

Cheltenham
Ps Rob Buckingham
31 Jan & 01 Feb 2015

MOSES: MORE THAN A MOVIE (5)

PUT AWAY YOUR IDOLS

Message Notes

Historical Proof of the Plagues

A documentary from the National Geographic Channel follows a group of scientists and archaeologists who have built up a picture that makes most – if not quite all – of the plagues look like plausible history.

Exodus mentions two cities by name; Pithom and Ramses, which most scholars agree refer to one actual place, Pi-Ramesses in the Nile delta. This was the magnificent capital of Ramses II, one of the most powerful pharaohs in Egypt's history, who reigned for much of the 13th century BC. Hebrew slaves built the city.

Evidence from the archaeological site of Pi-Ramesse gives credence to the Exodus story. Thousands of shards of pottery from Ramses II's time have been found there but none from later periods, suggesting the city was abandoned fairly abruptly.

In the early 1800s, a papyrus was found in Egypt called The Admonitions of an Egyptian. It is now in the Leiden Museum in Holland. An Egyptian named Ipuwer wrote it at the end of the Middle Kingdom, around 1650 B.C; amazingly similar plagues are described in both the Ipuwer papyrus and the Bible.

The Plagues: Why and What?

Text: Exodus 7:4-5, 17; 8:10, 22; 9:14; 29; 14:4

God sent the plagues on Egypt so the Egyptians would come to know His love & grace and as a proof that the "one true God" was far greater than all of the multiple Gods of the Egyptians.

Their need – and ignorance – of God is clear from Pharaoh's response to Moses: "Who *is* the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go."

Soon, however, Pharaoh will find out who this God is, and why he should obey His voice. He will understand His power over all the Egyptian gods and goddesses.

1st Plague: The Nile turned into blood

Hapi – Egyptian god of the Nile

Sobek – Also god of the Nile

2nd Plague: The plague of frogs
Heket – Egyptian goddess of Fertility

3rd Plague: The plague of gnats
Geb – Egyptian god of the Earth (dust)

4th Plague: The plague of flies
Khepri – Egyptian God of creation

5th Plague: The plague of Livestock
Hathor – Egyptian goddess of Love and Protection

6th Plague: The plague of Boils
Isis – Egyptian goddess of Medicine
This is the first plague directed at the Egyptian people personally.

7th Plague: Fire and Hail
Nut – Egyptian goddess of the Sky

8th Plague: Locusts

Seth – Egyptian god of Storms, disorder & chaos

9th Plague: Darkness

Ra – The Sun god

The sun, the most worshipped God in Egypt other than Pharaoh himself, gave no light for three days.

10th Plague: Death of First born

Pharaoh- The Ultimate Power of Egypt

The Egyptians worshiped Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, because he was considered to be the greatest Egyptian God of all. It was believed that he was actually the son of Ra himself, manifest in the flesh...

These plagues were about teaching people – Egyptian & Hebrew alike – the truth that would be spelled out very clearly in the Ten Commandments a few weeks later, *"You shall have no other gods before me"* (Exodus 20). And yet the Hebrews very quickly turned back to idols...

Exodus 32:1-8

1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." **3** So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. **4** He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord." **6** So the next day the people

rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

7 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. **8** They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

The people were out of Egypt but Egypt was not out of them!

We can be the same – out of the world but still worldly – and we need to put away our idols...

An idol is "a person or thing that is greatly admired, loved, or revered" more than our love for God!

"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior" ~ Martin Luther

Q. What idols do I need to put away in 2015?

Cure for Idolatry: Whatever you do make it an offering to God – the food you eat, the sacrifices you make, the help you give – offer it all up as worship to God.

"If you uproot the idol and fail to plant the love of Christ in its place, the idol will grow back" ~ Tullian Tchividjian (cha-vi-jin)
