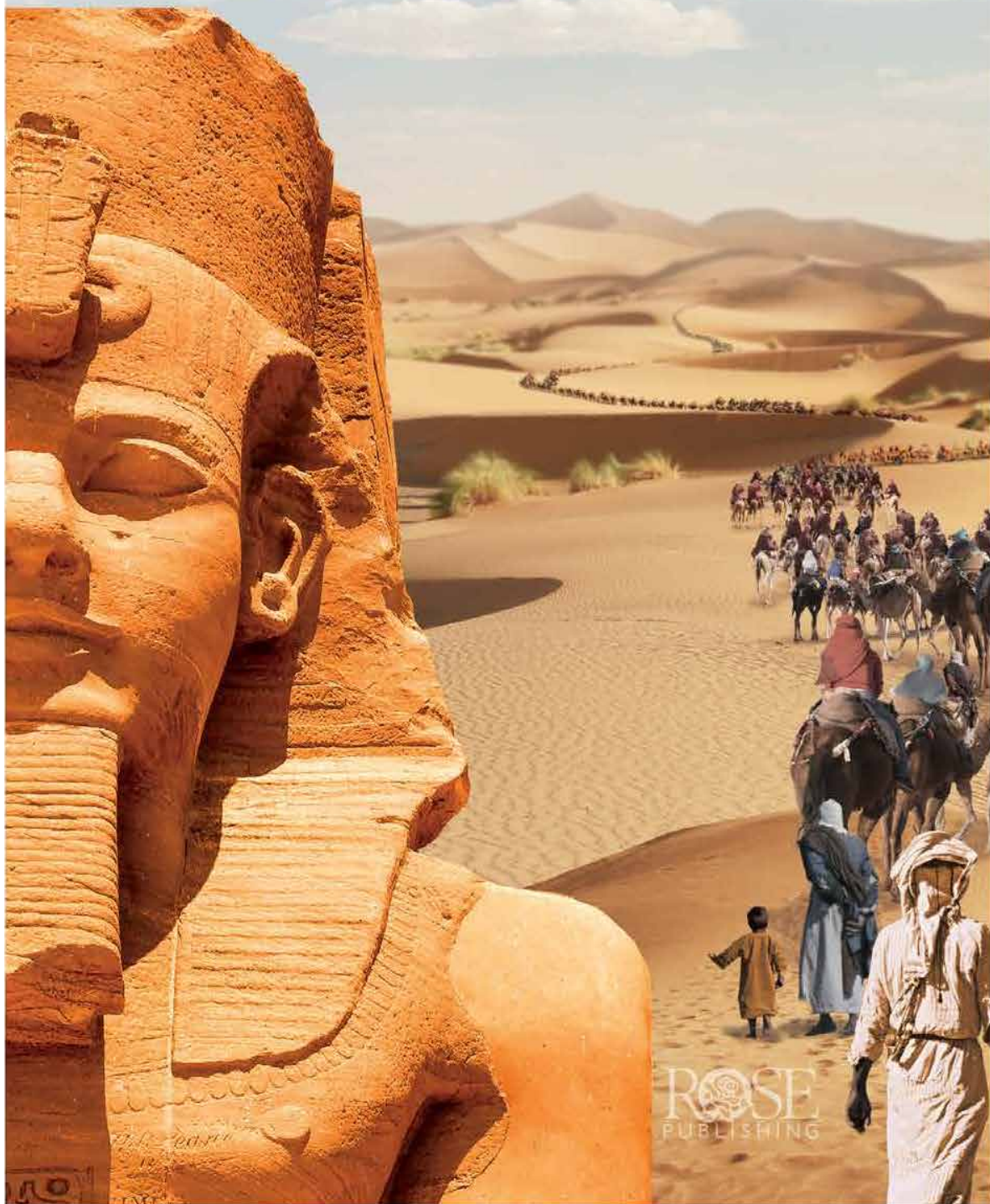


From Passover to the Promised Land

The EXODUS

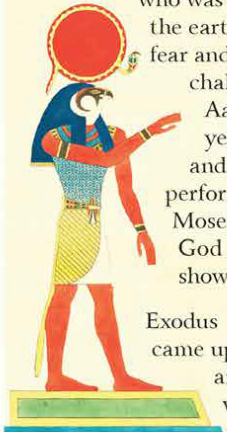


The TEN PLAGUES

The Egyptians considered Pharaoh to be the “son of Ra” and a god of Egypt who was responsible for maintaining cosmic order and control on the earth. Since Moses grew up in the Egyptian royal court, his fear and hesitancy to confront Pharaoh make sense. Moses was challenging an Egyptian deity! On the surface, Moses and Aaron were facing off against Pharaoh and his magicians; yet it was really the God of Moses, the Creator of heaven and earth, facing off against the false gods of Egypt. As God performed signs and wonders across the land, the Egyptians, Moses, and the Hebrews witnessed God’s power over all things. God revealed his sovereignty and ignited his peoples’ faith by showing that he is the God ultimately in control (Ex. 14:31).

