

# CONCERNING THE WAY

July 8, 2008



## LESSON 23: EXODUS: THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL

### Introduction

This lesson will continue in Exodus chapter 6 through 12, and cover the course of events, including the ten plagues, that led to Israel finally being delivered from slavery in Egypt.

- Dusty Rhodes

**Exodus 6:1-3** *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh, for compelled by my strong hand he will release them, and by my strong hand he will drive them out of his land." (2) God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. (3) I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name 'the LORD' I was not known to them.*

Now, in the Hebrew, "God Almighty" is **El Shaddai**, and it is unfortunate that it was translated simply Almighty, because the word "Shaddai" implies so much more than that. It implies the sustainer, the providing, the provisions, the security blanket. God was literally the security of His people, and that's all wrapped up in that Hebrew word of Deity, El Shaddai. Remember, when you see "the Lord" in an Old Testament translation, it is **Jehovah**, which means I AM.

There are seven distinct names of Jehovah, that are used in God dealing with the nation of Israel. The name Jehovah is the primary Name of God, as He deals with His Covenant People.

**Jehovah-Jireh** - When Abraham found the ram in the thicket, he called the place Jehovah-Jireh, which meant, "The LORD will provide."

**Jehovah-Rohi** - Psalms 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd,... - in the Hebrew Jehovah-Rohi means "The LORD our shepherd."

**Jehovah-Rophe** - means "The LORD that heals." When He brought Israel out of Egypt, He told Israel if they would be true to His commandment He would keep them from the diseases of Egypt. And as a result He was called Jehovah-Rophe, the healer.

**Jehovah-Nissi** - "The Lord my banner." This came about when they had to hold up Moses' arms during battle for victory; it was Jehovah who won the battle.

**Jehovah-Tsidkenu** - "The LORD our righteousness"

**Jehovah-Shammah** - "The LORD is there or present."

**Jehovah-Shalom** - "The LORD our peace" or "The LORD sends peace."

**Exodus 6:4,5** *I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as resident foreigners. (5) I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.*

There's the Abrahamic Covenant again, which has appeared in each of our studies since we first studied Abraham and will be in many others. God will never forget this Covenant, but there are a lot of people that think God is all through with the Jew. They think God's forgotten all about that Covenant that He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But that is false teaching.

**Exodus 6:6** *Therefore, tell the Israelites, 'I am the LORD. I will bring you out from your enslavement to the Egyptians, I will rescue you from the hard labor they impose, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.*

Again, this is the theme of Exodus - **Redemption**. God is saying I'm going to buy you back, I'm going to pay the price to set you free from the bondage of Egypt. Paul, as well as others, also speaks of our redemption. We, too, have to be redeemed. In fact, let's look at the little letter of I Peter:

**I Peter 1:18,19** *You know that from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors you were ransomed -- not by perishable things like silver or gold, (19) but by precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, namely Christ.*

We often think of the Jews being steeped in traditions, but how about people today? It's no different. They are steeped in the traditions of their fathers and they think they are going to make it. But tradition is not going to help anyone make it. And sometimes we have to break some traditions in order to come to the truth of the Scriptures.

**Romans 3:21-24** *But now apart from the law the righteousness of God (which is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed (22) namely, the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, (24) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (24) But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

No difference between whom? Jew and Gentile. This is what got Paul in trouble with his Jewish people, he was maintaining there was no difference. And as we'll see back here in Exodus, as soon as God pulled Israel out of Egypt, what does He tell them? You are different! I'm going to make you different. I'm going to set you apart. He then instructs them that they were to have nothing to do with the pagans around them. They were not to intermarry with them. This is why it was so hard for the Jews of Paul day to suddenly come out of that tradition, that they were different. And now, this little Jew tells them there is no difference.

If you are going to be instrumental in bringing someone to a knowledge of salvation, you can start with this Chapter. Here is the very first step of faith, on the road to salvation. And what is it? **We must realize that we are sinners.**

So many people think they are good enough. And there are a lot of good people. There are many people who are better than I would ever hope to be. But, they are going to be lost. Why? Because they have not trusted what God has done! It's the only thing you and I, as believers, can claim. **It isn't what I do that will get me to heaven.** Nothing can be done to get us to heaven. We have to rest on the fact we are sinners, and have fallen short. We are sons of Adam. So this is the first step of faith: to believe what God says about you and me. So, even though God condemns, we can be (Verse 24) *justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

**Exodus 6:7-9** *I will take you to myself for a people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from your enslavement to the Egyptians. (8) I will bring you to the land I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob -- and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD! " (9) Moses told this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and hard labor.*

The Israelites are beaten down, and they don't believe Moses any more.

You will see the names Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob appear together throughout the Old Testament. Why is this important? Because God wants us to understand that His covenant wasn't with Abraham; that would include Ishmael. And it wasn't with Abraham and Isaac; that would include Esau. No, it's with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and Jacob's descendants. That's Israel, that's His chosen people, and who His covenant is with.

Notice the seven "I wills" that God promises to do:

1. I will bring you out from your enslavement to the Egyptians
2. I will rescue you from the hard labor they impose
3. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments
4. I will take you to myself for a people
5. I will be your God
6. I will bring you to the land I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob
7. I will give it to you as a possession

**Exodus 6:13** *The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge for the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.*

So everything is getting ready now for God to move. We won't go through the next series of verses, giving the names of all the tribes and the heads of them and etc. But I do want you to see something in verse 26:

**Exodus 6:26** *It was the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their regiments."*

Some translations say armies, not regiments. They weren't a real army yet, because they had no weapons. They had no arms, swords, spears, or shields. They had no way of overthrowing the Egyptian slave masters. They had to wait completely for the power of God to come in on their behalf.

