

## God sent the plagues to expose their false gods

**Exodus 12:12 NIV** On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

### The Plagues and the Gods and Goddesses of Egypt

Plagues	References	Possible Egyptian gods and goddesses of Egypt attacked by the plagues
1. Nile turned to blood	Exodus 7:14–25	Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god guardian of the Nile; and others.
2. Frogs	8:1–15	Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head.
3. Gnats	8:16–19	Set, god of the desert.
4. Flies	8:20–32	Re, a sun god; or the god Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly.
5. Death of livestock	9:1–7	Hathor, goddess with the cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility.
6. Boils	9:8–12	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god, Isis, goddess of healing.
7. Hail	9:13–35	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility; Set, god of storms.
8. Locusts	10:1–20	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility.
9. Darkness	10:21–29	Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess.
10. Death of the firstborn	11:1–12:30	Min, god of reproduction; Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, goddess who protected children; Pharaoh's firstborn son, a god.

J. F. Walvoord (editor), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 210.

## God sent the plagues to invite people to repent

**Exodus 9:20 NIV** Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside.

**Exodus 12:37–38 NIV** <sup>37</sup> The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. <sup>38</sup> Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.

## God sent the plagues to make an example out of Pharaoh

**Exodus 3:18–19 NIV** <sup>18</sup> “The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.’ <sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

Hardness of heart in the first 5 plagues: [Exodus 7:22](#), [8:15](#), [8:19](#), [8:32](#), [9:7](#).

Pharaoh trying to negotiate with God: [Exodus 8:8](#), [8:28](#), [9:28](#), [10:9-11](#), [10:24](#).

**Exodus 10:1,7 NIV** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs of mine among them...<sup>7</sup> Pharaoh’s officials said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?”

God hardened Pharaoh’s heart *indirectly*, by displaying his glory.

Pharaoh hardened his own heart *directly*, by rejecting God’s glory.

*“God provided the circumstances and the occasion for Pharaoh to be forced into making a decision. God was the instigator and initiator of the dilemma, but he was not the author of Pharaoh’s defiance.” Michael Hasel.*

*“First, you make your decisions. Then, your decisions make you.” David Asscherick.*

**Hebrews 3:7–8 NIV** <sup>7</sup> Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts.