

The Book of Exodus

***Historical and Prophetic
Truths***

Don T. Phillips

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Dedication

We would like to dedicate this study to

Dan Cummins

A friend, mentor, sold-out Christian and perhaps

The best Preacher we have ever heard.

He taught us more than He will ever know

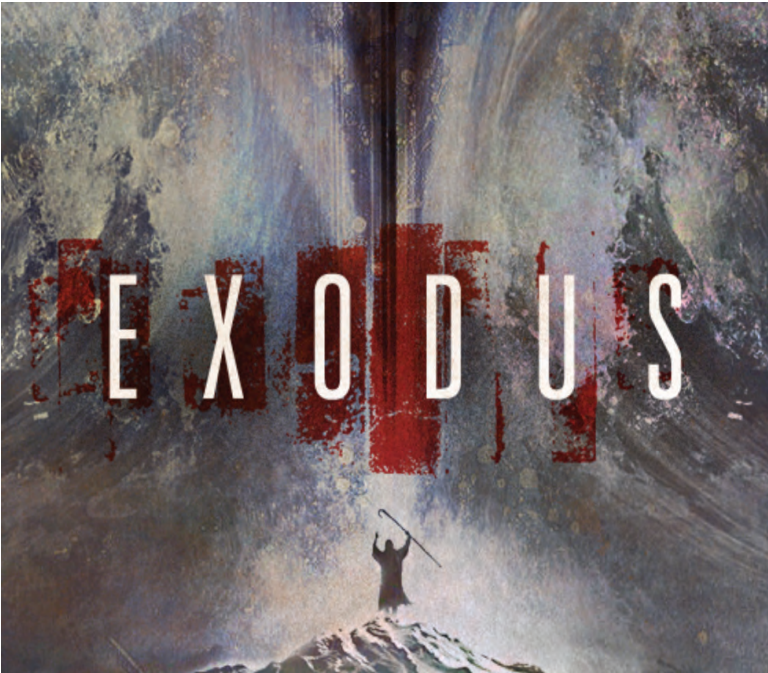


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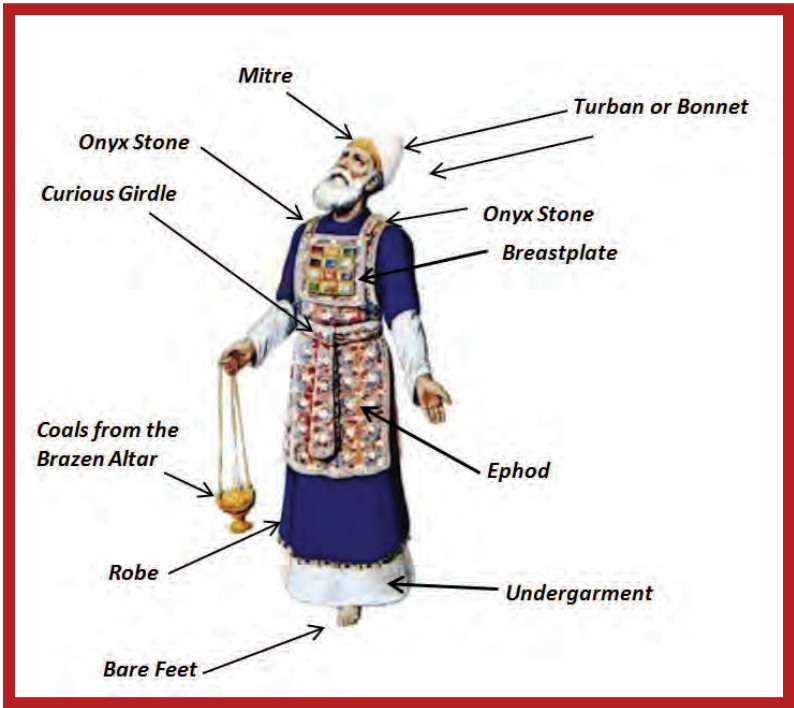
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Preface

The Book of Exodus stands as one of the great books of the Holy Bible. The average Christian can easily relate to how Moses was called by God to liberate the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The story is well known of how God sent 10 plagues upon Egypt and finally persuaded the Pharaoh of Egypt to *let my people go*; how Moses crossed the Red Sea and God drowned the pursuing armies of the Pharaoh; how Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai and received the 10 commandments and; how Moses led the Children of Israel through wilderness areas for 40 years before entering the Promised Land. However, when pressed for details contained in the Book of Exodus, few Christians can even begin to chronicle the depth and magnitude of this great book.