But, I think that if you look back at the holocaust and other aspects of Jewish history, they had a resilience, and I think a lot of it was based on their tribal organization. Even here in Egypt, they had an organization. They didn't have loud speakers, or radios, phones in their cars, and yet how did Moses communicate with those several million Jews? Through an organization. He would just bring the heads of the tribes together, and they would go out like a military command; communication would go down through the chain of command.

So, you never see Israel coming out of Egypt like a mob. They were organized. And when they get the Tabernacle set up (and we'll be coming to that later), God organized them in such a way, every time they set up camp the same three tribes are on the East, West, North, and South. When they

moved out, they always moved out in the same order. They were a nation of orderly people.

**Exodus 7:10-12** *When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, they did so, just as the LORD had commanded them -- Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants and it became a snake. (11) Then Pharaoh also summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the magicians of Egypt by their secret arts did the same thing. (12) Each man threw down his staff, and the staffs became snakes. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.*

We are going to see the use of signs again, to convince Pharaoh that God is the God of Israel. But we see something interesting happen. And I think we are living in a time that we had better pay attention to what the Scripture says.

Now, God is the Creator of life, the Sustainer of life, the very God of life. But Satan is not the Sustainer of life, he is the sustainer and giver of death! Death came by sin. Sin and death are synonymous. Let's see what happens in that same connotation in the New Testament.

Now, what is the picture? **The New Testament will always tell you.** We think we are getting closer and closer to the day these verses are talking about all the time, as we see the world falling apart - governments on shaky ground and turmoil all around the planet. I get a kick out of the seismologists. They talk about the increase in earthquakes, but of course they don't know why. We do. The Bible tells us there will be an increase in the number of earthquakes, and so everything is coming on, just piling up for the soon return of Christ. Paul describes it here:

**1 Corinthians 15:51-54** *Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed (52) in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (54) Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen, "Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

He reveals a secret, and you want to remember the Scriptures give no indication of a group of living people who will suddenly be gone and translated, until Paul writes about it. And that's why he calls it a mystery or secret. Jesus never mentions this; the Old Testament never mentions it; but Paul does.

The reason, of course, is that we can't go to heaven in this old body. Those who are dying and will experience resurrection, we can understand that they will have a new body. But what about us who are alive? Well, our body has to be changed. And that is what Paul is teaching here. I didn't mean to make this a point of this study, as we will come to this later, but we can't pass over it lightly.

We have to be made fit for eternity in God's presence. We have to be given this new body. This is what I really wanted you to see. I wanted to point out what took place back there with Aaron and the magicians' rods. Remember Aaron's serpent swallowed up the magicians' serpents; that was representative of Satan and his death. Do you see how it all fits together? As those serpents of the magicians of Egypt were lying on the ground, and Aaron's serpents swallowed them, it was the picture, of exactly how God is finally going to control the situation. Death is swallowed up in victory. Where was the victory over death accomplished? **At the Cross.** That's where Satan was defeated, and since Christ has now been put to death, has been buried, and He has risen from the grave, that's the power that separates us from the power of sin and death, and Satan.

We could go on and spend some more time on this, but we need to get back to Exodus chapter 7. In spite of what Pharaoh saw happen:

**Exodus 7:13** *Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.*

In verse 3 God says He will harden Pharaoh's heart. This throws a curve at a lot of people, and they say, "Is God being fair with poor old Pharaoh?" That, contrary to anything that Pharaoh may have wanted to do, God is making him become the rebel. That's not the way it is. Come back to Romans Chapter 9 because, after all, the only way we can do these things is search the Scripture, and compare. Paul writes:

**Romans 9:14-17** *What shall we say then? Is there injustice with God? Absolutely not! (15) 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 does not depend on human desire or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. (17) For the scripture says to Pharaoh: "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may demonstrate my power in you, and that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth."*

How many people, even on the earth today in this age of spiritual darkness, haven't heard of the Exodus? How many people, even today, don't know at least something about the plagues that came upon Egypt? Just about everyone. And out of it God has intended that He get the glory, not the blame. Now, the human race tends to say, "Well, that was God's fault." But that's not the way God intended it to fall. He wants the human race to realize His power and Sovereignty, and, in it all, His righteousness, His mercy:

**Roman 9:18-24** *So then, God has mercy on whom he chooses to have mercy, and he hardens whom he chooses to harden. (19) You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who has ever resisted his will?" (20) But who indeed are you -- a mere human being -- to talk back to God? Does what is molded say to the molder, "Why have you made me like this?" (21) Has the potter no right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special use and another for ordinary use? (22) But what if God, willing to demonstrate his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath prepared for destruction? (23) And what if he is willing to make known the wealth of his glory on the objects of mercy that he has prepared beforehand for glory (24) even us, whom he has called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?*

Number one, **God is Sovereign**. He is absolute in His power. **We are in no position to argue with what He does, or why He does it.** The Old Testament says **His thoughts are higher than our thoughts** and His ways are higher than our ways, and it's not for us to question. But, realizing that God is righteous, He can do no sin, no wrong. He gives every human being that exercise of choice. So when Pharaoh was confronted with letting the Jews go, he could have let them go. But you see, when God brought him to the point of making a tough decision, and like the average human being, how did Pharaoh do? What he wanted to do.

Remember this: Men are not hardened by God so they can be lost, men are hardened because they are already lost. Because of Adam's sin, everyone that is born is already born lost. God hardens Pharaoh's heart because he is already lost, and God knows this.



## The Ten Plagues

### Purpose of the Plagues

1. To free Israel
2. To punish Egypt
3. To show the foolishness of idolatry - Exodus 12:12, Numbers 33:4

### 5 characteristics of the plagues

1. Intensification of natural phenomena - Some of these things happen naturally in Egypt but they intensify to a miraculous degree
2. Prediction - some of them came with advance warning
3. Discrimination - these plagues affected the Egyptians but not the Jews
4. Orderliness - the plagues grow in severity
5. Moral - the plagues teach moral lessons

### The Order of the Plagues

1. 3 sets of 3 plagues with one grand finale
2. The first two plagues of each set of 3 come with a warning, the 3<sup>rd</sup> without warning
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> of each set of three Moses comes to announce it to Pharaoh in the morning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of each set Moses announces but no mention of when he comes
4. 1<sup>st</sup> three plagues are opposed by Egypt's magicians
5. There's a 3-fold increase in severity - the first three can be classified as loathsome, the 2<sup>nd</sup> three as painful, the third three are grievous
6. The 1<sup>st</sup> three are performed by the hand of Aaron, the 2<sup>nd</sup> three by the hand of God, the last three by the hand of Moses (all were from God, obviously)
7. The time lapse of all ten plagues came over a six month period, not one right after another

As we come through each of these plagues, Moses goes back and says to Pharaoh, "Are you ready to let the Jews go?" He could have said, "Let them go." But instead he says, "I'll not let them go." So the only way we can look at this, is when God hardened Pharaoh, He put him in this place of having to make a decision. Before we look at the plagues one by one, I would like to make this comment. A lot of people can't believe the Book of Revelation. They just can't believe that such things are going to come to pass upon the earth. But these things have all happened before. Most of what takes place in the Tribulation and the Book of Revelation are almost a rerun of the plagues on Egypt. Only in the Tribulation it will be world-wide in its scale, where as here it was limited to Egypt. So if you can believe that these things happened back here in Egypt, then you shouldn't have any trouble believing that it is still going to come upon the earth again.

#### *1<sup>st</sup> PLAGUE – Water turned to blood*

**Exodus 7:14-25** *The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to release the people. (15) Go to Pharaoh in the morning when he goes out to the water. Position yourself to meet him by the edge of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was turned into a snake. (16) Tell him, "The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you to say, "Release my people, that they may serve me in the desert!" But until now you have not listened. (17) Thus says the LORD: "By this you will know that I am the LORD: I am going to strike the water of the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned into blood. (18) Fish in the Nile will die, the Nile will stink, and the*

*Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the Nile." ' ' (19) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over Egypt's waters — over their rivers, over their canals, over their ponds, and over all their reservoirs — so that it becomes blood.' There will be blood everywhere in the land of Egypt, even in wooden and stone containers." (20) Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD had commanded. Moses raised the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile right before the eyes of Pharaoh and his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood. (21) When the fish that were in the Nile died, the Nile began to stink, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood everywhere in the land of Egypt! (22) But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts, and so Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he refused to listen to Moses and Aaron — just as the LORD had predicted. (23) And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. He did not pay any attention to this. (24) All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the Nile. (25) Seven full days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.*

Notice that Pharaoh's magicians duplicated the water turning to blood, but they couldn't turn the water pure again, which is what Egypt really needed! The gods of Egypt affected or cursed by this plague were the Nile river itself, which was worshipped by the Egyptians, Khnum, which was the god of the Nile's sources, Hapi, considered the spirit of the Nile, Osiris — the Nile was considered the bloodstream of Osiris, Sepek — the crocodile god — crocodiles died in the river of blood, Neith, the protector of the largest fish of the Nile, which died, and Hathor, protector of the one of the primary fish from the Nile, which also died.

### *2nd PLAGUE – swarms of frogs*

**Exodus 8:1-14** *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Release my people in order that they may serve me! (2) But if you refuse to release them, then I am going to plague all your territory with frogs. (3) The Nile will swarm with frogs, and they will come up and go into your house, in your bedroom, and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and your kneading troughs. (4) Frogs will come up against you, your people, and all your servants." ' ' (5) The LORD spoke to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Extend your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the canals, and over the ponds, and bring the frogs up over the land of Egypt.'" (6) So Aaron extended his hand over the waters of Egypt, and frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. (7) The magicians did the same with their secret arts and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt too. (8) Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the LORD that he may take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will release the people that they may sacrifice to the LORD." (9) Moses said to Pharaoh, "You may have the honor over me — when shall I pray for you, your servants, and your people, for the frogs to be removed from you and your houses, so that they will be left only in the Nile?" (10) He said, "Tomorrow." And Moses said, "It will be as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. (11) The frogs will depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people; they will be left only in the Nile." (12) Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD because of the frogs that he had brought on Pharaoh. (13) The LORD did as Moses asked — the frogs died out of the houses, the villages, and the fields. (14) The Egyptians piled them in countless heaps, and the land stank.*

Again, we see that Satan can produce some miracles, his magicians can also bring frogs. But notice that they cannot remove the frogs already there. Satan cannot remove what God has created. Pharaoh then promises to release Israel if God will take away the frogs.

Normally the sound of frogs was cause for rejoicing in Egypt because it meant that the Nile had receded and the land could now be used for planting and growing. But these frogs were not

welcome. This was an attack on the Egyptian god of Hapi, who was in charge of making the Nile delta fertile. Hegt was a goddess that had the body of a woman but the head of a frog, and was a symbol of resurrection and fertility. This plague was a humiliation and mockery of these two Egyptian gods.

### *3rd PLAGUE – swarms of insects*

**Exodus 8:15-19** *But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted. (16) The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Extend your staff and strike the dust of the ground, and it will become gnats throughout all the land of Egypt.'" (17) They did so; Aaron extended his hand with his staff, he struck the dust of the ground, and it became gnats on people and on animals. All the dust of the ground became gnats throughout all the land of Egypt. (18) When the magicians attempted to bring forth gnats by their secret arts, they could not. So there were gnats on people and on animals. (19) The magicians said to Pharaoh, "It is the finger of God!" But Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.*

This plague comes without warning. The Hebrew word here doesn't necessarily mean just gnats, but a mixture of all kinds of insects, unbelievable swarms of insects that covered humans and animals. Notice the magicians cannot reproduce this plague. From this point on they cannot reproduce any of these plagues, and they actually acknowledge that these are not tricks, but actually acts of God. The Egyptian gods insulted by this plague were Uatchit, responsible for protecting Egyptians from swarms of insects, and Seb, who was the god of the earth, and supposed to protect people from lice.

