

War of the Worldviews  
Part 2:  
Judgment on  
the gods of Egypt

# Judgment on Egypt's false gods

**Romans 1: 22-23, 25**

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things... They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Pharaoh's job to maintain Ma'at in Egypt, intercede for Egypt with the gods  
Pharaoh and the gods maintain order in every area of life  
God is about to make a full assault on Egypt and their 'Romans 1'  
worldview

Contrast:            God's judgment upon those under the Covenant of Works  
                          God's salvation for those under the Covenant of Grace

**Exodus 12:12**

Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments – I am the Lord.

# 1: Nile Turned to Blood

## Exodus 7

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand **the staff that turned into a serpent**. 16 And you shall say to him, “The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, “Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness.” But so far, you have not obeyed. 17 Thus says the Lord, “By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand **I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. 18 The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.**””

Was it real blood?

Was it a natural phenomenon (red algae bloom / red tide / inundation out of cycle)?

Was it a miracle of nature or of timing?

# 1: Nile Turned to Blood

The god Hapi was the deification of the Nile and the inundation of the Nile

Hapi brought life and fertility to Egypt by means of prosperity and abundance

Hapi was praised for bountiful harvests, plentiful food, abundance of blessings

Egyptians texts often referred to the Nile itself as 'Hapi'

*Ironic, in light of God's salvation of Egypt from famine through Joseph*



# Bread of Hapi, Blood of Osiris

Egyptians praise Hapi, god of the Nile, from whom all blessings flow as giver of bread, life, prosperity, abundance, and all



The Nile was also the blood of Osiris, king of the dead, the bringer of agriculture to Egypt.

**In the Nile, Egyptians ate the body and drank the blood of their nature-gods**

# 1: Nile Turned to Blood

And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and **there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.**’” ... and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. 21 And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. 22 **But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts.** So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. 23 **Pharaoh turned and went into his house,** and he did not take even this to heart.

Vessels of wood and stone likely refer to the idols of Egypt, which Pharaoh and his priests washed with Nile water each morning. God defiled the idols with blood.

God began the plagues by using signs that already had known significance for the Egyptians. This is demonstrated by the fact that Pharaoh's magicians already had secret arts in practice dealing with turning water to blood or some such illusion.

‘Big House’ (*pa’ra* = Pharaoh) turned and went into his house

## 2: Plague of Frogs



Hekhet



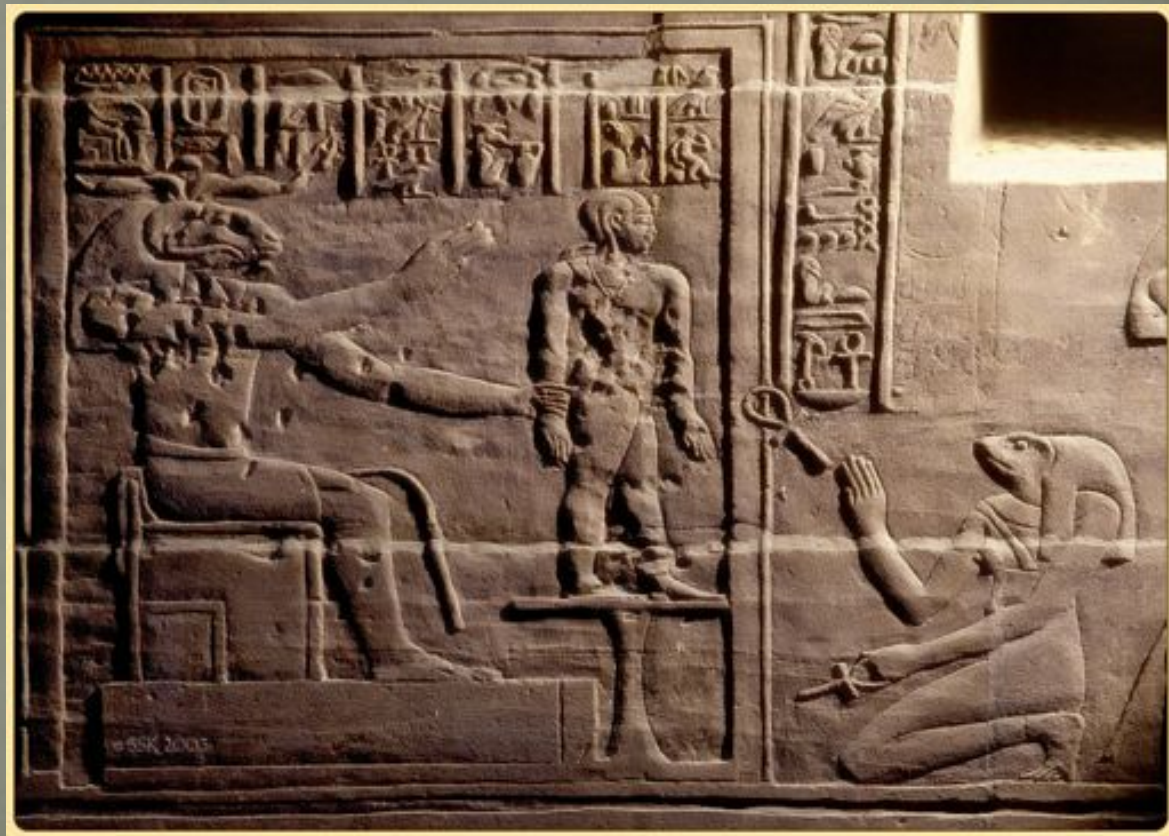
The frog was a symbol of divine power and fertility  
Hekhet regulated life by preventing over-reproduction and under-reproduction  
Hekhet controlled multiplication of frogs, by protecting the frog-eating crocodile  
Hekhet assists the midwives at birth in the role of reproduction divinity  
Midwives were called 'servants of Hekhet'  
Women giving childbirth often wore frog amulets of Hekhet