Framed within the exodus from Egypt, God gave Israel an extensive set of religious, social and dietary laws by which they were to live. God gave Moses the design and operation of a Tabernacle which would stand as the central showpiece of Israel for over 800 years. A social order built around a Levitical sacrificial system would dominate Israeli society from 1490 BC until Herod's Temple was destroyed by Titus and his Roman soldiers in 70 AD. God also institutionalized the Seven Feasts of Israel, Sabbath days of rest and the Levitical sacrificial system. Mystery surrounds the basic structure of the Book of Exodus. After almost 1500 years, biblical scholars and archeologists still debate core issues: (1) in what year did the exodus take place? (2) what was the route taken by Moses and the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land? (3) where was the

Red Sea crossing that destroyed the armies and chariots of the Pharaoh? (4) where is Mt. Sinai? (5) why was the Levitical priesthood established? (6) what did the Levitical Sacrificial system represent? (7) why was the Tabernacle so central to Israeli society? (8) what is the prophetic significance of the Seven Feasts of Israel? This book will attempt to answer these questions and many more.

But there are even more important truths to discover. We will see that all of the events which took place in the Exodus, all of the rituals associated with the Tabernacle, every piece of clothing that the Levitical Priesthood wore and every aspect of the Seven Feasts of Israel prophesied of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Book of Exodus is constructed around historical events, but everything represented a shadow and type of the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ. A major objective of this book will be to reveal these truths in the Holy Word.

Finally, the reader should be forewarned that a journey through this book will not be casual reading. Most of the concepts discussed will require careful exploration and study. It is hoped that the reward of carefully reading God's word will have its own rewards.

For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword; piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart Hebrews 4:12

Don T. Phillips

Candyce J. Phillips

Chapter 1

Historical and Biblical Background

Moses is Chosen by God

In the 14th Century BC, Egypt was at the height of its power and majesty. The great Pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx had been built, and massive temples were being constructed along the Nile River. Approximately 375 years earlier Jacob and his entire household had left Canaan during a terrible drought and sought refuge in



Egypt (Genesis 46: 5-6). By God's omnipotent plan, Joseph had been sold into slavery years earlier and by divine power placed in charge of all the wheat and barley harvested in Egypt (Genesis 41). Joseph was delivered, but as the years passed the children of Israel fell into a position of servitude, being nothing more than the possession and slaves of the Egyptian Pharaoh. They were forced to make bricks out of mud and straw (Exodus 5: 7-13) to build the houses and monuments which were arising along the River Nile.

Moses was born of a Levite called *Amram* (Exodus 6:20), and a Hebrew woman named *Jochebed*, who was a daughter of Levi (Exodus 2:1). He had a brother named *Aaron* who was three years older (Exodus 7:7), and a sister called *Miriam*. It was a sunny spring day in Egypt circa 1410 BC when *Jochebed* came to the River Nile with an infant who was in danger of being killed. The Pharaoh of

Egypt had ordered all male Hebrew children to be killed because the Children of Israel were becoming numerous and strong. The infant was destined to be the kinsman redeemer called *Moses* who 80 years later would lead the Children of Israel out of bondage. We know that it was in the spring, because Moses died on his 120th birthday in the spring. We also know that it was a sunny and pleasant day, because the infant was soon to be set adrift in the Nile River near where a daughter of Pharaoh was bathing (Exodus 2:5). The mother of Moses must have been terribly scared and distraught and fearing for Moses' life to put him adrift in the River Nile. Indeed, The Pharaoh had declared that: *Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river* (Exodus 1:22). This was a command to drown every male child, but the mother of Moses believed that if she would put her trust in God that Moses would be divinely saved. So *Jochebed* cast baby Moses adrift in the River Nile. As the Pharaoh's daughter walked by the river, she saw an *ark* floating down the river.