Also, the priesthood, being concerned about ritual purity, was always concerned about insects on their bodies, so they shaved their entire bodies of hair - head, eyebrows, everything was shaved. So this plague severely impacted the priests.

### *4th PLAGUE – swarms of flies*

**Exodus 8:20-23** *The LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and position yourself before Pharaoh as he goes out to the water, and tell him, "Thus says the LORD, "Release my people that they may serve me! (21) If you do not release my people, then I am going to send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and in your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies, and even the ground they stand on. (22) But on that day I will mark off the land of Goshen, where my people are staying, so that no swarms of flies will be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of this land. (23) I will put a division between my people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow." ' ' "*

How did Moses and Aaron have such access to the king of Egypt? Had this been Babylon they would have never been able to do it. The Babylonian Kings would never allow someone to come before them, except in their own court. But the Egyptians did. Apparently the Egyptian Pharaoh was open to people to come into his presence. Consequently, Moses and Aaron had no obstruction when they wanted to come before him.

In verse 22 God is showing the Egyptians that God can draw an invisible line around Goshen that even the insects wouldn't cross. Here God puts a division, a setting apart of the children of Israel, from those of Egypt. We will see this throughout Scripture, what was drummed into them. You are different. You are to be a set-apart people; you are the Covenant People, you are to have nothing to do with those pagan Gentiles all around you. The first three plagues have affected Jews and



Egyptians alike, but the rest of them will not affect the Jews at all.

There is a New Testament analogy in II Corinthians. Paul gives us the same set of directions. Remember, Paul writes in Romans Chapter 15, verse 4 that all these things were written back in the Old Testament for our learning. We are to learn from this. Now, just as sure as God put a separation between the children of Israel and the Egyptians, God puts a line of demarcation between the believer and the world. And God says you cannot serve two masters. We will either serve one and hate the other, or vice versa. Look at what Paul teaches here:

**II Corinthians 6:11-15a** *We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart has been opened wide to you. (12) Our affection for you is not restricted, but you are restricted in your affections for us. (13) Now as a fair exchange -- I speak as to my children -- open wide your hearts to us also. (14) Do not become partners with those who do not believe, for what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship does light have with darkness? (15) And what agreement does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share in common with an unbeliever?*

We don't hear that much anymore. We don't hear much about separation. In fact, I think this is exactly why Christianity has lost its power. We can't see any difference between the average Christian and the average person of the world. But God did not intend it to be that way. Just as sure as He separated Israel from Egypt, He wants to separate you and I from the world. As I have mentioned before, we are not to be odd-balls. We shouldn't constantly be asking for persecution by our actions, but the world should know where we stand.

**Exodus 8:24-32** *The LORD did so; a thick swarm of flies came into Pharaoh's house and into the houses of his servants, and throughout the whole land of Egypt the land was ruined because of the swarms of flies. (25) Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land." (26) But Moses said, "That would not be the right thing to do, for the sacrifices we make to the LORD our God would be an abomination to the Egyptians. If we make sacrifices that are an abomination to the Egyptians right before their eyes, will they not stone us? (27) We must go on a three-day journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, just as he is telling us." (28) Pharaoh said, "I will release you so that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the desert. Only you must not go very far. Do pray for me." (29) Moses said, "I am going to go out from you and pray to the LORD, and the swarms of flies will go away from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow. Only do not let Pharaoh deal falsely again by not releasing the people to sacrifice to the LORD." (30) So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, (31) and the LORD did as Moses asked — he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained! (32) But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not release the people.*

This starts the 2nd series of three plagues, and this one comes with a warning. Now Pharaoh is trying to compromise with Moses, saying OK, you can sacrifice to your God, but you must do it here in Egypt. Moses refuses. Then Pharaoh relents and tells them they may go, but not to go too far. But, when Moses asks God to remove the flies, Pharaoh goes back on his word again. The Egyptian god affected by this plague are Baalzebub, whose name means "Lord of the Flies" His statue had the head of a fly.

**5th PLAGUE – disease on Egypt's livestock**

**Exodus 9:1-7** *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him, "Thus says the LORD, the*

God of the Hebrews, "Release my people that they may serve me! (2) For if you refuse to release them and continue holding them, (3) then the hand of the LORD will surely bring a very terrible plague on your livestock in the field, on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. (4) But the Lord will distinguish between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, and nothing will die of all that the Israelites have." ' ' (5) The LORD set an appointed time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land." (6) And the LORD did this on the next day; all the livestock of the Egyptians died, but of the Israelites' livestock not one died. (7) Pharaoh sent representatives to investigate, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of Israel had died. But Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he did not release the people.

This plague comes with a warning, and this plague seems to have killed all the livestock of the field, not in barns or other buildings. This plague affects the Egyptian gods Apis Bull, sacred bull of the god Ptah, and considered the first born of all bulls, also Mnevis, sacred bull of the god Ra, Hathor, a goddess with the body of a woman and the head of a cow, considered the goddess of love, beauty, and joy (beauty? With the head of a cow? Oookay), and the god Knom, who looked like a ram.