Exodus 12:12 states that God’s judgment through the tenth plague came upon “all the gods of Egypt” (also Num. 33:4). Archaeologists are not certain about which particular deities were being worshiped in Egypt during the time of the exodus. Much of the information about Egyptian gods actually comes from a different time period and location in Egyptian history.

Despite this uncertainty, it’s still beneficial to consider possible connections between the ten plagues and the Egyptian deities.



Egyptian god Ra

SIGNS AND WONDERS OR NATURAL EVENTS?

Some people try to connect the cause of the plagues to natural events rather than supernatural occurrences.

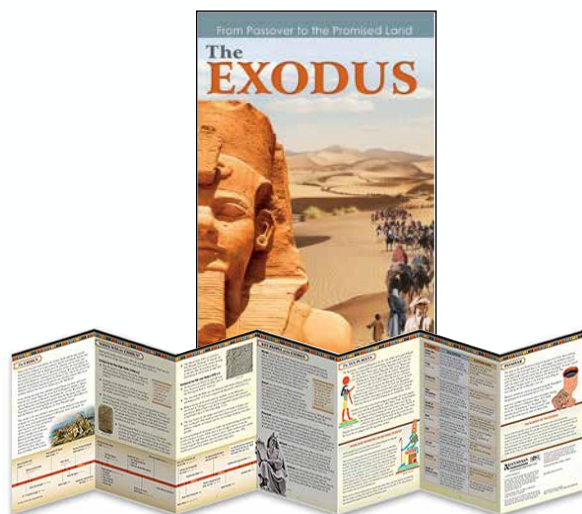
The turning of the water into blood has been linked to the Nile River becoming high during the months of July and August and turning “bloodlike” because of the red earth stirred up from the basins of the Blue Nile and Atbara. The result of this unusually high and muddy river could have caused the migration of frogs out of the river, leading to gnats and flies, which in turn led to disease and cattle deaths, and possibly even boils on humans. Other plagues have been tied to a weather disaster that could have resulted in what is described as a hailstorm and the swarming of locust, which was followed by a dust storm that caused the sun to be blocked out.

While some of these explanations sound plausible, they cannot explain everything, like the water turning into blood in other water sources (Ex. 4:9; 7:19). Also, there is no explanation given for the death of firstborn sons.



Egyptian god Geb

PLAGUE	DESCRIPTION	EGYPTIAN GODS
Water into Blood Ex. 7:14–25	The Nile River turned into blood. This was the primary source of water in the land and the heart of Egyptian life.	Hapi: god of the annual flooding of the Nile. Khnum: god of the source of the Nile.
Frogs Ex. 8:1–15	Frogs invaded everything, eventually dying and unleashing foul smells throughout the land.	Heqet: goddess of fertility and childbirth, represented as a frog.
Gnats/Lice Ex. 8:16–19	Dust turned into small insects, possibly gnats or lice. The Egyptian priests could not duplicate this plague.	Geb: god of the earth; gnats came from the “dust of the earth.”
Flies/Mosquitoes Ex. 8:20–32	The precise identity of these flying insects is unclear. Psalm 78:45 suggests that the insects fed on the Egyptians.	Khepri: god of the rising sun, represented with the head of a fly or scarab beetle.
Death of Livestock Ex. 9:1–7	A plague was sent on the Egyptian livestock in the fields. The Israelites’ livestock was unharmed.	Hathor: mother and sky goddess, represented by a cow. Apis: pictured as a bull sacrificed and reborn.
Boils Ex. 9:8–12	Boils appeared on both the Egyptians and their animals. Egyptian priests/healers could do nothing to help.	Imhotep: god of healing and medicine. Sekhmet: goddess of healing.
Hail Ex. 9:13–35	A massive hailstorm struck Egyptian lands. Some of Pharaoh’s officials sided with Moses after this plague.	Seth: god of storms and disorder. Nut: goddess of the sky.
Locusts Ex. 10:1–20	Locusts ate every plant not destroyed in the hailstorm. Egyptian officials pleaded with Pharaoh to listen to Moses.	Serapia: god with the head of a locust who protected against locusts.
Darkness Ex. 10:21–29	Intense darkness descended upon the land for three days; so dark that it was described as if it could be touched.	Ra, Amon-ra, Atum, Horus: gods associated with the sun.
Death of Firstborn Sons Ex. 11:1–12:30	God struck dead all firstborn males, including Pharaoh’s son. But those with lamb’s blood on their doorframes were spared (Passover).	This plague was an attack on the lineage and deity of Pharaoh himself.

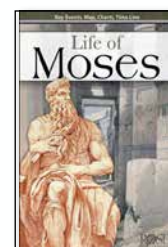


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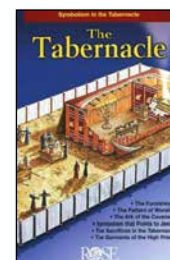
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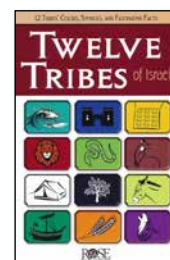
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