This is the second ark used by God for divine protection; He had saved Noah and his family from the great flood years earlier. So the younger sister of Pharaoh's daughter was instructed to retrieve the ark, and when it was opened they found the baby Moses. Moses should have died then, but by divine intervention he became the son of the Pharaoh's daughter. Here is an incredible thing that happened when Moses was saved: The younger sister of the

Pharaoh's daughter was told to find a Hebrew midwife to take care of baby Moses, and the woman chosen was the real mother of Moses! Not only that, but she was paid for her services! (Exodus 2: 8-10). Oh how God is good!!! From death and sorrow God provided a miracle. So the child was named Moses, which means *to pull or draw out*; and Moses grew in wisdom and stature.

At about the age of 40 years, Moses was among *his brethren* (Ex 2:11) and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, so Moses killed the aggressor and buried him in the sand (Ex 2:11-16). But Moses was seen killing this man, and it was reported to the Pharaoh. When the Pharaoh heard of this thing, he ordered that Moses be killed (Exodus 2:15-a). Hearing he was being hunted, Moses fled to the *Land of Midian*. We will later identify this land and the role it will play in the Exodus journey.

Moses' Relationship with Egypt



He was born, reared, and educated in Egypt.

- Exodus 2:2-3
- Exodus 2:10

Moses saw Egypt's army drown in the waters of the Red Sea.

- Exodus 14:21-22

Moses led God's people out of Egypt through the Red Sea.

- Exodus 14:21-22

"By faith, Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter."

- Hebrews 11:24

Moses took Joseph's bones out of Egypt.

- Exodus 13:19

He committed murder in Egypt when he slew an Egyptian

- Exodus 2:11-14

Was God's instrument for carrying out the ten plagues upon the Egyptians.

- Exodus 7:14 - 12:30

Fleeing for his life, Moses had to leave Egypt.

- Exodus 2:15

God sent Moses back to Egypt to deliver His people (Israel) from bondage.

- Exodus 3:10

Moses was known personally to the Pharaoh.

- Exodus 12:31

Barnes Bible Chime

Moses entered the Land of Midian, and stopped at a well to get a drink of water. It happened that the High Priest of Midian had 7 daughters who were also at this well, but a group of shepherds came and sought to drive them away. Moses arose, helped these women, and watered their flock (Exodus 15-17). The women reported this incident to their father, *Jethro* (compare Exodus 3:1 with Exodus 18:1). Jethro sent for Moses, and put him in charge of his flocks. In due time, Moses also married a woman named *Zipporah*, who was the daughter of Jethro. She bore him a son called *Gershom*, which in Hebrew means *a stranger here*. Later, she bore him another son called *Eliezer*, which means *my God is a help* (Exodus 18:4).

Moses stayed with Jethro for 40 years as his chief shepherd and son-in-law. While Moses was tending the flocks at Mt. Sinai, an *angel of the Lord* appeared to him in a *flaming bush*. The bush burned, but *was not consumed* (Exodus 3:2). As Moses turned to see, God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. He said,

Moses, Moses ... And Moses said. Here am I. Genesis 3:4

Moses is told to remove his shoes, for he was in a holy place... and Moses hid his face (Genesis 3:6). The Lord then spoke to Moses.

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. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou

mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. Exodus 3: 9-10

Moses responded with a question that showed his character in the presence of God: *Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh?* (Exodus 3:11). God responded to Moses with a prophecy: *When you bring forth my people, you will then serve me upon this mountain* (Exodus 3:12). Here we see that God has promised Moses that no matter what happens, God will deliver him and the Children of Israel and they will return to Mt. Sinai. This is a *covenant promise* made to Moses. It is interesting that this is the second covenant promise that involved an ordinary man who was destined to rise to extraordinary service to the Lord. The first man was *Abraham*, who over 400 years earlier had been promised that he and his seed would inherit a land called *Canaan*. After many years of waiting and enduring much suffering, God was about to fulfill His sovereign promise by leading His chosen people to a land of milk and honey. God had tested Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice his only son, *Issac*. It should be noted that Abraham did not hesitate. He knew that God would spare Issac because if Issac had been killed by his knife, the promise of God to make a nation out of Issac would be null and void. Like Abraham before him, Moses faith would be tested many times in leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses then asked God: *What shall I say to them and who will I say sent me?* God replied, tell them:

I AM THAT I AM Exodus 3:14

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֲהִיָּה אֲשֶׁר אֲהִיָּה

I AM is the Hebrew name for **YHWH**. This is the same title that Jesus used many times of Himself during His earthly ministry. As you read through the book of John, you will encounter *8 different conversations* in which Jesus makes very specific, far reaching, statements about himself. Jesus does not just claim to know these things; He blatantly claims that He *is* these things. The implications reach deep into our real, daily lives. The impact involves life-changing truths with everlasting consequences.

