






LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 Dec 2024	Exodus 01-04	Seen and Heard
1) 08 Dec	Exodus 05-10	Freedom Promised
2) 15 Dec	Exodus 11-12	Delivered From Egypt
3) 22 Dec	Luke 1:26-38	Christmas Message
4) 29 Dec	Exodus 13-14	Power Revealed
5) 05 Jan 2025	Exodus 15-18	Provision Given
6) 12 Jan	Exodus 19-24	God's Commands
7) 19 Jan	Exodus 19-24	God's Commands, Part II
8) 26 Jan	Exodus 25-31	Instructions
9) 02 Feb	Exodus 32-40	Inhabited
10) 09 Feb	Leviticus 01-15	Separation
11) 16 Feb	Leviticus 16-22	Atonement
12) 23 Feb	Leviticus 23-27	Holy Living

INTRODUCTION

- God is a supernatural-miracle-working-God, and He is so powerful and sovereign He does not always need to break the physical Laws of Nature and Science (which He created) to work a wonder that would amaze us earth-bound, non-omniscient clumps of clay
 God often uses natural phenomena such as earthquakes, fire, tsunamis, tornadoes, war, famine & disease, and even plagues of all sorts to tear down old nations and build up new ones
 It is very possible God providentially used natural events, such as the eruption of Mt Thera on the Greek island of Santorini (~1500BC) in the Mediterranean, to deliver, many, if not all the plagues on Egypt, including the parting & drying of the Red Sea.
 The key difference between a supernatural and a providential event is the element of time. Recall that it took all night for the Red Sea to dry up for the millions to cross on dry ground.
 A supernatural event would have been instantaneous.
Consider this. By providentially using natural events instead of violating His established physical laws of the universe to work supernatural miracles and wonders, God allows people to have wiggle room not to be forced to believe in Him.

Passage	Comments
Exodus 5	<p>Principle: Things Get Worse Before They Get Better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Why did Moses & Aaron ask for a 3-day trip, when they knew God intended to permanently free Israel? Since it caused extra grief and work for Israel, did they lie and speak their own words instead of God's words? (i.e., they took matters into their own hands)?.....cf Ex 3:8; 8:27 • vv7-21. Straw is removed. The Jews were not tasked to build any pyramids, since few, if any, pyramids were made of straw/mud/clay; but they were made to build forts to hamper invading armies • vv22-23. Do we ever make similar complaints to God as Moses did? Why me, Lord? Where are you, Lord? Things are getting worse, Lord? This is not my fault, Lord. What are you going to do about it, Lord? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What is God obligated to do for us? Ps 106:8 <p>Principle for Consideration. With change often comes a "Valley of Despair" where things get worse before they get better. This is why people oppose change. And when God is involved with changing something, there are lessons to be learned by His people and by any oppressors.</p> <p>The Greatest Lesson Everyone Will Learn One Day is: "My name will be GREAT among the nations" Mal 1:11</p>
Exodus 6	<p>Principle: It is Hard to Hear God When Under Duress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Does God always use compulsion or force to entice people to fulfill His will? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. God would prefer to use milder forms of persuasion to get men to repent, such as His goodness (Rom 2:4) and lovingkindness (Jer 31:3) ♦ When unmerited blessings no longer work, God delivers threats of punishment.....Jer 36:3

