹

The key to understanding why God chose to deliver the Israelites in this particular way, with these particular plagues, has to do with [Exodus 7:5](#). which tells us that it’s God’s

¹ [Exodus 8:19](#)

purpose that “... *the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it.*”

You see, God is not only concerned about the Israelites and their slavery; he’s also concerned about the Egyptians who don’t know Him.

God’s View Of Humanity Is Different Than Ours

1. God not only cares about the oppressed, he also about the oppressors.
2. God wants to reach not just the afflicted, but also the afflicters.
3. God wants to save not just the hated, but also the haters.

So what does God do? God is going to target ten specific gods of the Egyptians with ten specific plagues. God uses the plagues to expose how illegitimate their gods are, and how real he is! He will systematically discredit ten of their major gods, one at a time, until the people are left with no choice but to recognize the last God standing!

The Last God Standing

1. The Nile becomes Blood ²
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian god Hapi, who was thought to be the father of gods as well as the god of the Nile who brought water to all Egypt.
2. The Invasion of Frogs ³
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian god Hegt, the frog goddess, who was the symbol of fertility.
3. The Invasion of Gnats ⁴
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian god Geb, who was their god of the land.
4. The Swarm of Flies ⁵
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian god Khephi, the god of insects.
5. The Death of Livestock ⁶
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian gods Apis, the sacred bull god, and Hathor, the cow goddess.

² Exodus 7:19-21

³ Exodus 8:3-6

⁴ Exodus 8:16-19

⁵ Exodus 8:24

⁶ Exodus 9:1-4

6. Boils upon Men and Animals ⁷
 - a. God discredited the Egyptian god Thoth, the god of medicine. ⁸
7. The Hailstorms ⁹
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian gods Nut, the god of the sky, and Seth, the protector of the crops.
8. The Swarms of Locust ¹⁰
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian god Anubis, the god of the fields.
9. Darkness ¹¹
 - a. God discredits the Egyptian god Ra, the sun god.
10. The Death of the Firstborn ¹²
 - a. Pharaoh was considered to be the incarnation of Ra, the sun god. Thus, his firstborn was likewise considered 'deity'; this was in essence seen as the death of a god.

All of these plaques were God's way of exposing the false gods of the Egyptians so that they would know that He is God, and there is no other!

God will go to great lengths to expose the emptiness of the things we serve, the 'gods' we serve as well. All of this was God's way of exposing the false gods of the Egyptians so that they would know that He is God, and there is no other!

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Exodus 7:1-7, 11:1-10](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. How can we as Christians relate to the Israelites watching the hand of God at work on our behalf?

⁷ [Exodus 9:8-9](#)

⁸ The Egyptians worshipped several medical deities and even occasionally offered humans as sacrifices to them. People were burned alive on a high altar, and their ashes were cast into the air with the hope that every scattered ash might bring a blessing. When Moses was told by God to scatter ashes from a furnace to the wind, painful boils that broke out on the people, shamed the god, Thoth.

⁹ [Exodus 9:22-26](#)

¹⁰ [Exodus 10:13-15](#)

¹¹ [Exodus 10:21-23](#)

¹² [Exodus 11:4-6](#)

- a. How can we relate to the Egyptians as God is bringing a wake-up call?
4. Does God have preeminence in your life? Is He number one?
 - a. What 'gods' have been the objects of your affection in the past?
 - b. How did God deliver you from them?
5. Was God unfair in killing the young children of the Egyptians because of Pharaoh's stubbornness?
 - a. Read and discuss [Exodus 4:22-23](#).
6. How can we answer the "higher critics" that raise accusations against the account of the ten plagues?
7. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: recognize areas in their lives that God is calling them to wake up; ask the Lord to reveal the people and the things in their lives that they are putting above Him, and ask Him to remove them that He might take his rightful place as number one in their life.