John 6: 35, 48 I am the bread of life

John 8: 12, 9:5 I am the light of the world

John 8: 58 Before Abraham was, I am

John 10:9 I am the door

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd

John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life

John 15:1 I am the true vine

In John 8:58 Jesus clearly stated that He was just as much the great I Am as the father. He does not equate Himself to the father but declared that He and the father were one in spirit and truth. Jesus said unto them: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am*. This clearly identified Jesus Christ as being one with the Father. Christ said that: *When you have seen Me, you have seen the Father* (John 14:9). Just as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was sent to the people to save them, Moses was then told to go to the people and tell them that God had heard their cry.

Once again Moses responded with disbelief and insecurity. How prophetic his behavior was concerning our holy calling from Jesus Christ. How many times have each of us heard a call to service, and even though we are armed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we make some logical or personal excuse not to respond? So Moses said: *But they will not believe me and say the Lord has not spoken to me* (Exodus 4:1). Again the Lord reassures Moses with a sign: *Take the rod in your hand and cast it to the ground; it will turn into a deadly serpent (snake). Put your hand on it and it will return to your rod* (wooden stick). Exodus 4: 2-4. Moses did so, and when his rod turned into a deadly snake *Moses fled from it* (Exodus 4:3). How weak man is, how we fail to trust in God when He convicts us to serve Him in spirit and in truth. To make sure that Moses clearly understood God, Moses was told to thrust his hand into his bosom, and when Moses did so it became *leprous as snow* (Exodus 4:6). God then told Moses to thrust it in again, and it was restored to ordinary flesh. This was no ordinary sign, when a person contracted leprosy that person was usually put away into a penal colony and could never leave. This same *sign* occurred about two years later during the exodus when Miriam challenged Moses' authority. God struck her down with leprosy for her rebellion (Numbers 12:10). Here again we see the possible consequences of failing to hear God's calling on our life in Christ. Is it possible that tribulation and sufferings may just be to open our ears and call us to the life and attitudes of Christ? The answer is likely, *yes*.

We glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience experience; and experience hope.

And hope makes us not ashamed, because the love of God is in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us
Romans 5: 3-5

In another prophecy, God then tells Moses that *if* the pharaoh will not *let the people go* when his rod would turn into a serpent, then Moses was instructed to take some water from the Nile River, pour it upon the dry land, and the waters of the River Nile would turn to blood (Exodus 4:9). Of course, God knew that the Pharaoh would harden his heart and refuse to let the Children of Israel go.

Incredibly, Moses speaks in disbelief a third time, *I am not eloquent of speech, so who will hear me?* God is beginning to lose patience with Moses and in the same way He responded to Job (Job 38) when he complained, the great **I AM** responded to Moses.

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.
Exodus 4: 11-12

Here again God is speaking to us today. We are called to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and *we are too busy, we are not talented enough, we are not holy enough, and a hundred more excuses*. It is good to remember that Moses was a murderer who fled Egypt, and yet he is called. Paul was the most vicious persecutor of the early church, but he was called. Every Christian is a hopeless, miserable sinner, but we are called. Continual denial weakens our relationship with Christ, although his grace is boundless and he calls and calls us.

At this point, God has had enough of Moses but with mercy and grace He understands and provides.

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.
Exodus 4:14-15

God chose Aaron to go with him, and evidently He also empowered Aaron to perform all the signs and miracles that God had given to Moses (Exodus 4:30).