## 2: Plague of Frogs

The goddess Hekhet was a creator of man and goddess of fertility  
Along with her husband Khnum  
Khnum created human bodies on his potter's wheel  
and Hekhet blew the breath of life into the bodies

In attacking Hekhet,  
God attacked the  
balance of natural life,  
animal reproduction,  
and human procreation  
in Egypt

**Hekhet and Khnum**





# 3 and 4: Gnats and Stinging Flies

Kheprer was the self-created one, symbolized by the scarab (dung beetle)

## Kheprer



Kheprer symbolized the rising sun  
(also attributes of Ra and Horus)

Kheprer was self-generated

He was also god of resurrection

What do all of these have in common?

Egyptians believed that:

Insects (scarabs, gnats, flies) self-generate each year

The sun self-generates each morning

Kheprer rolls the sun up as a dung beetle rolls dung

Insects die each year and resurrect the next

The sun dies each night and resurrects each morning

# 3 and 4: Gnats and Stinging Flies

God is the Creator of all things

Nothing self-generates

Nothing in Creation exists or comes into being by its own power

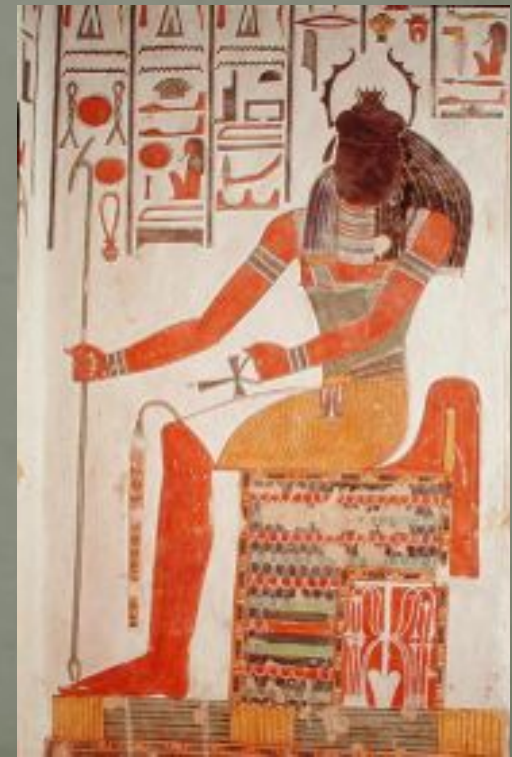
God is the One who brings all things into existence