#### *6th PLAGUE – festering boils on people and animals*

**Exodus 9:8-12** *Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a furnace, and have Moses throw it into the air while Pharaoh is watching. (9) It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt and will cause boils to break out and fester on both people and animals in all the land of Egypt." (10) So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh, Moses threw it into the air, and it caused festering boils to break out on both people and animals. (11) The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. (12) But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted to Moses.*

This plague comes without warning. The magicians not only couldn't reproduce it or remove it, they couldn't escape it, either. Again, Pharaoh still didn't listen. This plague insulted the Egyptian god Sekhmet, who had the body of a woman and the head of a lioness, and had the power over epidemics, to start them and to stop them. So Sekhmet, the god of healing, and Imhotep, the god of medicine, were powerless to stop this plague.

#### *7th PLAGUE – rain of hail and fire*

**Exodus 9:13-35** *The LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, stand before Pharaoh, and tell him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews: "Release my people so that they may serve me! (14) For this time I will send all my plagues on your very self and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. (15) For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with plague, and you would have been destroyed from the earth. (16) But for this purpose I have caused you to stand: to show you my strength, and so that my name may be declared in all the earth. (17) You are still exalting yourself against my people by not releasing them. (18) I am going to cause very severe hail to rain down about this time tomorrow, such hail as has never occurred in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. (19) So now, send instructions to gather your livestock and all your possessions in the fields to a safe place. Every person or animal caught in the field and not brought into the house – the hail will come down on them, and they will die!" ' ' (20) Those of Pharaoh's servants who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their servants and livestock into the houses, (21) but those who did not take the word of the LORD seriously left their servants and their cattle in the field. (22) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Extend your hand toward the sky that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on people and on animals, and on everything that grows in the field in the land of Egypt."*

*(23) When Moses extended his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire fell to the earth; so the LORD caused hail to rain down on the land of Egypt. (24) Hail fell and fire mingled with the hail; the hail was so severe that there had not been any like it in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. (25) The hail struck everything in the open fields, both people and animals, throughout all the land of Egypt. The hail struck everything that grows in the field, and it broke all the trees of the field to pieces. (26) Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was there no hail. (27) So Pharaoh sent and summoned Moses and Aaron and said to them, "I have sinned this time! The LORD is righteous, and I and my people are guilty. (28) Pray to the LORD, for the mighty thunderings and hail are too much! I will release you and you will stay no longer." (29) Moses said to him, "When I leave the city I will spread my hands to the LORD, the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth belongs to the LORD. (30) But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God." (31) (Now the flax and the barley were struck by the hail, for the barley had ripened and the flax was in bud. (32) But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are later crops.) (33) So Moses left Pharaoh, went out of the city, and spread out his hands to the LORD, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain stopped pouring on the earth. (34) When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder ceased, he sinned again: both he and his servants hardened their hearts. (35) So Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he did not release the Israelites, as the LORD had predicted through Moses.*

This starts the third series of three plagues, and this comes with a warning. The purpose of the 7<sup>th</sup> plague was to show the uniqueness of God, and to demonstrate the power of God, and the reason for it is that Pharaoh was still exalting himself against God. This plague was tempered with God's mercy, in that Moses advised them to get their animals and possessions inside, so they would not be destroyed, and some of them listened, some of them did not.

It killed every man and beast in the field, and broke every tree and every crop in the field in the land of Egypt. This time Pharaoh admits that he sinned and Moses prays for the plague to cease. But when it ceased, he went back on his word once again. This plague must have occurred in January or February, because that's when flax and barley start to come up. The wheat and spelt comes up in March or April in Egypt, so it was not destroyed. This means 7 or 8 weeks will pass before the next plague.

Four Egyptian gods were affected by this plague; the god Shu, the sky god, son of Ra, Nut, the sky goddess, Seth, the agricultural god, and Isis, the agricultural goddess.

### *8th PLAGUE – plague of locusts*

**Exodus 10:1-11** *The LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, in order to display these signs of mine before him, (2) and in order that in the hearing of your son and your grandson you may tell how I made fools of the Egyptians and about my signs that I displayed among them, so that you may know that I am the LORD." (3) So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and told him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews: 'How long do you refuse to humble yourself before me? Release my people so that they may serve me! (4) But if you refuse to release my people, I am going to bring locusts into your territory tomorrow. (5) They will cover the surface of the earth, so that you will be unable to see the ground. They will eat the remainder of what escaped – what is left over for you – from the hail, and they will eat every tree that grows for you from the field. (6) They will fill your houses, the houses of your servants, and all the houses of Egypt, such as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen since they have been in the land until this day!' " Then Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh. (7) Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long will this man be a menace to us? Release the people so that they may*

serve the LORD their God. Do you not know that Egypt is destroyed?" (8) So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God. Exactly who is going with you?" (9) Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our sheep and our cattle we will go, because we are to hold a pilgrim feast for the LORD." (10) He said to them, "The LORD will need to be with you if I release you and your dependents! Watch out! Trouble is right in front of you! (11) No! Go, you men only, and serve the LORD, for that is what you want." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

This plague also comes with a warning. Note the purpose of these plagues and the hardening of Pharaoh's heart in verses 1 and 2.

The Hebrew word for trouble, or evil, in verse 10, is Ra, which is also the name of an Egyptian God. Pharaoh is basically saying, look out, my god is more powerful than your god, and I will set him on you! This is an insult to the true God Jehovah. Pharaoh is trying to compromise again here by allowing only the men to leave.

**Exodus 10:12-20** *The LORD said to Moses, "Extend your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up over the land of Egypt and eat everything that grows in the ground, everything that the hail has left." (13) So Moses extended his staff over the land of Egypt, and then the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all night. The morning came, and the east wind had brought up the locusts! (14) The locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and settled down in all the territory of Egypt. It was very severe; there had been no locusts like them before, nor will there be such ever again. (15) They covered the surface of all the ground, so that the ground became dark with them, and they ate all the vegetation of the ground and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green remained on the trees or on anything that grew in the fields throughout the whole land of Egypt. (16) Then Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you! (17) So now, forgive my sin this time only, and pray to the LORD your God that he would only take this death away from me." (18) Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, (19) and the LORD turned a very strong west wind, and it picked up the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea. Not one locust remained in all the territory of Egypt. (20) But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not release the Israelites.*

Pharaoh repents again and asks that the plague be taken away, but of course, he changes his mind again. The gods affected are Seth and Isis once again.