And the people believed Moses and Aaron, and then they bowed their heads and worshipped God. Exodus 4:31

A strange story now unfolds. Moses finally heeded God's call; he returned to his father-in-law Jethro, and Jethro blessed him and bid him go. Moses took his wife (Zipporah) and his two sons and set out for Egypt (Exodus 4:20). Leaving the house of Jethro, Moses first went to Mt. Sinai where God sent Aaron to meet him. We again see the mercy and grace of God even when man violates his holy commandments. Moses had apparently failed to circumcise his firstborn son, even though the Israelites were commanded to do so (Genesis 17:10). If Moses was to speak for God, he would need to learn that disobeying even one of God's laws would bring His wrath. So, *the Lord*

sought to kill Moses' son (Exodus 4:24). Seeing what was about to happen, Zipporah jumped up, found a sharp knife, and immediately circumcised her son. So God *let him go* (Exodus 4:26).

A little over 40 years later, the Children of Israel would cross the River Jordan and before they could conquer and inherit the land, every male born during the Exodus would need to be circumcised. This was a prophetic event which Joshua would remember when he was chosen to carry the mantle of God after Moses died at Mt. Nebo (Numbers 34). Since as Christians we have been chosen to carry the mantle of Jesus Christ today, we best realize that God requires the same sort of obedience now as He did then. If we as Christians are to be effective, we need to *put off the old man and put on the new*. We must also be circumcised not in the flesh, but *in the heart*.

This object lesson was necessary because we will see later that the Egyptian royal Pharaoh would reject the command of God issued through Moses to *let my people go* nine times; each time God, through Moses, would bring a plague on Egypt. The life of Moses would be in danger each time, but if Moses trusted in God and obeyed His commands, no harm would come to Him. The 10th time that Moses would approach Pharaoh, God would send His *death angel*, who would kill all of the firstborn males in Egypt including the firstborn son of the Pharaoh. This object lesson was to strengthen the faith of Moses in the task he was called to do. It is likely that after this strange incident, Moses sent his wife and children back to Jethro for we will not see them again until after Moses had crossed the Red Sea and

camped before Mt. Sinai. So Moses and Aaron left the Land of Midian where Jethro was high priest and journeyed to Egypt. There Moses talked to the people and told them all that God had instructed. After 215 years of suffering in Egypt, the people were ready to hear God, but their liberation would not be easy. The events which would precede the exodus were miracles that only God could make happen. It is interesting that modern theologians and biblical investigators have spent many years trying to explain how natural phenomenon caused each of the 10 plagues. It is beyond the capability of man operating in the flesh to accept miracles. Scientific inquiry must give way to faith if anyone is to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Was Jesus Christ the Son of God? Did He arise from the grave? Will He return to claim all who will believe upon His name? If anyone is to escape the wrath of God, be forgiven of his/her sins, and ascend into heaven to rule and reign with Christ, the answer must be YES.

The 10 Plagues in Egypt

And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, 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. Exodus 5:1-2

Moses and Aaron approached the Pharaoh and asked for the people to go into the wilderness to hold a *feast* unto the Lord. We will discuss this feast later, but for now note that the King refused to let them go. Not only that, but the

Pharaoh then commanded that the Children of Israel would work harder than before, and that they would make bricks by gathering straw themselves (Exodus 5:6-18), from fields that were likely some distance away. The response of the Pharaoh was interesting but can be easily explained. *Who is the Lord, I do not know Him.* In Egypt they believed in an afterlife but their chief deity in ancient times was Ra the Sun God, who was the first pharaoh of the world. By the time of the exodus, Osiris had deposed Ra as the chief deity and was the ruler of the underworld where departed souls sought eternal life after they died. Egypt was poly-theistic;

Egypt had a god of some sort for almost everything, but YHWH was not one of them. Hence, Pharaoh was not scared or terrified at all.

After reassuring Moses and Aaron that His covenant promises are true and sure, God sent them back to the Pharaoh a second time.

We are told that when this second visit occurred, Moses was 40 years old and Aaron was 43 (Exodus 7:7). In one of the most remarkable events ever recorded in



the Old Testament, Aaron was told to cast his rod before the Pharaoh, and it turned into a serpent. So the Pharaoh called forth his wise men, sorcerers and magicians. They all cast down their rods and each also became a serpent! But the rod of Aaron (serpent) swallowed them all up (Exodus 8-13).

