

The Ten Plagues of Exodus – An Exposure and Humiliation of Egypt’s Deities

by Dan Trygg

1. **Turning the Nile into Blood -- 7:14-25**
Not only did the Nile turn to blood, but all the water in pools, streams, reservoirs, and containers did as well.
The Nile itself was considered divine, represented by the bull god, Apis (or Hapi); and Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, a ram god and guardian of the Nile
2. **Frogs -- 8:1-15**
Uncontrolled fertility was directed against the power of Hequet.
Hequet was the goddess of birth and fertility, represented by a frog, or a woman with a frog head.
3. **Gnats -- 8:16-19**
The fact that the gnats came from the dust of the ground was a direct affront to the power of Set.
Set, or Seth, was the Egyptian god of war, and lord of the desert, and of storms. He was depicted as a composite animal figure with a canine body.
4. **Flies, or possibly Scarabs -- 8:20-32**
To be attacked by swarm of flies or scarab beetles made mockery of them.
Khephri was the god of creation. He had the head of a fly, or a scarab beetle; Uatchit was the goddess of the marshes where swarms of insects were. She had the wings of a fly.
5. **Death of Livestock -- 9:1-7**
Killing bulls and cows was a direct attack against these gods.
Apis was the bull god, a symbol of fertility; Hathor was a goddess with a cow’s head, associated with birth and motherhood.
6. **Boils -- 9:8-12**
The powerlessness of even the magicians showed Yahweh’s dominance over them.
Isis was the goddess of healing; Sunu was a god of pestilence; and Sekmet was a goddess who had the power over disease.
7. **Hail -- 9:13-25**
These gods were weak before Yahweh.
Set was the god of storms; Nut was the sky goddess; and Osiris, was the god of crops and fertility.
8. **Locusts -- 10:1-20**
These deities could not stop Yahweh.
Nut, the sky goddess; and Osiris the god of crops and fertility.
9. **Darkness -- 10:21-29**
This total darkness showed that Yahweh was in control, not these weak deities.
Re was the main sun god; Horus was also a sun god; Nut, was the goddess of the sky; and Hathor was also a sky goddess.
10. **Death of the Firstborn -- 11:1-12:30**
This was the final blow, exposing even Pharaoh’s powerlessness before Yahweh. It made the threat of 9:15,16 very real!
Min was the god of reproduction; Hequet the goddess of of childbirth and motherhood; Isis was the goddess who protected children; and Pharaoh was considered divine, and his firstborn son, a god.

“For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and *against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments* -- I am Yahweh. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to Yahweh; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.” -- Exodus 12:12-14