### *9th PLAGUE – plague of darkness*

**Exodus 10:21-29** *The LORD said to Moses, "Extend your hand toward heaven so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness so thick it can be felt." (22) So Moses extended his hand toward heaven, and there was absolute darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days. (23) No one could see another person, and no one could rise from his place for three days. But the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. (24) Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD — only your flocks and herds will be detained. Even your families may go with you." (25) But Moses said, "Will you also provide us with sacrifices and burnt offerings that we may present them to the LORD our God? (26) Our livestock must also go with us! Not a hoof is to be left behind! For we must take these animals to serve the LORD our God. Until we arrive there, we do not know what we must use to serve the LORD." (27) But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to release them. (28) Pharaoh said to him, "Go from me! Watch out for yourself! Do not appear before me again, for when you see my face you will die!" (29) Moses said, "As you wish!*



*I will not see your face again."*

Notice that it was complete and total darkness, like you would have inside a cave, where you can't see the hand in front of your face, for three days! And you would have to assume that God did not allow lamps or candles to light, either, because it says no one could see another person, and no one could move from their place for three days. Pharaoh attempts his last compromise, by allowing that they could take their families, but not their animals. Moses rejected this compromise as well.

Moses does agree with Pharaoh that he will not see his face again, but of course he does see him after the next plague, but not to bargain with Pharaoh, but because Pharaoh calls Moses to him to release Israel.

The gods of Egypt affected here are Ra, Khepre, and Harakhte, all sun gods with appearances of different animals, Aten, the sun disc god, Horus, the winged sun disc god, Atum, god of the setting sun, Thoth, the moon god, and Nut, the sky goddess.

So many writers (secular and theological people alike) will try to associate these plagues and other events in the Book of Exodus with natural phenomena saying these things just happened to happen. I've even watched TV shows about it. For example, they might say that it was not unusual for waves of locust to come into that part of the world. And that's true, but when God sent a plague on Pharaoh, it wasn't just a chance happening or phenomena; it was a miraculous act of God. Another example is the parting of the Red Sea. The skeptics will say they crossed at the shallow end of the Red Sea, and it was only 18 inches deep. Along with this, a tidal wave could have come in from the Mediterranean, and that could explain how the Egyptians drowned. Well, they're just trying to explain something away so they don't have to believe in a God who does miracles. All of these events were the miraculous, powerful working of an Almighty God. And this is the only way we can explain it.

**Exodus 11:1** *The LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will release you from this place. When he releases you, he will drive you out completely from this place.*

God is encouraging Moses here, saying we're almost there. And, what God said is exactly what happened.

**Exodus 11:2-3** *Instruct the people that each man and each woman is to request from his or her neighbor items of silver and gold." (3) (Now the LORD granted the people favor with the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, respected by Pharaoh's servants and by the Egyptian people.)*

This is interesting, isn't it? They wouldn't leave with nothing, they would leave with much wealth. And Moses had become great even in the eyes of the Egyptians.

**Exodus 11:4-7** *Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt, (5) and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. (6) There will be a great cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. (7) But against any of the Israelites not even a dog will bark against*



*either people or animals, so that you may know that the LORD distinguishes between Egypt and Israel.'*

You know, it is interesting that throughout Scripture we get tidbits of information of how God is in control of wildlife, or the animal kingdom. Here he is going to make sure that even an Egyptian dog won't bark, when Israel gets to move out. Then in the New Testament, when Peter was concerned about tax money, what did Jesus tell him to do? "Go down to the sea shore and there will be a fish with enough money in it's mouth for your taxes and mine both." What does that tell you? He is totally in control.

**Exodus 11:8-10** *All these your servants will come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you,' and after that I will go out." Then Moses went out from Pharaoh in great anger. (9) The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt." (10) So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not release the Israelites from his land.*

Now we come to Chapter 12, which again is a benchmark chapter, I think. Much like Genesis 12, because here we have the introduction of **Passover**. Orthodox Jews still practice it, and it all goes back to this institution of Exodus Chapter 12. Passover marks the beginning of the nation of Israel.

**Exodus 12:1-2** *The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, (2) "This month is to be your beginning of months; it will be your first month of the year.*

The Jewish calendar is now set up in such a way that April is the first month of their religious year. It is now in the month of Nisan (since the Babylonian captivity) on the Jewish calendar. Now, verse 3 and 4, and the LORD is still speaking:

**Exodus 12:3-4** *Tell the whole community of Israel, 'In the tenth day of this month they each must take a lamb for themselves according to their families -- a lamb for each household. (4) If any household is too small for a lamb, the man and his next-door neighbor are to take a lamb according to the number of people -- you will make your count for the lamb according to how much each one can eat.*

In other words, there is never to be a shortfall. There is always supposed to be enough. He doesn't say so much about the amount left over, because he tells how to deal with that. But they had to make sure that there was not a shortage, and of course the lesson is coming in just a moment. Now, continuing on with verse 5, The Lord is still speaking:

**Exodus 12:5-6** *Your lamb must be perfect, a male, one year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (6) You must care for it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then the whole community of Israel will kill it around sundown.*

What you have here is the beautiful illustration of Whom? **The Lord Jesus**. He too was, according to our Bible, without spot, without blemish, without sin. But in order to prove that he was spotless and sinless, how long did he minister? - three years. And so, as this lamb was kept for three days to be completely observed, the household would look for any blemish or sign of poor health, or anything that might be wrong with it. If at the end of those three days the lamb was whole, then they could

kill it for the Passover sacrifice. And it was the same way with Christ. He spent that three years up and down the land of Israel. He was under complete scrutiny of the religious authorities, more or less, and by the ordinary man in the street, He wasn't hidden from anyone. And yet no one could ever point a finger at Him, and accuse Him of a wrong doing. He was without spot, without blemish; He was blameless. Now, after they had proved the lamb:

**Exodus 12:7-9** *They will take some of the blood and put it on the two side posts and top of the doorframe of the houses where they will eat it. (8) They will eat the meat the same night; they will eat it roasted over the fire with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs. (9) Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roast it over the fire with its head, its legs, and its entrails.*

Notice the places where the blood is to be sprinkled. Some on each side of the door and some at the top of the door. Connect the blood on the side posts with a line and draw a line from the blood on top of the door to the bottom, and what do you have? A cross, and the blood would be where Jesus' head and hands were.

Now, the fire here, as I see it, was indicative of judgment. That just as sure as Christ went through the fires of judgment as He hung there on that Cross in order to bring about our salvation, this Passover lamb was also roasted with fire. It was not to be prepared any other way. You remember that even as we go on into Israel's religious experience, what happened to all of their sacrifices that were offered upon that brazen altar? They were burned with fire. It was the place where sin was being judged. We are living in a day and time, where we hardly ever hear about sin anymore. We don't even know what sin is. It's to the place where every man does whatever he thinks is right in his own eyes.

**Exodus 12:11-12** *This is how you are to eat it -- dressed to travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite 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."*

Subsequent Passover celebrations have been different than this first one. This one was practiced this way because they were getting ready to leave Egypt. From then on it has traditionally been celebrated in a more relaxed setting, eating while reclining, etc.

Every one of the plagues were directed at the gods of Egypt. In other words, God just proved that their pagan worship had nothing to do with Him whatsoever. He destroyed them at will. Ever since the Tower of Babel the whole human race until Abraham was saturated in paganism, in polytheism (that's the worship of many gods) and so when Israel comes on the scene as His separated, different, Covenant people they are the only people on earth who did not worship many gods. I know that is hard to swallow, but its the truth of history, all of these people of the world are steeped in paganism.

And so Israel is that little group alone that has the knowledge of the one true God. You may say, 'Why didn't God send the Jews out into those pagans and enlighten them?' Well He wanted to in time. But He's going to instruct them first. He's going to prepare them until they are ready. There were exceptions of course, He sent Jonah up to Nineveh, that Gentile city, for example.

**Exodus 12:13** *The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, so that when I see the*

*blood I will pass over you, and this plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the land of Egypt.*

"When I see the blood" is the crucial point, you may want to underline that in your Bible. He doesn't say, "If you behave yourselves." He doesn't say, "Now if you have been living relatively sinless." He doesn't say, "If you will worship me in a particular way." He says only one thing, and what is it? "...when I see the blood..."

So, in Goshen every Jewish family has put the blood on the door posts as instructed. And as the Scripture said they would, they could hear the weeping, and wailing, and the mourning, throughout the communities of Egypt. And yet, every Jew who was behind that door with the blood applied was safe. God **passed over** them. They had nothing to worry about; they were absolutely secure. Not because of anything but the blood on the door. If they had scoffed and said, "What difference would three spots of blood on my house door make?" Well, they too would have lost their firstborn.

Plagues 4 through 9 did not affect the Jews at all, because they were Jews. This plague could have affected the Jews as well as the Egyptians. The Jews were not passed over because they they were Jews, but because of the blood. This is also a prophetic picture of salvation through the blood of Christ. All people, Jews and and Gentiles are passed over only because of the blood of God's perfect lamb, Jesus Christ.

You and I as well, if we are under the blood, are safe and secure. But always remember, that doesn't give us license to sin willfully. But if we are under the blood we are just as safe as those Jews were behind their door. Then, Moses relayed the instructions God gave him to the Israelites:

**Exodus 12:14** *This day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a festival to the LORD — you will celebrate it perpetually as a lasting ordinance.*

And because God passed over them, it was called the Passover festival. I'll bet you all figured that out already, didn't you?

**Exodus 12:15-20** *For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. Surely on the first day you must put away yeast from your houses because anyone who eats bread made with yeast from the first day to the seventh day will be cut off from Israel. (16) On the first day there will be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there will be a holy convocation for you. You must do no work of any kind on them, only what every person will eat — that alone may be prepared for you. (17) So you will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought your regiments out from the land of Egypt, and so you must keep this day perpetually as a lasting ordinance. (18) In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, you will eat bread made without yeast until the twenty-first day of the month in the evening."*

Now God describes a second festival that is to follow Passover. The Feast of Passover is to last only one day, the Feast of Unleavened Bread then lasts the following seven days. Anyone who ate bread with leaven during this period was to be taken out and executed. Jews today observing this feast do not work on the 1st day or the 7<sup>th</sup> day. The reason for the feast is to commemorate Israel leaving Egypt.

So Moses then goes to the people and gives them the instructions that God has given him.

**Exodus 12:22-28** *Take a branch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and apply to the top of the doorframe and the two side posts some of the blood that is in the basin. Not one of you is to go out the door of his house until morning. (28) For the LORD will pass through to strike Egypt, and when he sees the blood on the top of the doorframe and the two side posts, then the LORD will pass over the door, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. (24) You must observe this event as an ordinance for you and for your children forever. (25) When you enter the land that the LORD will give to you, just as he said, you must observe this ceremony. (26) When your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' — (27) then you will say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, when he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck Egypt and delivered our households.' " The people bowed down low to the ground, (28) and the Israelites went away and did exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.*

Now, hyssop was a little bush or weed that grew everywhere in Goshen. They were to take this little weed, dip it into the basin of lamb's blood, and apply the blood to those three places on the door and lintel. I liken the hyssop here to the work of the Holy Spirit. Now, I could be wrong, but I think we have a good application, that as hyssop was everywhere, not a single Israelite could say, "I didn't have a chance to find a little bush of hyssop, so I couldn't do it that way." Neither can anyone say, "Well, the Holy Spirit never worked in my life." The Holy Spirit is omnipresent and works on every human being. I am firmly convinced that every person who has ever lived has been given the opportunity by the Holy Spirit.