Let us hear God speak to us today through this awesome event. Please note that Jesus Christ performed miracles, raised the dead, made the blind to see, and caused the crippled to walk. But Christ never claimed that He was the Son of God based upon thousands of miracles that He performed. When the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees came to him they asked for a *sign*. But Christ replied that He would not confirm His claim that He was the Son of God by anything but by the *Sign of Jonah*. What was this sign that Christ was referring to? That sign was that He would be crucified, dead and buried, and that after 3 days and 3 nights He would rise from the grave and defeat death. A point to be made is one often debated among Christians; can followers of Satan perform miracles? The answer is, YES. In Matthew 24:24 Christ warned us to not be deceived by miracles or signs from unbelievers.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the elect. Matthew 24:24

In the Book of Revelation, we are told that a man called the antichrist will arise and rule over the known world. He will demand to be worshipped as the promised Messiah. He will erect in the new temple in Jerusalem an image called the Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 11:31) that will actually speak and demand that the Antichrist be worshipped as Lord and Savior. Failure to do so will result in death.

Today as then, *do not be deceived*; ask the *Holy Spirit* to guide you in all things and rightly divide the scriptures to lead you in *spirit and in truth*. There is only one Son of

God, and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. Put your faith in Him and He will lead you to the truth.

We will not study in any great detail the 10 plagues that God brought upon Egypt. They are well-known and details can be found in Exodus 6-11. However, because they were so important in God’s plan to liberate Israel from Egyptian bondage we will briefly summarize these awesome events.

The 10 Plagues - Jehovah Versus the Gods of Egypt			
PLAGUE	GODS OF EGYPT	INTERESTING NOTES	
1	WATER TURNED TO BLOOD Exodus 7:14-25	• Khnum - Guardian of river's source. • Hapi - Spirit of the Nile. • Osiris - Nile was his bloodstream.	• Duplicated by the Egyptians. • Occurs in Goshen where Israelites lived. • Dead fish — putrid smell
2	FROGS Exodus 8:1-15	• Hapi } Frog goddess to Egypt. • Heqt } Both related to fertility	• Duplicated by the Egyptians • Occurs in Goshen where Israelites lived.
3	LICE Exodus 8:16-19	• Seb The earth god of Egypt	• Not duplicated by the Egyptians • Occurs in Goshen where Israelites lived. • Attributed to the "finger of God."
4	FLIES Exodus 8:20-32	• Uatchit - The fly god of Egypt.	• God now makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites. • No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.
5	DISEASE ON CATTLE Exodus 9:1-7	• Ptah • Mnevis } Egyptian gods associated • Hathor • Amon } bulls and cows.	• Affects property. • Death of livestock.
6	BOILS Exodus 9:8-12	• Sekhmet - Egyptian goddess of Epidemics • Serapis • Imhotep } Egyptian gods of healing.	• Affects physical bodies. • Pharaoh's magicians cannot even appear in court.
7	HAIL Exodus 9:13-35	• Nut - Egyptian sky goddess. • Isis & Seth - Egyptian agriculture deities. • Shu - Egyptian god of the atmosphere.	• Historical uniqueness for such a storm in Egypt. • Pharaoh confesses his sin but later changes his mind.
8	LOCUSTS Exodus 10:1-20	• Serapia - Egyptian deity protector from Locusts	• Pharaoh offers a compromise. • The compromise is rejected. • Pharaoh again confesses his sin.
9	DARKNESS Exodus 10:21-29	• Re • Amon-re • Aten } Egyptian sun gods. • Atum • Horus • Thoth - Egyptian moon god.	• Dark in Egypt at midday. • Apparently light was still provided for the Israelites in Goshen.
10	DEATH OF FIRSTBORN Exodus 12:29-36	This plague was a judgment on all of Egypt's gods, including Pharaoh himself. In Exodus 1, Pharaoh had killed the sons of Israel. Now the Lord kills the firstborn sons of the Egyptians (Exodus 11-12). Pharaoh will now let Israel go. He will later loose his army to death in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:4-31).	