True for flying insects as for the sun, God created them all

Recall: in Genesis, Moses described the sun and moon as

“greater light” and “lesser light”

avoided association with sun and moon gods

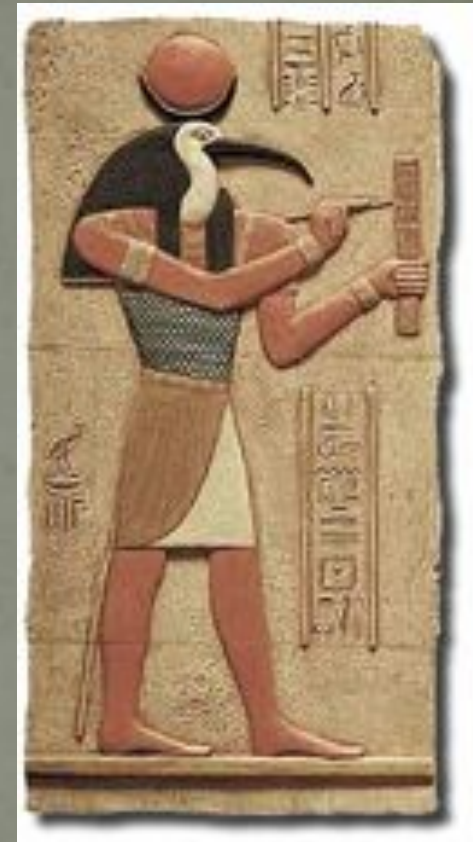


# 3 and 4: Gnats and Stinging Flies

Ibis-headed Toth was god of wisdom, magic, science, and writing. Ma'at was his wife. He held the symbols of life and power and he upheld the universe.



These are the first plagues that Pharaoh's magicians cannot duplicate. They admit defeat: Exodus 8:18-19 "and the magicians did in like manner with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they were not able to... And the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'It is the finger of God.' But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had said."



Toth

## God assaults Egypt's magic and wisdom

I Corinthians 1:19-20 – For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

# 5: Plague Among Livestock

Hathor, the cow goddess, gave birth to Ra every morning  
Represented motherly nurturing, joy, motherhood, and womanly love  
The cow gives milk and thus is associated with motherly nurturing

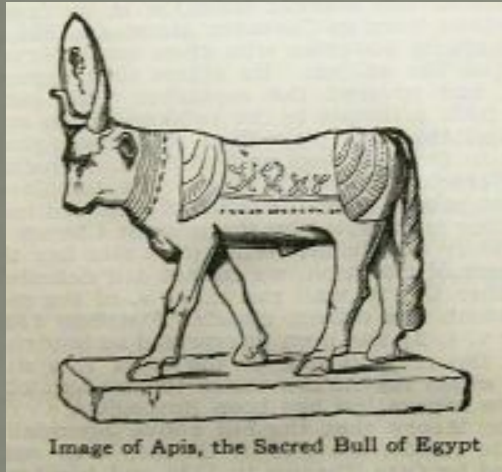


Hathor

The goddess Hathor in cow form is led by the god Amun as she feeds the young Hatshepsut.  
(at Hatshepsut 's mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahari)

# 5: Plague Among Livestock

Egyptians had many bull deities, including the Apis Bull, which was mummified upon death



God's attack on Egypt's cattle was a direct attack on Ma'at and Hothor through various cow deities collectively representing vitality of life, fertility, and nurturing of life through domesticated animals.



Goddess Ma'at paying homage to Hathor

# 6: Plague of Boils

Sekhmet was the lion-headed goddess with responsibility of disease, plagues, epidemic, and healing of such pestilence.

Egypt had the best doctors in the ancient world (of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millenium BC)

Priesthood of Sekhmet was one of the oldest medical fraternities in history

Priests of Sekhmet included doctors and veterinary surgeons. (Currid, 111)



Metropolitan Museum of Art,  
photo by Michael Pixley



Sekhmet

Egypt's doctors did not glorify God and they could not deliver Egypt from the plague of boils.



Metropolitan Museum of Art,  
photo by Michael Pixley

# 7: Hail

Shu: supporter of the heavens who holds up the sky, deification of air

Tefnut: Deification of moisture, dew, rain (sister-wife of Shu)

Nut: Daughter of Shu and Tefnut, deification of the sky and the vault of heaven

Shu continually holds Nut (sky) above Geb (earth), which is necessary for all life

## Shu holding Nut above Geb



Shu holding up the sky (Tutankhamen's tomb)

