

Making Promises

Part 2: The Exodus

Review

- The 18th dynasty is the most likely dynasty in power during the Exodus event, with Amosis or his successor Amenhotep I on the throne in **Exodus 1:8-16**.
- According to the early date of the Exodus (**1446**), the central Egyptian figures in the Exodus account would have been as follows:
 - **Hatshepsut** – Pharaoh's daughter/Moses' adopted mother
 - **Thutmose I** – successor to Amenhotep I. Hatshepsut's father. Decreed infanticide.
 - **Thutmose III** – successor to Thutmose II. Likely the one that drove Moses out of Egypt shortly following the death of Hatshepsut
 - **Amenhotep II** – is likely the Pharaoh of the Exodus
- In the plagues leading up to the Exodus, God is judging the Egyptians and many of the **Egyptian gods** for their enslavement of the Hebrew people.

The Plagues (continued)

- The fifth plague, the death of Egyptian livestock (**Ex. 9:1-7**), seems to be a judgment on the Egyptian goddess **Hathor**.
 - This Egyptian goddess is one of the entourage of sun gods/goddesses. She is often depicted as a **cow** with the sun between her horns, and she is thought to be the female counterpart to Ra. She was the goddess of, among many things, fertility, love, and protection. It is possible that what is under attack is a wide array of gods (in addition to Hathor) that are symbolized by the worship of the calf/cow/bull.
- The sixth plague, the plague of boils (**Ex. 9:8-12**), may be a judgment on the Egyptian goddess **Isis**.
 - She has been considered to be the goddess of **medicine, magical power and protection of the kingdom**. She is often depicted as nursing the Pharaoh (or even other gods) to health.
 - The irony in this passage is that Moses and Aaron are **standing** before Isis' representatives, the magicians and Pharaoh, but the magicians cannot **stand** before YHWH's representatives, Moses and Aaron.
- The seventh plague, the plague of hail (**Ex. 9:13-35**), may be a judgment on the Egyptian goddess **Nut**.

- She is most often associated as the **sky goddess**, and as such, has control over all things that happen there.
- Flax is used for **linen garments**. Barley is used in the manufacture of **beer**. So, God spared the food for the Egyptians. This also gives us a hint of the middle of **February** as an approximate time of these events.
- Theologically, we gain insight in **Ex. 9:16** as to the reason God has **raised pharaoh** to this point, and why God keeps hardening Pharaoh's heart.
- The eighth plague, the plague of locusts (**Ex. 10:1-20**), may be a judgment on the Egyptian god **Seth**.
 - He is thought of as the god of **chaos, the desert, storms, disorder, violence**.
 - We gain still more insight as to why the Lord is performing these plagues in **Ex. 10:1-2**. They are to be a **catechism** for the Hebrew children for generations to come.
- The ninth plague, the plague of darkness (**Ex. 10:21-29**), may be a judgment on the Egyptian god **Ra**.
 - He is thought of as the god of **the sun**, and he was **uncreated** and the ruler of all that he created.
 - Ra was responsible for providing sunlight, **warmth**, and **productivity**. Other gods, including Horus, were associated with the sun. Nut, the goddess of the sky, would have been humiliated by this plague (as well as by the plagues of hail and locusts).
 - The 9th plague matches plague 3 and 6, in that it is **unannounced**.
- The tenth and final plague, the plague of the death of the firstborn son (**Ex. 11:1-12:36**), was a judgment on the **Pharaoh**.
 - Pharaoh was thought to be the **ultimate power of Egypt**. It was believed that he was actually the **son of Ra** himself, manifest in the flesh.

The Plagues in the Bible

- The Plagues served as a **reminder** for the people of Israel throughout the rest of the Old Testament. We see them feature prominently in the Psalms. (**Psalms 77:11-20; 78:43-53; 105:26-38; 106:7-12; 114:1-3; 135:8-9; 136:10-15**) (see also **Dt 4:9**).
- The Plagues also feature prominently in some of the **trumpets** and **bowl plagues** listed in the book of Revelation: (**Rev. 8:7-12; 9:3-4, 13-15; 16:2-4, 10-11, 13, 21**).

The Exodus: Part 2

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| <p>Exodus 1:8–16</p> | <p>8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. 13 So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. 15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”</p> |
| <p>Exodus 9:16</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Exodus 10:1–2</p> | <p>1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.”</p> |
| <p>Psalms 77:11–20</p> | <p>11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. 12 I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. 13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? 14 You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. 15 You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. <i>Selah</i> 16 When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. 17 The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. 18 The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. 19 Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. 20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.</p> |
| <p>Psalms 78:43–53</p> | <p>43 when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan. 44 He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams. 45 He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them. 46 He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust. 47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost. 48 He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts. 49 He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels. 50 He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague. 51 He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham. 52 Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. 53 He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.</p> |
| <p>Psalms 105:26–38</p> | <p>26 He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. 27 They performed his signs among them and miracles in the land of Ham. 28 He sent darkness, and made the land dark; they did not rebel against his words. 29 He turned their waters into blood and caused their fish to die. 30 Their land swarmed with frogs, even in the chambers of their kings. 31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies, and gnats throughout their country. 32 He gave them hail for rain, and fiery lightning bolts through their land. 33 He struck down their vines and fig trees, and shattered the trees of their country. 34 He spoke, and the locusts came, young locusts without number, 35 which devoured all the vegetation in their land and ate up the fruit of their ground. 36 He struck down all the firstborn in their land, the firstfruits of all their strength. 37 Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold, and there was none among his tribes who stumbled. 38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.</p> |
| <p>Psalms 106:7–12</p> | <p>7 Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. 8 Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, that he might make known his mighty power. 9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert. 10 So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. 11 And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. 12 Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.</p> |

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| Psalm 114:1–3 | 1 When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, 2 Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion. 3 The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back. |
| Psalm 135:8–9 | 8 He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast; 9 who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants; |
| Psalm 136:10–15 | 10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever; 11 and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever; 12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever; 13 to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever; 14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever; 15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever; |
| Deuteronomy 4:9 | “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children— |
| Revelation 8:7–12 | 7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. 8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. 12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night. |
| Revelation 9:3–4 | 3 Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. |
| Revelation 9:13–15 | 13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. |
| Revelation 16:2–4 | 2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. 3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. 4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. |
| Revelation 16:10–11 | 10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds. |
| Revelation 16:13 | And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. |
| Revelation 16:21 | And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe. |

EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY OF EGYPT

| RULER | BEGAN TO RULE | RULE ENDED |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Amosis | 1570 | 1546 |
| Amenhotep I | 1546 | 1526 |
| Thutmose I | 1526 | 1512 |
| Thutmose II | 1512 | 1504 |
| Hatshepsut | 1503 | 1483 |
| Thutmose III | 1504 | 1450 |
| Amenhotep II | 1450 | 1425 |
| Thutmose IV | 1425 | 1417 |
| Amenhotep III | 1417 | 1379 |
| Amenhotep IV | 1379 | 1362 |
| Smenkhkare | 1364 | 1361 |
| Tutankhamon | 1361 | 1352 |
| Ay | 1352 | 1348 |
| Horemheb | 1348 | 1320 |