1.0 Waters Turn to Blood (*Exodus 7: 14-25*)

Every morning the Pharaoh went to the Nile River to bathe. One morning Moses and Aaron met him there. Moses was told to strike the Nile with the same rod that consumed the snakes. He did so and the waters of the Nile River turned into blood and all of the fish died. After that, Aaron pointed the rod toward the land, and every lake, stream and pool of water turned to blood, even the water stored in vessels of *wood and stone* turned to blood. Evidently, the magicians of Pharaoh found some water in other containers (metal) and turned that water into blood while Moses and Aaron looked on. This hardened Pharaoh's heart and he refused to let the Children of Israel go. This plague lasted 7 days.

2.0 Frogs Cover the Land (*Exodus 8: 1-15*)

After 7 more days, Moses and Aaron went to the Pharaoh and approached him again. The Lord spoke to Moses who then told Aaron to stretch out his rod. Aaron did so; frogs choked all of the lakes and streams of Egypt and also covered the land. The magicians also waved their rods and even more frogs came forth. So the Pharaoh ordered Moses and Aaron to remove all of the frogs. In response, Moses proposed a sign of sincerity; he would kill all of the frogs except those in the River Nile. Pharaoh perceived this as weakness and the next day his heart was hardened and he refused to let the people go.

3.0 Lice Cover the Land (*Exodus 8: 16-19*)

The following day, Moses and Aaron approached the Pharaoh again. So the Lord instructed Moses to tell Aaron

to smite the dust with his rod, and he did so. The dust turned to lice, not only on the ground but in every place dust collected, in every house, on man and on beast. When the magicians were called to repeat this feat, they could not do so. Moses turned to the Pharaoh and once again asked, *Will you let my people go?* But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he refused to let the people go.

4.0 Flies Swarm over the Land (*Exodus 8: 20-32*)

Early one morning soon after, Moses and Aaron came to the Pharaoh again. This time the Lord spoke to the Pharaoh through Moses. Moses told the Pharaoh that if he would not let the people go, that swarms of flies would corrupt and cover the land. But to show the power of God, Moses said that there would never be another fly in the land of Goshen (*Exodus 8:22*). The flies came, and Pharaoh relented: *Go ye, and sacrifice to your God in the land* (*Exodus 8:25*). Evidently, the Pharaoh consented to a celebration and a sacrifice *only* if the Children of Israel remained in Egypt (the land). Moses replied that it was not proper to do so, but if they were allowed to travel *3 days out of Egypt* this would satisfy YHWH. The Pharaoh agreed, and consented to a sacrifice *in the wilderness* (*Exodus 8:27*). These two conditions will later be discussed in some detail, but for now we are told that Moses left and God removed all the flies. The next day the Pharaoh reasoned that since the plague had been removed he was more powerful than God. So he changed his mind again; the people could not go.

5.0 Disease on Beasts of the Land (*Exodus 9:1-6-7*)

The next day, Moses approached the Pharaoh and said: *Let*

my People Go. The Pharaoh refused to relent, so the following day the Lord killed every cow (cattle) that belonged to the inhabitants of Egypt, but did not harm any cattle that belonged to the Children of Israel. Still, the Pharaoh declared: *I will not let your people go*.

6.0 Boils upon Man and Beast (*Exodus 9: 8-12*)

After a short period of time, the Lord told Moses and Aaron to stand within the sight of Pharaoh, and take some furnace ashes and throw them to the wind. When they did so, painful boils or sores appeared on every Egyptian man and beast. Even the Pharaoh's magicians *could not stand* due to the boils (Exodus 9:11). Boils also appeared on every beast of burden, but the Pharaoh would not relent and let the people go.

7.0 Hail (*Exodus 9: 13-35*)

The next morning the Lord sent Moses to tell the Pharaoh that the following day great hail would fall upon the land of Egypt. In an act of mercy, God through Moses declared that *all who feared the Lord* should hide the cattle in houses to escape death in the field. Moses stretched forth his hand toward the heavens and thunder, fire and hail reigned down upon all Egypt. Every man, beast and all living things were smote with God's wrath. The most devastating effect was that all of the flax and barley in Egypt was ruined. But incredibly, Pharaoh refused to relent again.

