

## Passover, Communion and a Celebration of New Things

In Exodus Chapters 7 through 10, we are given the account of the series of plagues that God sent to Egypt. Each plague was a judgment against at least one of the false gods of Egypt.

The Plague	Possible/Probable Deity	The Effect
1. Blood (7:20)	<i>Khnum</i> , “Giver of the Nile”	Pharaoh hardened (7:22)
2. Frogs (8:6)	<i>Heket</i> , goddess w/ frog’s head	Pharaoh begs relief, promises freedom (8:8), but is hardened (8:15)
3. Lice [mosquito/gnats] (8:17)	<i>Hathor</i> or <i>Nut</i> , “Sky goddesses”	Pharaoh hardened (8:19)
4. Flies (8:24)	<i>Shu</i> , “Air god”	Pharaoh bargains (8:28), but is hardened (8:32)
5. Livestock diseased (9:6)	<i>Apis</i> , god in form of bull	Pharaoh hardened (9:7)
6. Boils (9:10)	<i>Sekhmet</i> , “goddess of sickness”	Pharaoh hardened (9:12)
7. Hail (9:23)	<i>Aker</i> or <i>Geb</i> , “Earth gods”	Pharaoh begs relief (9:27), promises freedom (9:28), but is hardened (9:35)
8. Locusts (10:13)	<i>Serapis</i> , “Protector from Locusts”	Pharaoh bargains (10:11), begs relief (10:17), but is hardened (10:20)
9. Darkness (10:22)	<i>Ra</i> , “god of sun”	Pharaoh bargains (10:24), but is hardened (10:27)
10. Death of firstborn (12:29)	<i>Selket</i> , “Guardian of life”	Pharaoh and Egyptians beg Israel to leave Egypt (12:31-33)

Certainly the idolatry, pride, murder and cruelty of Egypt were deserving of judgment. Moreover, God’s purposes, plans and destiny for His people would not be accomplished until they had been set free.

1. A quick look at God’s judgment.
  - A. It is always based on truth and justice.
  - B. It is never a capricious, vindictive or a “knee-jerk” reaction.
  - C. It is sometimes accomplished by God lifting His hand of mercy and letting people reap the consequences of their own lives.
  - D. It is sometimes accomplished by God lifting His hand of protection and allowing the enemy to move against people.
  - E. It is sometimes directly authored by the Lord (see: O.T. Prophetic Books, Revelation).
2. The last plague - death of the firstborn.
  - A. Prominence (special position in family; Deu 21:17; Gen 49:3).
  - B. Beginning (first evidence of reproductive ability).
  - C. Promise (of potential achievement).
  - D. Continuation (of future generations).
3. The message to Egypt.
  - A. “You will no longer have prominence and authority over My people.”

- B. "I am putting to death your ability to reproduce dominance over My people."
- C. "I am slaying your potential to achieve new successful dominance over my people."
- D. "I am cutting off your ability to continue your rule."

4. The Passover (Heb; pasach: *to pass, spring, skip, hop over*).

A. "The beginning of months for you" (Ex 12:1).

- 1. Celebration of my new beginnings in God.
- 2. New point of reference of God's action on my behalf.
- 3. Fresh focus and dependency on God Himself, as well as on His provision, plan and protection.
- 4. New orientation of time.

B. "You shall eat it in this manner . . ." (Ex 12:11).

- 1. Without fear.
- 2. With anticipation toward the future.

C. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Ex 12:13).

- 1. The only exemption from judgment.
- 2. The only forgiveness and release from sin and bondage.

D. "A memorial for you" (Ex 12:14).

- 1. To celebrate.
- 2. To remember.

E. "Unleavened bread" (Ex 12:15-20).

- 1. Understanding of the nature of all sin and bondage.
  - a. Fact.
  - b. Force.
  - c. Experience.
- 2. Getting the leaven (sin) out.
- 3. Observing regular times of healthy self-examination.
- 4. Developing new tastes and appetites.
- 5. Rejecting the residual effects of bondage and slavery.
  - a. Self worth.
  - b. Others.
  - c. Things (Ex 13:1,2; 14,15).

F. See Lu 22:15-20 (Last Supper); 1 Cor 11:23-32 (Paul's instruction).