

Lesson 3: The gods of Egypt Judged

Central Point: God exerts Himself as supreme over Satan

E'GYPT (e'jipt). The ancient Egyptians knew their native country by the term Kemet (the "black land"), from its dark-colored Nile mud in contrast with the golden sands of the desert. Egypt is also called in the Bible "the land of Ham" (**Psalms 78:51; 105:23, 27**). In the Shemitic languages denotes sun-burnt, as a characteristic of African tribes.

- Ancient Egypt consisted mainly of a long narrow strip of land watered by the Nile
- Lower Egypt, extended from the Mediterranean in the form of a delta
- Upper Egypt was a long narrow fertile valley
- 725 miles long and never more than 30 miles wide; only 10 mile in width was cultivated
- The inhabitants are descended from Noah's son Ham- **Genesis 10:6**
- A polytheistic conglomeration of many gods- basically each town had their own god
- Great pains were taken to insure the welfare of the deceased in the after life

It would be practically impossible to list all the gods sacred to Egyptians. Every object beheld, every phenomenon of nature, was thought to possess a spirit that could choose its own form, occupying the body of a crocodile, a fish, a cow, a cat, etc.

Psalms 96:4-6, "For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary."

- **Please Read: Romans 1:18-27**
- **Question:** "What allure do you think people find in physical idols?"
- **Please Read: Exodus 20:3-6** An Idol - "carved image"
- Israelite idolatry had its origin in Egypt- **Joshua 24:14; Ezekiel 20:7-8**
- This explains their readiness to worship the Egyptian ox-idol, golden calf- **Exodus 32:1-4**

The irony is that their work of slavery included the building of tributes to these false deities. So the very things that caused their lives to be bitter in slavery, haunted them after the exodus.

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 10:14-22**
- There is something more sinister to idol worship than just bowing down to an object
 - o It's not just the gross debauchery, drunkenness, orgies and human sacrifice
 - o They are actually worshipping demons; pagan Satanic worship
 - o **2 Corinthians 4:4**, Satan is the god of this world system

- God revealed His plan to Moses in **Exodus 4:21-23**; hardening Pharaoh's heart
- **Please Read: Exodus 5:1-9**
- **Question:** "Did God harden Pharaoh's heart against his own free will?"
- The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is described in several different ways
 - o Pharaoh's heart became hard: **Exodus 7:13, 23**
 - o Pharaoh hardened his heart: **Exodus 8:15, 32**
 - o God hardened Pharaoh's heart: **Exodus 9:7, 10:20**

Pharaoh in the beginning persistently hardened his own heart against God. This brought on the retributive "hardening" by God, after much long-suffering. When the Bible says Pharaoh hardens his heart, it also says that this happened "just as the Lord had said" in **Exodus 8:15**.

- **Please Read: Exodus 9:34-35; 10:1-2**
- **2 Chronicles 36:13**- King of Israel, Zedekiah hardening his heart against the Lord
- **Daniel 5:20**- King Nebuchadnezzar's heart became arrogant and hardened by pride
- **Acts 19:9**- Certain ones heard the gospel, they became obstinate- refused to believe
- **Hebrews 3:13**- Warns about the deceitfulness of sin, in that it hardens the heart
- **Please Read: Revelation 9:20-21** God want's everyone to repent

In other words, Pharaoh hardening his heart is considered to be the same as God hardening Pharaoh's heart. I take this to mean that Pharaoh did the actual hardening, as we see it; he decided on his own not to listen to God and let the Israelites go. But God knew in advance what Pharaoh would do in any given situation, and deliberately placed Pharaoh in this situation. God decided that this particular man, would be born Pharaoh at this time and place and for this purpose - see **Exodus 9:13-17; Acts 17:26-27; Romans 9:17-18**

- **Question:** "What was the reason Satan through Pharaoh held the Hebrews in slavery?"
- It was Satan who was trying to prevent the promised "Seed" from coming through Israel
- Satan tried to keep God's people captive and from returning the Promised Land
- Plagues were obnoxious to the Egyptians; prided themselves in being ceremonial clean
- The first 9 plagues may be grouped into 3 series, with 3 plagues included in each series
 - o 1) blood **Exodus 7:14-25**; 2) frogs, **Exodus 8:1-15**; and 3) lice, **Exodus 8:16-19**
 - o 4) flies, **Exodus 8:20-32**; (5) livestock, **Exodus 9:1-7**; and (6) boils, **Exodus 9:8-12**
 - o 7) hail, **Ex. 9:13-35**; (8) locusts, **Ex. 10:1-20**; and (9) darkness, **Exodus 10:21-27**
- Pharaoh's magicians could reproduce the first two plagues, but not after that
 - o **Exodus 8:19**- Admitted "*This is the finger of God.*" But Pharaoh's heart was hard
- **Exodus 11:1-3**- The 10th and final plague, the death of the firstborn in Egypt
- Seems fitting since it was Pharaoh who murdered many Israel's male babies- Acts 7:19
- **Please Read: Exodus 12:12-13** Judgment on all the gods of Egypt- **Ro. 12:19**