*God is sovereign over the weather and all natural forces of the earth*

...That you might know that the earth belongs to Yahweh. Exodus 9:29

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

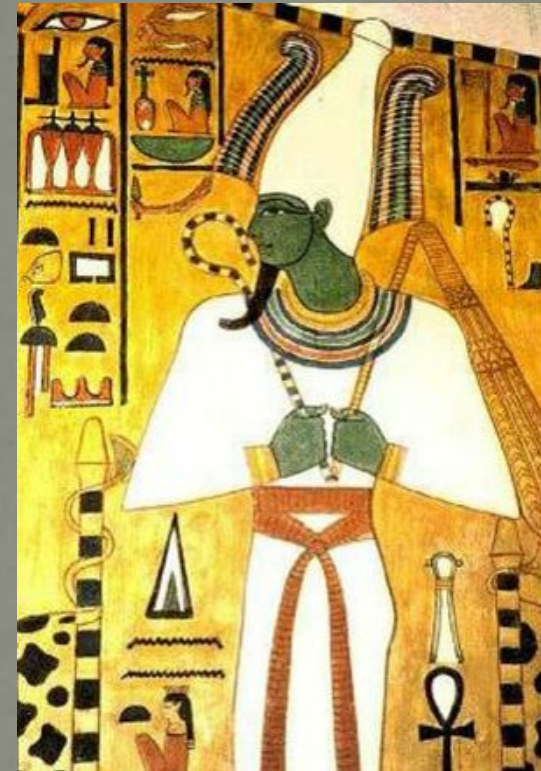
Psalm 24:1

# 8: Locusts Eating the Crops

Osiris was responsible for agriculture and the growing of crops along the Nile valley  
Neper and Nepit were god and goddess of grain  
Senehem was god responsible for locusts



Osiris



God destroyed Egypt's agriculture and crops



# 9: Darkness

Ra, or later, Amun-Ra was the chief solar deity who was born in the east each morning and brought light to the earth.

Each night, Re died in the west and descended into the underworld

Pharaoh was the incarnation of Ra on earth

Pharaoh was often called the “son of Ra”



Ra in his solar boat crossing the sky



At God's command the sun  
gave forth no light  
Ra was darkened in mid-day  
And Pharaoh could do  
nothing about it...  
Utter defeat for Ra on earth!



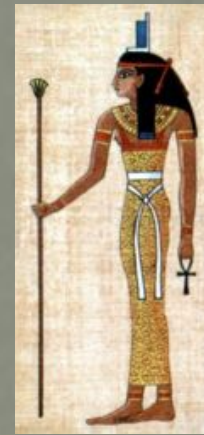
# 10: Death of the Firstborn

Pharaoh cannot protect the lives of his people or even his own heir

Pharaoh is Horus on Earth... Isis was his protector and the protector of Egypt  
She presided over magic and knew all names (had magical power over everyone)  
She could protect or hurt by magic whomever she wished  
She would always protect Pharaoh, who was Horus on Earth



Isis



Yet, Isis could not protect Egypt or even Pharaoh's heir from death at God's hand

The Egyptians... were burying all their first-born whom the Lord had struck down among them. *The Lord had also executed judgments on their gods.*"

-Numbers 33:4

# 10: Death of the Firstborn

ESV Translation of Exodus 11:7

“But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.”

Literally: “*a dog shall not sharpen his tongue* against and of the people of Israel...”



Anubis was the jackal-headed god of death, embalming, and mummification  
The jackal would eat dead bodies and became associated with death and burial

*Anubis has no power over Israel: God protects His children from death  
Death is in God's power, Anubis cannot threaten Israel with death*

# Pharaoh's Destruction

Pharaoh and his army were swallowed in the Red (Reed) Sea

Exodus 15:12 You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

'Swallow' carries the meaning of total destruction: e.g. to devour  
The Egyptians had this idea, too: the crocodile devours men whole  
this was the worst death imaginable for an Egyptian,  
to be devoured (especially by a crocodile)

Remember Ammit, the heart devourer?  
Pharaoh was devoured by God.

Aaron's staff swallowed Pharaoh's  
magicians staff-snakes  
The Red Sea swallowed Pharaoh and his army



Ammit, Devourer of Hearts

# War of Worldviews

Pharaoh's job was to maintain ma'at, order, harmony, security, continuity  
Pharaoh and their gods failed in every respect, in every area of life  
Pharaoh and their gods were utterly helpless to prevent Egypt's destruction

But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. Exodus 9:16

Romans 9

For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills... 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

# Judgment on the gods

Lament of Ipuwar describes a time of societal breakdown, loss of ma'at, destruction of all law and order in Egypt.

