

# Blood In The Water

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**You shall say to him, “The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness.’ But behold, you have not listened...”**

**~Exodus 7:16 (NASB)**

## 1) Stubborn Hearts Toward God Invite Judgment

- A) In the aftermath of the miraculous throne room contest between Moses & Aaron and Egypt’s magicians (Exodus 7:8-13), Pharaoh’s heart is noted to be both “hardened” and “stubborn” (7:13-14) toward the LORD.
  
- B) As Egypt’s leader, Pharaoh represented all of his people. Thus, when God judges Pharaoh, he is also judging all of Egypt. The rampant idolatry\* and enslavement of Israel demanded God’s moral, spiritual, and physical response.

## 2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #1

- A) God sends Moses to meet Pharaoh the next morning (7:15) at the edge of the Nile River to proclaim judgment against Pharaoh (7:16) for not listening to God.
  
- B) The Nile River was the life-blood of Egypt, and many aspects of the Nile were worshipped for its rich provision.

- C) The Nile was the place where Pharaoh commanded that the sons of the Jews were to be drowned (cf. 1:22).

## 3) Plague #1 ~ The Nile Instantaneously Turns To Blood

- A) The battle between God and Pharaoh (7:17) ensues with the first plague against Egypt, the water of the Nile River turning to blood, killing wildlife, and stinking badly (7:18-19).
  
- B) The Nile River is turned to blood instantaneously in front of Pharaoh, and the judgment against Egypt alone (7:19) proceeds just as Moses has proclaimed (7:20-21).
  
- C) Much like the snake miracle (cf. 7:11-13), Egyptian magicians turn water into blood as well (7:22). The duplication of the miracle by the magicians leads Pharaoh to harden his heart again and ignore both God and Moses (7:22-23).
  
- D) The Egyptians had to seek other non-Nile sources of water for seven days (7:24-25), as the whole nation experienced the futility of their gods vs. the Lord God.

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\* The Egyptians were just about the most polytheistic (multiple deities) people known from the ancient world. To this day we are not completely sure of the total number of gods which they worshipped. Most lists include somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 different deities. Study of Egyptian deities is very difficult and requires a great deal of patience. This confusing situation is a product of a system known as syncretism in which one god may assume the name and attributes of two or three other gods. As time went on the associations became more complex and intertwined. The dedication of the Egyptians to their gods is very obvious, even to the casual observer. Beautiful temples and platforms with long colonnaded roadways are the expression of deep piety and sacrificial work. To a certain degree, the gods of Egypt were quite different from deities of surrounding countries. They lacked the nasty habits of some other deities, who thrived on incinerated babies and dripping human hearts, or required the complete annihilation of people who held other opinions on religious matters. As an idolatrous system of worship, however, it was nonetheless morally and spiritually degrading. Almost all living creatures, whatever their habitat, and even inanimate objects became the embodiment of some deity. The Egyptians considered sacred the lion, the ox, the ram, the wolf, the dog, the cat, the ibis, the vulture, the falcon, the hippopotamus, the crocodile, the cobra, the dolphin, different varieties of fish, trees, and small animals – including the frog, scarab, locust and other insects. In addition to these there were anthropomorphic gods; men in the prime of life such as Amun, Atum, or Osiris (*Moses and the Gods Of Egypt*, by John J. Davis, pgs. 94-95).