

9. Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)

The Egyptian god Ra (or Amon-Re), the sun god

This plague plunged Egypt into a darkness so intense, it seemed that Ra, the sun god, was dead.

10. Death of the Firstborn (Exodus 11:1-10, 12)

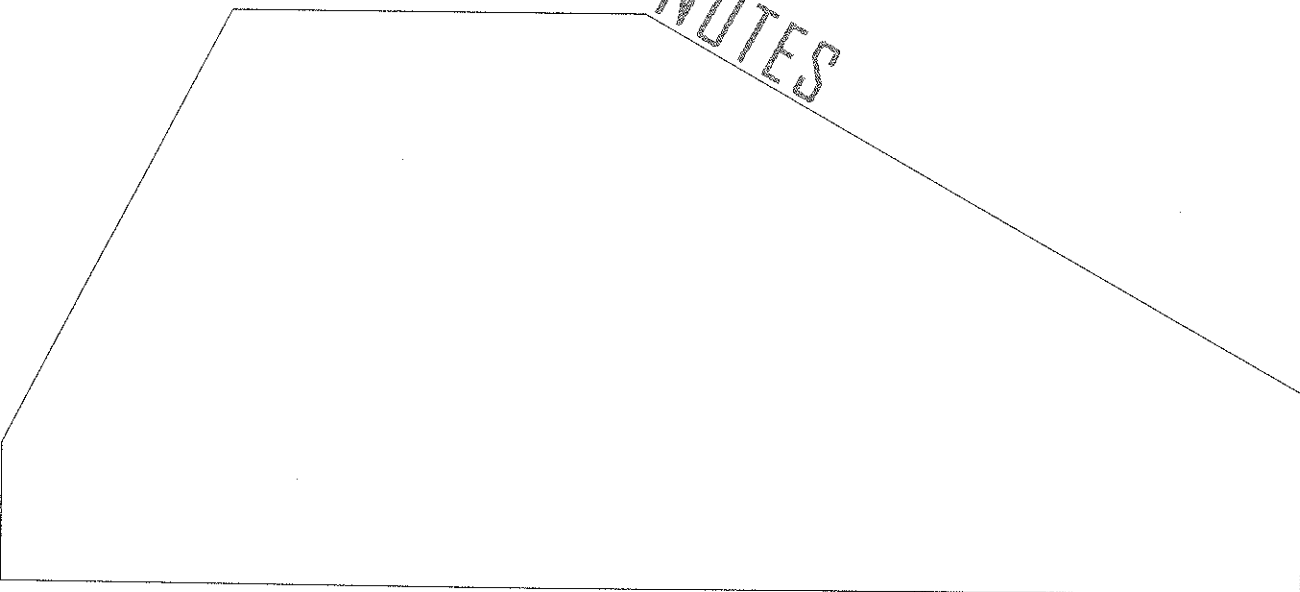
Pharaoh himself (seen as a god-king) and his firstborn son (also seen as a god)

Pharaoh was considered a god, and so was his firstborn son. In fact, firstborn people and animals were often worshiped. Pharaoh was considered an incarnation of Ra, the sun god. Because Pharaoh's son was considered a god of Egypt, this plague was seen by the people as having killed a god.

Each one of these plagues--while seemingly "random"--can teach us a great deal about our modern faith walk. Even in today's culture, many of us make material and worldly things, even people, our "gods." Boyfriends or girlfriends, sports or jobs, school or friendships, addictions, or sex--any and all of them can become our "gods" if we let them.

When this happens, God allows certain situations and creates other situations that will help draw us back to him and back into his perfect love. He might already be doing that in your life. Keep your eyes open. Although your bedroom might not be overrun with frogs or gnats anytime soon, God is still working, and he will prove himself more powerful than anything else we allow to have power over us.

Finally, if you have never seen it, take a couple of hours to watch *The Prince of Egypt*. It is not completely historically or theologically accurate, but it is a very good interpretation of the Exodus story, well-told and beautifully animated. It might help you get a better feel for the characters in the story and make the story come to life more visually as you study this time period in your Bible.



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