“There’s blood everywhere, no shortage of dead...

Lo, the river is blood, As one drinks of it one shrinks from people and thirsts for water....

Lo, crocodiles gorge on their catch, People go to them of their own will...

He who puts his brother in the ground is everywhere...

“Lo, Hapy inundates and none plow for him...

Khnum does not fashion because of the state of the land...

Khnum groans in weariness...

Lo, magic spells are divulged, Spells are made worthless through being repeated by people...

[Stolen] is the crown of Re, who pacifies the Two Lands.

*“Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment” Exodus 12:12*

# Sovereign God of All

The Lord had also executed judgments on their gods.” -Numbers 33:4

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, "Mine!"

— Abraham Kuyper

Plagues illustrate God’s sovereignty over all areas of life:

## Plague

1. Nile turned to blood
2. Plague of frogs
3. Gnats
4. Stinging flies
5. Death of livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the Firstborn

## Aspect of Life and Worldview

Blessings, Prosperity, Abundance, Food, Water  
Fertility, Reproduction, Childbirth  
Self-generation, resurrection, magic, wisdom  
Self-generation, resurrection, magic, wisdom  
Livestock, fertility, motherhood, nurturing  
Health, disease, plague, medicine  
Weather, climate, natural forces, earth  
Agriculture, crops, pestilence  
Sun, light, wisdom, understanding  
Life, death, heirs, succession, magic

(Note: Magic is not real, but Egyptians and many people both ancient and modern falsely believe it is)

# Flood-Exodus Parallels

Creation: God brings forth His creation by His power alone

Flood: God judges the reprobate by undoing creation's blessings

Israel: God creates a Covenant people, Israel contributes nothing

Egypt: God judges Pharaoh and Egypt by undoing creation's blessings

Since they worship nature, God undoes the blessings of creation

- As in creation days 1-3, God created light, separated the waters, and created dry ground for Israel to have new life
- During the flood, God un-separated the waters, brought them back together, eliminated the land, and destroyed all life as judgment
- Likewise, God un-separated the waters, bringing the Red Sea back together upon Pharaoh and his army, eliminating all land, and destroying their lives and destroying all of Egypt along with them.

*“See, Egypt has fallen to pouring water” – Lamentation of Ipuwar*



# Flood as De-Creation

## Creation

Day 2: God separated the waters from the waters

Day 3: God separated dry land from the seas

Day 5: God created fish and birds

Day 6: God created the land animals and people

## Flood: God undid Creation blessings of Days 2, 3, and 6

Day 2 Undone: Waters from above and below come back together

Gen. 7:11 “on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.”

Day 3 Undone: Land is subsumed back into the sea

Gen. 7:19 “and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.”

Day 5-6 Undone: Birds, all land animals and human life are killed off

Gen. 7:21 “and all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man.”

# Plagues as De-Creation

## Creation Days

- 1: Light from darkness
- 2: Separation of waters from waters
- 3: Dry land and vegetation
- 4: Sun, moon, stars
- 5: Birds, fish, aquatic creatures
- 6: Land animals and humans

## Plagues

- 9: Darkness prevails over light
- 1: Water turned into blood  
Red Sea: waters brought together on Pharaoh and his army
- 7-8: Crops destroyed by hail and locusts
- 9: sun, moon, stars give no light
- 1: Blood kills fish and aquatic creatures
- 2: Frog multiplication then mass death
- 3-4: gnats and stinging flies afflict all land creatures, cattle, and men
- 5: livestock plagued and die
- 6: boils on cattle and humans
- 10: death of the firstborn

# Final Judgment

## Plague

1. Nile into blood
2. Plague of frogs
3. Gnats
4. Stinging flies
5. Death of livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness  
darkened
10. Death of firstborn

## Parallels in Final Judgment in Revelation

Rev. 16:3-4 The sea became blood and everything died

Rev. 16:13-14 Three unclean spirits like frogs wage war

Rev. 9:3-5, Locusts with the sting of a scorpion

Rev. 16:2, Loathsome and malignant sores, 16:11, sores

Rev. 16:17-21, 7<sup>th</sup> Angel: huge, 100 pound hailstones rain

Rev. 9:3-5, Locusts with the sting of a scorpion

Rev. 16:10-11, The kingdom of the beast became

In all of this, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he did not repent

Rev. 16:9 Men blasphemed God and did not repent