

The Battle of the Gods

Exodus 7-12

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

On the surface it seems that there is a battle going on here between Moses and Pharaoh. But that is not the case. Paul understood this. We find in Eph. 6 where Paul warns the believers that our battles may play out here below but there are much higher stakes. We do not do battle against the people but the forces of evil that inspire them.

That changes the focus of our labors. We do not focus on earthly solutions but heavenly.

So it was for Moses. The battle was with the spiritual forces.

It is not that there are other gods that God must battle with, but there are evil beings that oppose God and try to hinder the things that He is doing here on earth.

So let us see how this is played out before us in Exodus as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob battle with the gods of Egypt.

I. The Command, "Let My people go"

II. The Conflict

A. Let them make bricks without straw. Ex 5:4-9

1. Even though God knows that Pharaoh will not let the people go He gives Pharaoh the chance to let them go no harm done.
2. Also at the first Moses only asked that they might go 3 days journey into the wilderness and worship the LORD.
3. But Pharaoh, himself considered a god, will continue to harden his heart far beyond the advice of his counselors.
4. But the response of the elders of Israel is what troubles us here.
 - a. They were expecting an easy deliverance. Ex 4:29-31
 - b. They were not willing to wait on Moses or God.
 - c. They had been here for 400 years, they really didn't have a better idea.

- d. But even Moses has not gotten the plan of God.
- e. Exodus 5:22-23 (NKJV) 22 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all."

B. Moses works his signs. Ex. 7:8-13

- 1. His rod becomes a serpent but so does the magicians' but Moses serpent swallows up the others.
- 2. As with the first 3 plagues the magicians of Egypt are able to duplicate the plague. Only they were not able to take away the plague that the LORD had brought.
- 3. Pharaoh finally understands that after the plague of frogs which he asks Moses to take away, tomorrow.
- 4. But Pharaoh hardens his heart again and will not let the people go.

III. The plagues

A. ONE - the Nile turned to blood.

- 1. If Egypt depended upon anything they depended upon the Nile.
- 2. There were a number of gods attributed to the Nile.
- 3. Either to keep it flowing or to protect it.
 - a. Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile;
 - b. Isis, goddess of the Nile;
 - c. Khnum, ram god guardian of the Nile;
 - d. and others
- 4. This is similar to two of the disasters in the Revelation.
 - a. Revelation 8:8 (NKJV) 8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.
 - b. Revelation 16:4-6 (NKJV) 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is

their just due."

5. But even with all these deities protecting the Nile they could do nothing when God turned it to blood.
 - a. The Egyptians had never seen anything like this before.
 - b. The Nile had continued for generation after generation.
 - c. Its waters supplied by the rainforest of Eastern Africa.
 6. All that man depends upon in this world will fail.
 7. Even the unchanging rivers are subject to change at the hand of our almighty LORD.
 8. All of His creation is subject to Him. He can dry up the rivers and the seas.
- B. TWO - The plague of frogs. Ex 8:1-15
1. Frogs were plentiful in Egypt and were considered the deity of fertility.
 - a. Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head
 - b. Hapi, Frog goddess, both related to fertility
 2. So what the LORD does is to give them plenty of gods.
 3. They didn't mind the frogs in the river but not in their homes, and beds and ovens.
 4. They had gods everywhere.
 5. Pharaoh partially relents and asks Moses to take away the frogs - tomorrow.
 6. Well the LORD does, but what He does is to just cause them to die.
 7. This was a bitter sweet victory for Pharaoh, who still would not let the people go, for now they had dead gods all over and of course the soon began to stink.
- C. THREE - Lice Ex 8:16-19
- D. FOUR - Flies Ex 8:20-32
- E. FIVE - Livestock Ex 9:1-7
1. All the Egyptian livestock die—but none of Israel's is even sick. Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go
 2. Hathor, goddess with the cow head;
 3. Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility

4. also Ptah and Mnevis and Amon
- F. SIX - Boils Ex 9:8-12
1. Horrible boils break out on everyone in Egypt
 2. Magicians cannot respond because they are struck down with boils as well—Pharaoh refuses to listen
 3. Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease;
 4. Sunu, the pestilence god,
 5. Imhotep, goddess of healing
 6. Serapis, goddess of healing
- G. SEVEN - Hail Ex 9:13-35
1. Hailstorms kill all the slaves and animals left out or unprotected and strip or destroy almost every plant
 2. Pharaoh admits his sin but then changes his mind and refuses to let Israel go
 3. Nut, the sky goddess;
 4. Osiris, god of crops and fertility;
 5. Set, god of storms
- H. EIGHT - Locusts Ex 10:1-20
1. Locusts cover Egypt and eat everything left after the hail
 2. Everyone advises Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go, but God hardens Pharaoh's heart and he refuses
 3. Nut, the sky goddess;
 4. Osiris, god of crops and fertility;
 5. Serapia, Egyptian god protector from Locusts
- I. NINE - Darkness EX 10:21-29
1. Total darkness covers Egypt for three days so no one can even move—except the Hebrews, who have light as usual
 2. Pharaoh again promises to let Israel go but again changes his mind
 3. Re, the sun god;
 4. Horus, a sun god;
 5. Nut, a sky goddess;

6. Hathor, a sky goddess
- J. TEN - Death of Firstborn Ex 11:1-12:33
1. The firstborn of all the people and cattle of Egypt die—but Israel is spared
Pharaoh and the Egyptians urge Israel to leave quickly; after they are gone,
Pharaoh again changes his mind and chases after them
 2. Min, god of reproduction;
 3. Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth;
 4. Isis, goddess who protected children;
 5. Pharaoh's firstborn son, a god
 6. Meskhemit the goddess of birth

What happens to us when we depend on the “gods” of this world. We look to them for happiness and life’s fulfilment but we come up empty every time.

They are only little hallow statues empty and cold. They can never bring warmth and fullness into our lives.

The Plagues				
Exodus 7-12				
Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.				
Reference	Plague	What Happened	Result	Egyptian gods
7:14-24	Blood	Fish die, the river smells, the people are without water	Pharaoh's magicians duplicate the miracle by "secret arts," and Pharaoh is unmoved	Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god guardian of the Nile; and others
8:1-15	Frogs	Frogs come up from the water and completely cover the land	Again Pharaoh's magicians duplicate the miracle by sorcery, and Pharaoh is unmoved	Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head Hapi, Frog goddess, both related to fertility
8:16-19	Gnats	All the dust of Egypt becomes a massive swarm of gnats	Magicians are unable to duplicate this; they say it is the "finger of God," but Pharaoh's heart remains hard	Set, god of the desert Seb, the earth god of Egypt
8:20-32	Flies	Swarms of flies cover the land	Pharaoh promises to let the Hebrews go but then hardens his heart and refuses	Re, a sun god; Uatchit, the fly god of Egypt
9:1-7	Livestock	All the Egyptian livestock die—but none of Israel's is even sick.	Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go	Hathor, goddess with the cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility also Ptah and Mnevis and Amon
9:8-12	Boils	Horrible boils break out on everyone in Egypt	Magicians cannot respond because they are struck down with boils as well—Pharaoh refuses to listen	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god, Imhotep, goddess of healing Serapis, goddess of healing
9:13-35	Hail	Hailstorms kill all the slaves and animals left out or unprotected and strip or destroy almost every plant	Pharaoh admits his sin but then changes his mind and refuses to let Israel go	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility; Set, god of storms
10:1-20	Locusts	Locusts cover Egypt and eat everything left after the hail	Everyone advises Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go, but God hardens Pharaoh's heart and he refuses	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility; Serapia, Egyptian god protector from Locusts
10:21-29	Darkness	Total darkness covers Egypt for three days so no one can even move—except the Hebrews, who have light as usual	Pharaoh again promises to let Israel go but again changes his mind	Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess
11:1-12:33	Death of Firstborn	The firstborn of all the people and cattle of Egypt die—but Israel is spared	Pharaoh and the Egyptians urge Israel to leave quickly; after they are gone, Pharaoh again changes his mind and chases after them	Min, god of reproduction; Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, goddess who protected children; Pharaoh's firstborn son, a god Meskhemit the goddess of birth