

DID YOU KNOW What the Plagues of Egypt Represented???

In this week's lesson, we are going to look at the ten plagues imposed by God on Egypt. Have you ever wondered why God chose these particular plagues to cause Pharaoh to let His people go? These ten Egyptian plagues not only demonstrated the power of God to Moses, the children of Israel, the Egyptians and Pharaoh; but they were of such magnitude that they would be remembered for all generations..

The **first plague** caused water to be turned into blood. Turning the water to blood caused all fish life to die and begin to stink. This was duplicated by the Egyptian magicians; but they were not able to change it back, just make it worse. After seven days, the water throughout all the land remained in this state, unsuitable for drinking and the perfect length of time to demonstrate that God was superior to all the other gods of Egypt. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian God **Hapi, who was the Egyptian god of the Nile. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Hapi.**

The **second plague** caused frogs to come forth and infest all the houses, food and even their clothes and every place possible. The Egyptians viewed frogs as symbols of good luck. From the greatest to the least, no one in Egypt escaped the plagues of frogs. Again, the Egyptian magicians were able to duplicate this plague and add to it but they could not make the frogs go away. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian God **Heket, the Egyptian god of Fertility, water and Renewal. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Heket.**

The **third plague** caused the dust throughout the land to become lice; and it was upon people and beast. The very dust that was referred to in the creation process of man is now used to plague men. Finally, the Egyptian magicians were humiliated because they were unable to compete with what was so much greater than themselves and the powers that they had from their Egyptian gods and goddesses. They profess, "this is the finger of God." . This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian god **Geb, the Egyptian god of the Earth. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Geb.**

The **forth plague** began the great miracle of separation. This was the plague of the swarm of flies. This time, however, only the Egyptians are affected by the plague; and the children of Israel remained unscathed. This wonder also moves the Egyptian plagues to a different level, adding destruction as well as discomfort to the consequence of their decisions. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian god **Khepri, the Egyptian god of creation, movement of the sun, rebirth. . This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Khepri.**

The **fifth plague** was the death of cattle and livestock. This plague came with an advanced warning and a period of repentance to occur, which goes unheeded. "Tomorrow" the hand of the Lord would be felt upon all the cattle and livestock, of only the Egyptians, as "grievous murrain." This means that disease and pestilence would fall upon their livestock with such severe consequences as to cause them to die. This plague affected the Egyptian by creating a huge economic disaster in areas of food, transportation, military supplies, farming, and economic goods that were produced by these livestock. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian goddess **Hathor, the Egyptian goddess of love and protection. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian goddess Hathor.**

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The **sixth plague** occurred when ashes turned to boils and sores. This plague came unannounced to the Egyptians. Cleanliness being paramount in Egyptian society, this plague pronounced the people "unclean." In this unclean state, the magicians were unable to perform ceremonial rituals to their Egyptian Gods and Goddesses nor stand before Pharaoh. It is great to notice the contrast shown as Moses and Aaron are the only ones left standing in front of Pharaoh with the "One True God" as their support. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian goddess Isis, **the Egyptian goddess of medicine and peace. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian goddess Isis.**

The **seventh plague** was hail rained down as fire. This plague did come with a warning. Interestingly enough, the crops that were destroyed by the hail consisted of flax and barley, which were ripening in the fields. These two particular crops were not the mainstay of their diet but were used more specifically for their clothing and libations. This destruction would make their life uncomfortable; but as far as effecting their food supply, the wheat still survived. This gave the Egyptians still another chance to turn to "the One True God" and forsake their own gods and goddesses. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian goddess Nut, **the Egyptian goddess of the sky. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian goddess Nut.**

The **eighth plague** of locusts was sent from the sky and had an even greater purpose than all the others. It's impact was intended to be such that Pharaoh would tell even "his sons and son's sons the "mighty and strong hand of God" over all the Egyptian gods and goddesses. This is the second wave of destruction to follow the hail. Whatever crops were left intact after that display were now completely consumed. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian god Seth, **the Egyptian god of storms and disorder. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Seth.**

The **ninth plague** was the three days of complete darkness. The sun, the most worshipped God in Egypt other than Pharaoh himself, gave no light. The Lord showed that he had control over the sun as a witness that the God of Israel had ultimate power over life and death. At this point, the psychological and religious impact would have had a profound influence on all Egyptians. Darkness was a representation of death, judgment and hopelessness. This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian god Ra, **the Sun god. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Ra.**

The **tenth plague** was the death of the Firstborn. 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. Pharaoh pronounced the last deadly plague to be unleashed upon the land from his very own lips as he warns Moses, "Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in *that* day thou seest my face thou shalt die." Moses said, "Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: 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. 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 anymore." This plague was a direct attack against the Egyptian god Pharaoh, **the Ultimate power of Egypt. This attack showed God's superiority over the Egyptian god Pharaoh.**

So, **DID YOU KNOW???** If you learned something new, today, why not attend Sunday School where dedicated, knowledgeable teachers will assist in your understanding of the Bible.

Today's DID YOU KNOW (June 7, 2009) was presented by Michael White, Licensed Minister.