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ When threats of discipline don't work, God begins to deliver on His threats as we see here in Exodus ♦ Finally, we see that many unrepentant would prefer to die and spend an eternity in Hell than spend one moment with a Holy and Righteous God Rev 6:15-17 • v3. God makes known to Israel at this time His special name, LORD, lit., JEHOVAH (יהוה) YHWH or Yahweh (See Hebrew 101 lesson on YHWH below) • v6. "...I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm." A strong reference to the Cross and to His name, YHWH • v4. God promised to give the land of Canaan to Israel as a perpetual covenant. But what about the Canaanites? Does this seem like a fair transaction from a God that claims to be fair and just? Ps 9:8 ♦ Consider this. All the world belongs to God (Ps 24:1), so, is it not lawful for Him to do what He wants with His own possessions? (Mat 20:15) ♦ Also, recall the sins of the Canaanites. God's patience would run out with their immoralities and child sacrifices • v9. "...but they did not listen to Moses because of their cruel bondage." Moses offered some hope to the oppressed Israelites, but it is hard for people to listen, even to God, when they are in despair. How can we relieve some hopelessness seen in people's lives around us? • vv14-26. Considerable time is spent identifying Aaron's genealogy in this chapter. Uhm! It must be important. Remember Eleazar & Phinehas. They will come up often.
	<p><i>"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6</i></p>
Hebrew 101	<p>God reveals His character often in His many names. He is called by 206 unique names throughout the Bible</p> <p>Number of OT Names of God:..... 103 Number of NT Names of God:..... 103 Most Names in 1 OT Book:..... Genesis and Isaiah (15 ea) Most Names in 1 NT Book:..... Revelations (17)</p> <p>Some of the More Familiar Names of God</p> <p>Ancient of Days Dan 7:9 Eternal God (El Olam) Gen 21:33 God (Elohim) Gen 1:1 God Almighty (El Shaddai) Gen 17:1; Ex 6:3 God Most High (El Elyon) Gen 14:18 God of Peace..... 1Thes 5:23 God of Retribution Jer 51:56 God of Truth Is 65:16 God Who Sees (El Roi) Gen 16:13 JEHOVAH (יהוה) YHWH or Yahweh)..... Exodus 6:3 Judge of All the Earth Gen 18:25 King of Kings, Lord of Lords Rev 19:16 Lord God Almighty Ps 89:8 Lord Our Maker (Jehovah-Hoseem)..... Ps 95:6 Lord Who Heals (Jehovah-Rophe)..... Ex 15:26 Lord Will Provide (Jehovah-Jireh) Gen 22:14 Unknown Name (Only Jesus knows this name) ... Rev 19:12</p> <p>YHWH (Yahweh) is portrayed below in ancient Hebrew. (Do you see the obvious link to the Cross, which seemed hidden to all till Jesus came to die, and to Jews today?)</p> 
The Names of God	<p>Ancient Hebrew is a Pictorial Language read from Right to Left</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p> "Yud" – "Y" Out-stretched Arm or Hand</p> <p> "Het" – "H" Look or Behold</p> <p> "Vav" – "W" Tent Peg or Nail</p> <p></p>
	<p>For more Names of God, go to link: Names of God</p>

Passage	Comments
Why Don't Jews Say G-d's Name?	According to Rabbi Baruch S. Davidson, Jews have an absolute obsession with avoiding uttering G-d's name. They don't even spell it out fully when writing the English word for G-d. Actually, Jews are careful not to pronounce G-d's names except when reading the Torah or prayers. Their caution is founded on their understanding of Commandment #3: "You shall not take His name in vain." (source: http://www.chabad.org/)
	<p>Principle: Discerning Miracles, Magic, & Demonism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-5. Who hardened Pharaoh's heart? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 10x by God (4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1,20,27; 11:10;14,4,8,17) ♦ 10x by Pharaoh (7:13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7,34,35; 14:5) ♦ God gave Pharaoh a choice to comply. So, in the end, Pharaoh is held accountable for his actions ♦ God never acts precariously or without a purpose. Here, God intends to make Himself known to all of Egypt • God's Miraculous Wonders. Only God can work creative wonders – Ex nihilo → Latin, "out of nothing" Ps 72:18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God performed His supernatural wonders for shock & awe purposes predominantly during 5 specific epochs: Creation week (6 days), Exodus (~40 yrs), Elijah/Elisha (~40 yrs), Jesus/Apostolic era (~40 yrs). In the future, Rev 11 shows 2 Witnesses working supernatural wonders for 1,290 days ♦ The rest of history, God works providentially, which is considerably more wondrous to ponder how He aligns people, nations, and events (earthly & astronomical) to accomplish His will down to the microsecond without turning anyone into a robot & without violating natural laws ♦ Are there exceptions of supernatural works outside of these 5 epochs? Yes, but they are rare, they occurred during the time of a prophet or judge, and not something we can bank on for our day. Examples: events in Daniel's day; Sampson's strength; and Isaiah's extended day. • Man's Magical Wonders. Pure tricks or slight of hand to deceive or amuse an audience. • Demonic Wonders. The best Satan & his minions can do are called "lying wonders" (2Thes 2:9) for the sole purpose to deceive and destroy – and only with God's approval. Satan cannot create something out of nothing as God can. Yet, his deceptive powers, signs, & wonders are good enough to deceive the world Rev 13:14; 16:15
Exodus 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv11-12. Sorcerers' & magicians' staffs also turned into snakes. Was this a magic trick or a demonic wonder? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We must assume the sorcerers & magicians produced live serpents as stated, but it was not ex nihilo as God did it for Moses. We can only speculate whether it was a slight-of-hand trick by man or by demonic means (e.g., spirits move near light speed to fetch & replace sticks with snakes). • v13. Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Even if one were to rise from the dead, miracles alone do not convince those who don't want to be convinced Lk 6:31 <p>Plague #1 – Water turned to Blood..... 7:14-25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v22. The magicians were also able to duplicate this feat. How? Again, we can only speculate. • What Kind of Blood? Was it human blood, animal blood, or just a blood-like color produced by, e.g., iron oxide release, which is typical following a volcanic event in the vicinity? How thick was the blood or blood-like substance in the river? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v21. "Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river." If the "water of the river" was actually 100% blood, one can actually drink it to quench their thirst without harm, but not so with a heavy concentration of iron oxide (aka, rust). ♦ Consider this. It is iron in hemoglobin that turns blood red ♦ Blood is comprised of over 90% water, so even if the river was 100% blood, it was still over 90% H2O & tolerable for most aquatic life. The toxicity of high concentration of iron oxide or other metallic substance would definitely kill fish. ♦ A Biblical Comparison – Joel 2:31, Acts 2:20. When these passages say the moon turns into blood, no one interprets it to mean the moon becomes 100% blood, but that the moon is seen as having a reddish coloring. • Hermeneutically, then, a substance, such as high concentrations of iron oxide from nearby seismic activity, which gives water a blood-like coloring, is within biblical plausibility