8.0 Locusts Cover the Land (*Exodus 10: 1-20*)

Moses and Aaron went to the Pharaoh again, and Moses spoke for God, asking, *How long wilt thou refuse to humble*

thyself before Me (God)? Let my people go, that they may serve me (Exodus 10:3). And Pharaoh said unto Moses and Aaron: Go; serve the Lord your God: But who will go with you? Moses responded that all will go, with wives, daughters, flocks and herds they will go and hold a feast unto the Lord (Exodus 10:9).

The Pharaoh now proposed a compromise; they could not take their wives or children. This was no doubt to insure that all the men would return to Egypt. In response, the Lord brought locusts upon all the land, and ate all of the herbs and crops that remained after the hail. Locusts are one of the most destructive forces of nature when they swarm the land. In force, it has been reported that over 130,000,000 locusts have been known to forage over one square mile (Ryrie Study Bible). Such a swarm of locust can easily bring devastation to anything that grows in the field and denude hundreds of square miles.

Seeing what had happened, the Pharaoh asked God to forgive him and take the locust away. So God brought a strong west wind and drove all of the locusts into the Red Sea where they drowned (Exodus 10:19). This is an important revelation, since later we will need to establish the *official* eastern boundary of ancient Egypt at that time. This is proof that the *Red Sea* in Exodus 10:19 is in fact the modern *Gulf of Aquaba*. The Sinai Peninsula lay just beyond and due east of the Gulf of Aquaba. The fact that the wind only blew from the *west* and that the locusts *covered all the Land of Egypt* (Exodus 10:13), never blowing locusts from the *east* confirms that land east of the modern Gulf of Suez was not a part of the formal Egyptian

boundary at that time. However, we will shortly see that Egypt had several military outposts in the Sinai Peninsula which exerted military control and an early warning system for a possible eastern invasion. After all of the locust were drowned in the Red Sea, the Pharaoh again hardened his heart and *would not let the people go*.

9.0 Darkness Upon the Land (*Exodus 10:21-29*)

On the morning of the next day, Moses was told to stretch out his hand and darkness would fall upon all the land of Egypt. Moses did as he was commanded and darkness fell for 3 full days upon the land. It is interesting that when Jesus Christ was crucified and died, darkness fell over Jerusalem for *three hours* (Mark 15:33). When God brought darkness to Egypt, it is recorded that *all of the Children of Israel had light in their dwellings* (Exodus 10:23). We can safely assume that this was a supernatural act and could not be a solar eclipse, because solar eclipses do not last that long. After 3 days, the Pharaoh called Moses to him and said: *Go and serve the Lord, and take your women and children with you* (Exodus 10:28). But in an act of defiance, he said that their flocks and herds must remain in Egypt. Moses replied that the people would not leave their flocks and herds, so Pharaoh became angry and spoke:

Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more for in that day that thou seest my face thou shalt die.

Exodus 10:28

One might conjecture that Moses would by now be losing faith in God. Nine times he had approached the Pharaoh,

and nine times he had failed. However, his faith had not wavered.

Moses gave a final, prophetic declaration to the Pharaoh.

Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face no more
Exodus 10:29.

10.0 The Final Plague: Death (*Exodus 11: 1-12, 26*)

The final die had been cast; God told Moses and Aaron that He would bring one more plague against Egypt and after that plague the Pharaoh would let the people go and he would not harden his heart again. Moses was told by the Lord to speak to all of the people and tell them what was about to happen (Exodus 11:2):

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 any more. Exodus 11:4-5

It is generally understood that the Lord would kill the firstborn child of the Pharaoh, but the holy records record that every firstborn in Egypt was killed, the eldest son in every household, and the firstborn of every animal. So the death-angel came over Egypt at midnight on Nisan 15, and the pharaoh's first-born son was killed as he slept. How tragic. This could have been avoided if the Pharaoh had only listened to God. In grief and sorrow, the Pharaoh held his dead son and finally relented.

And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. Exodus 12: 30-31

God had heard the cries of the Children of Israel and sent His servants Moses and Aaron to rescue them from Egyptian bondage. The Pharaoh had encountered the living God and all of his Egyptian gods and his sorcerers had failed him. His piety and stubbornness cost him the life of his firstborn son, and also the firstborn of every family in Egypt. *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* Hebrews 10:31