The grace of God, through the working of the Holy Spirit, has appeared to, I think, every human being in one way or another. Romans Chapter 1 tells us one way God speaks, even to pagans and those who have never heard the literal Word of God, is through the effect of nature. They should be able to look into the very stars of heaven and realize that there is a Creator God to deal with. And that's what the Scripture says. All of Scripture is constantly referring to the fact that even though all have sinned, the way back to God has been made available to every human being.

Hyssop has another significance here, it is used elsewhere for the purpose of purification, to cover sins. You can see this in Leviticus 14:4-6, 49-52, Numbers 19:1-6, 18, 19. So when the Jews are using hyssop to sprinkle the blood, they are not just making sure that the judgment passes over them, but this blood sacrifice also has the function of covering over their sins.

**Exodus 12:29-32** *It happened at midnight -- the LORD attacked all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the prison, and all the firstborn of the cattle. (30) Pharaoh got up in the night, along with all his servants and all Egypt, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no house in which there was not someone dead. (31) Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, "Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, serve the LORD as you have requested! (32) Also, take your flocks and your herds, just as you have requested, and leave. But bless me also."*

Pharaoh finally gives in here without any more attempts at compromise. This plague was an attack on the Egyptian god Min and goddess Isis, who were the gods of procreation and reproduction. Also Hathor, who was always said to be present at the birth of a child, was affected, and Apis Bull, who was to be always the first born bull, and so the Apis Bull would have been killed in this plague.

**Exodus 12:33-36** *The Egyptians were urging the people on, in order to send them out of the land*

*quickly, for they were saying, "We are all dead!" (34) So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, with their kneading troughs bound up in their clothing on their shoulders. (35) Now the Israelites had done as Moses told them -- they had requested from the Egyptians silver and gold items and clothing. (36) The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and they gave them whatever they wanted, and so they plundered Egypt.*

Don't lose sight of the fact that, by the time we get to Chapter 25 of the Book of Exodus, God is going to give instructions to Moses and Aaron to now build the tabernacle. And where are they going to get all the required silver, gold, and linen? Well, from the Israelites, who got it from the Egyptians. See, God isn't just spoiling Egypt to pad the pockets of the Israelites. He is looking forward to using those items Himself in the building of the tabernacle.

**Exodus 12:37** *The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, plus their dependants.*

600,000 men on foot over the age of 20, added to the women and children, elderly who were riding, etc., means there were at least several million Israelites that left Egypt. But in the very next verse, what also went out with them?

**Exodus 12:38** *A mixed multitude also went up with them, and flocks and herds -- a very large number of cattle.*

Who was this mixed multitude? Well, they were the hangers-on. Probably a lot of them were Egyptians and foreigners who had been laboring in Egypt with the Jews, but always remember they were not Jews themselves. They probably saw a good thing and decided to go along with them. And as they get out into the wilderness experience and they began to murmur, this mixed multitude is the first ones to complain. Someone the other day was saying, "So many of the churches today have got problems; so many are splitting." I told him that all goes back to the mixed multitude of Exodus. And he said "Mixed multitude, what are you talking about?" Well, I said the mixed multitude were not true Israelites.

I think most of our problems in our churches today (the ones that are constantly murmuring and complaining) usually come from the unsaved element in the church. They have no real spiritual concerns, or knowledge. But you see they can pick and destroy, simply because they're more concerned about a little finer furniture, different music, different color carpet, more programs, etc. And it is amazing how many churches have been literally broken over these secular things. They really don't mean that much.

**Exodus 12:39** *They baked cakes of bread without yeast using the dough they had brought from Egypt, for it was made without yeast -- because they were thrust out of Egypt and were not able to delay, they could not prepare food for themselves either.*

Leaven in Scripture always speaks of what? Evil or sin. Leaven is yeast, and when you put yeast in bread dough it is going to affect the whole lump. That's the teaching in Scripture. When leaven comes in, evil, unless it is rooted out, will sooner or later affect the whole. Leaven here, speaking of evil, was to be left out of their bread dough, as they make this exodus out of Egypt. They were to take unleavened bread, because the picture in type of course is, that they are to be a separated people. Separated unto God, no longer wrapped up in the paganism of their Egyptian masters.



**Exodus 12:40** *Now the length of time the Israelites lived in Egypt was 430 years. (41) At the end of the 430 years, on the very day, all the regiments of the LORD went out of the land of Egypt.*

God is in such complete control of time, and events, that he doesn't miss 430 years by 24 hours. But the exact day of the 430th year ending, Israel moved out of Egypt.

**From this point on this Exodus becomes the high point of Jewish history, and it still is today. That will change someday when Jesus returns, God completes his regathering of all His people from all over the world to the promised land, they recognize Yeshua (Jesus) as Messiah, and Messiah establishes His 1,000 year reign on earth. Jeremiah 16:15-16, 23:7-8. That will become the high point of Jewish history**

**Jeremiah 23:7-8** *"So I, the LORD, say: 'A new time will certainly come. People now affirm their oaths with "I swear as surely as the LORD lives who delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt." (8) But at that time they will affirm them with "I swear as surely as the LORD lives who delivered the descendants of the former nation of Israel from the land of the north and from all the other lands where he had banished them." At that time they will live in their own land.' "*

If you'd like to read a poetic version of this story, read Psalm 105:26-45