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The 10 Plagues mapped to the Gods of Egypt	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Plague</th> <th>Phenomena</th> <th>Principal gods of Egypt</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.....</td> <td>Water to blood.....</td> <td>Osiris (Nile River)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.....</td> <td>Frogs.....</td> <td>Hekt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.....</td> <td>Lice.....</td> <td>Seb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.....</td> <td>Flies.....</td> <td>Kephra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.....</td> <td>Cattle.....</td> <td>Apis and Hathor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.....</td> <td>Boils.....</td> <td>Typhon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.....</td> <td>Hail.....</td> <td>Shu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.....</td> <td>Locusts.....</td> <td>Serapis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.....</td> <td>Darkness.....</td> <td>Ra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.....</td> <td>Death.....</td> <td>Ptah</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(src: "A Journey Through the Old Testament," Towns, p115)</p>	Plague	Phenomena	Principal gods of Egypt	1.....	Water to blood.....	Osiris (Nile River)	2.....	Frogs.....	Hekt	3.....	Lice.....	Seb	4.....	Flies.....	Kephra	5.....	Cattle.....	Apis and Hathor	6.....	Boils.....	Typhon	7.....	Hail.....	Shu	8.....	Locusts.....	Serapis	9.....	Darkness.....	Ra	10.....	Death.....	Ptah
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Exodus 8	<p>Plague #2 – Frogs8:1-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frogs leave the polluted rivers in droves. This seems to be a nuisance for people, but Ps 78:45 says frogs destroyed them. • v7. The magicians were also able to duplicate this wonder. – How did their "secret arts" do it is anyone's guess. <p>Plague #3 & #4 – Gnats & Insects8:16-32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v18. The magicians (and possibly Satan) were not able to duplicate this wonder. Men and demons have limits. • v23. God puts a division between His people and Egyptians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How does God mark His people today? Do we stand out? Should we stand out from the world? HOW? Job 1:10 • v24. Gnats & Insects swarm and infested homes and waisted the land somehow. Is this a minor or a major annoyance? 																																	
Exodus 9	<p>Plague #5 – Egyptian Livestock Die.....9:1-7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israeli livestock were spared (possibly due to distance from the disease or better sanitation). Now the economy is hurt. <p>Plague #6 – Boils.....9:8-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It could've been chicken pox or shingles. Now it is getting personal. "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life" (Job 2:4). IOW, man will give everything for relief <p>Plague #7 – Hail.....9:18-35</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Icy hail and fiery embers are common fallout after a major volcanic eruption. Take cover or be destroyed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ You can live without steak, but life is bleak without beer (barley) & clothes (flax). Comfort foods became scarce. • v20. Some people "feared the Lord" and heeded His warning. Many Egyptians must've realized their gods were not able to do anything to stop the misery & dying. But, did they become believers in the God of the Jews? Maybe..... Esther 8:17 																																	
Exodus 10	<p>Plague #8 – Locusts.....10:1-20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. The Egyptians are wearing down & complain to no avail • vv13-15. The rest of the food crops are obliterated. Now shopping for life's necessities became very expensive. God was ratcheting up the severity level. Can life get any darker? <p>Plague #9 – Darkness for 3 days10:21-29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v27. Yet Pharaoh's heart just gets harder and harder 																																	

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- God prefers that people, kings, and pharaohs heed His warnings the 1st time. Our disobedience does not prevent God from making His Name known & accomplishing His will on schedule. We only hurt ourselves and those we oversee. Lesson to be learned: Always obey the 1st time. If not, don't presume God will give you 9 more chances to repent. Consider Ananias & Sapphira Acts 5

NEXT WEEK: Exodus 11-12. The last plague and the start of a new Calendar where the Passover, which points to the Cross, is initiated.

RESOURCES: Check out the following link: Exodus Decoded <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjW8RxXB0NI&t=44m30s>
Disclaimer: This is a secular rendition of various speculations of what could have happened to incite the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, but see if you can discern what is biblically feasible and not so biblical about it.

