

Series: God Is Jealous #1816

Title: Exodus 7-12

Where Oh Where Are The gods?

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. I hope you have been with us as we continue to talk about another of the divine perfections and excellencies of who God is. This is His nature. This is His character. His attributes are incommunicable, like His omniscience. He knows everything! This is not communicable to the creature. We do not know everything. His attributes are also communicable, like His patience. This is communicable to the creature. We know to be patient. And God is jealous. This is communicable to us, but catch this, only in the sense that we have an understanding of what being jealous is like.

However, as we have seen, human jealousy is very different from God jealousy. For us to be jealous is sin. For God to be jealous is holy. When the Bible reveals God as jealous it means He is intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness. God has no rivals. That's the truth. But, human beings, evil as we are, we have created in our imaginations other gods and goddesses. Then, we worship them. And last time we observed this in ancient history with some reference to today's idols. In truth, the Lord God has no rivals but He responds to the rivals we have made and He does so in active fashion. Turn with me again to Exodus chapter 7. That's Exodus 7.

As we said last time, Egypt was a very significant civilization. Egypt is still around today and a country that has an impact on the Middle East, but it is not the world empire it once was. Egypt has a prominent place in the Hebrew Bible and what the text reveals is an idolatrous people. In a show of force, *The God*, the God of the Hebrews, uses His jealousy to destroy the gods and goddesses of this famous land and culture. We read of the first of ten plagues, when the Nile and all other water was turned to blood. This was done to show how useless the false gods Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; and Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile among others were. They have no power to protect the Nile River.

Ah, but many astute Bible readers listen to this program and you say, "Swallow, look at verses 22 and 23 of Exodus 7. Read those!" Alright, I'll do that. I like how you want the whole Bible read in context. So I am reading verses 22 and 23 of Exodus 7, **"But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ²³ Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this."** So, *The God* was able to turn the Nile red with blood. But the magicians of Egypt did the same. So, how does this show that only the Hebrew's God has the sole power of turning its waters to blood?

Well, what we have here is Satanic power. The Egyptian magicians used "their secret arts," that is the Devil's power and God allowed them to do so. *But notice*, all they did was copy God. Capture this: they did *not* use their power to *reverse* God's plague. They actually used their magic *to make it worse!* You see, the gods and goddesses thought to protect the Nile could not. And the magicians' task to stop the water turning into blood could likewise *not* be done. They could make the Nile bloodier, allowed by God in His wisdom to make a point to Pharaoh, but they could not make the Nile clean again. So that magicians, empowered by fake deities, are useless! YHWH makes His point.

And in chapter 8 God continues to make His point. The battle continues with plague number two: frogs. Heqet (let me spell that, H-E-Q-E-T) Heqet is the Egyptian goddess of fertility and birth. She is depicted with the head of a frog. God is saying, "You want to worship the goddess with the head of a frog, do you? You think revering her is going to make you fertile for pregnancy? OK, here are *frogs!*" And wow did frogs appear! There were so many frogs jumping around that they were here, there, and everywhere. Listen to Pharaoh's reaction in verse 8 of Exodus 8, **"Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, 'Entreat the Lord that He remove the frogs from me and from my people...'"**

Obviously Pharaoh was greatly disturbed over what *The God* had done. Verse 14 says, **“So they piled [the dead frogs] in heaps, and the land became foul.”** I don’t care how cute you might think frogs are – or how good a frog leg tastes – when their decaying bodies are piled in heaps and the land stinks, man, how fast you too would turn to the Only God to make it stop!

Plagues number three and four come in Exodus 8. Gnats are the third. And guess what? The Egyptians worshiped a god of the desert called Set and he was depicted with the head of an insect. A gnat. And the flies are fourth. The Egyptians worshiped a god called Ra or Re. He was the sun god and possibly represented with the head of...a fly! What is *The God* doing in this battle of the gods? He is winning, big! That is what He is doing. Set and Ra were figments of the Egyptian imagination. They do not exist and therefore they have no power to protect the Egyptian Pharaoh and his people.

Go to Exodus chapter 9 where we read about plagues five, six, and seven. I will read Exodus 9, verses 1-7. **“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and speak to him, thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, let My people go, that they may serve Me. ² For if you refuse to let *them* go and continue to hold them, ³ behold, the hand of the Lord will come *with* a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field... (Verse 4) ⁴ But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.’**

⁵ The Lord set a definite time, saying, ‘Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.’ ⁶ So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died. ⁷ Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.”

When archaeologists uncovered the significant discoveries of ancient Egypt in the great tombs, etcetera they found Hathor, the goddess depicted with a cow’s head and Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility. Well then, why could not these gods help protect the livestock (the cows and bulls) of Pharaoh’s land? They could not because Hathor and Apis did not exist! *The Only God* is proving His point.

Plague six was boils. They broke out all over Egyptian men, women, and beasts. Yes, you’re getting the picture. The Egyptians worshipped the gods Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease, and Sunu, the pestilence god, and Isis, the god of healing. How come these gods could not protect from the sores and heal the Egyptians of the boils? There is a very clear answer: these gods do not exist.

The text continues in Exodus 9, 10 and then through chapter 11. God sent massive hail on the land. Where was the sky goddess Nut, and Osiris, god of crops and fertility? The Egyptians revered them. Again, where were Nut and Osiris when plague number eight, locusts, invaded the whole country? And *where oh where* were the gods Ra (the sun god) and Horus (another sun god) and Nut (the sky goddess) and Hathor (also a sky goddess) where were they when God sent a deep darkness upon Egypt? It was pitch black darkness for three whole days such that, **“[The Egyptians] did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.”** That was Exodus 10, verse 23.

Surely if the sun gods existed, they would have full power and authority to bring out the sun, defeating the darkness. They could have turned the lights on, right? Wrong! Why, because they were fake deities. It was the land of make believe. And the same applied to the last of the ten plagues when Almighty God brought the death of the firstborn upon Egypt. You should read about this in Exodus chapters 11 and 12. Well, where was Min, the god of reproduction and Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth, and Isis, goddess who protected children, and perhaps most of all, *where* was Pharaoh’s firstborn son considered a god? He was dead. That’s where he was!

Dead, dead, dead. The gods and goddesses are all dead, because they never lived! I wish we could develop this even more. We cannot. But do get the lesson: there is only One God, the God of the Hebrews. The gods of the Egyptians are non-existent as are all idols. And *The God* exercises His jealousy in the plagues. Join us next time because *God Is*.

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