

Exodus 7:8-10:29

9 plagues

(and 7 questions)

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2026-06-21

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Executive Summary

Ex. 7 Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. ²You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to **let the Israelites go** out of his country.

³ But I will **harden Pharaoh’s heart**, and though I multiply my **signs and wonders** in Egypt, ⁴ he will not listen to you.

Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty **acts of judgment** I will **bring out my divisions, my people** the Israelites.

⁵ And the Egyptians will know that **I am the LORD** when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it.”

Oppression
of the
Israelites

God (Moses & Aaron): 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.' (Ex.5:1)

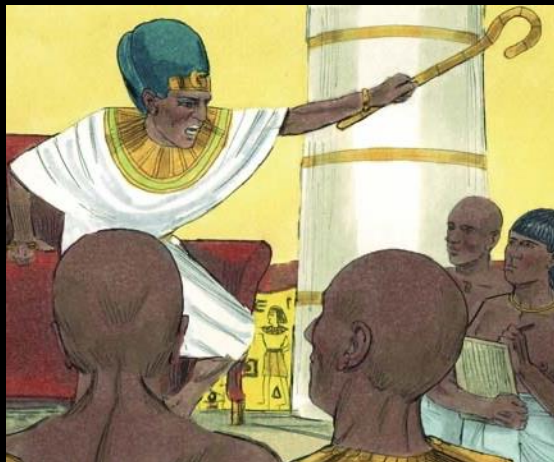
Moses first
confronts
Pharoah

Pharoah: "I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go. Get back to your work!" (Ex.5:2,4b)

"Negotiation"
& 9 Plagues

Death of first-
born &
Passover

Pursuit &
Crossing the
Red Sea



First plague...



Ex. 7:15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. **Confront him** on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake.

¹⁶ Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: **Let my people go**, so that they may **worship** me in the wilderness. But until now **you have not listened**.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the **water of the Nile**, and it will be changed into **blood**. ¹⁸ The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”



²⁰ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and **struck the water** of the Nile,

and all the water was changed into **blood**. ²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.



²² But the **Egyptian magicians** did the same things by their secret arts,

and **Pharaoh's heart became hard**; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

²³ Instead, he turned and **went into his palace**, and did not take even this to heart.

²⁴ And **all the Egyptians** dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.



THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

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1



BLOOD (7:14-24)

The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

2



FROGS (7:25 - 8:15)

Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

3



GNATS (8:16-19)

The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

4



FLIES (8:20-32)

Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

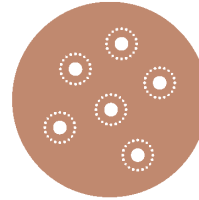
5



LIVESTOCK (9:1-7)

All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

6



BOILS (9:8-12)

Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.

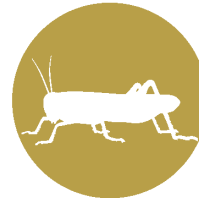
7



HAIL (9:13-35)

Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

8



LOCUSTS (10:1-20)

Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go.

9



DARKNESS (10:21-29)

Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

10



FIRSTBORN (11:1-10; 12:29-32)

Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.



Second plague...

8 ² If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of **frogs** on your whole country.

³ The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. ⁴ The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.”

...

⁷ But the **magicians** did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.





⁸ Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to **take the frogs away** from me and my people, and I will let your people **go** to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

¹³ And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. ¹⁴ They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them.

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was **relief**, he **hardened his heart** and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.



Third Plague...



Ex. 8:16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the **dust will become gnats.**”

¹⁷ They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came on people and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats.

¹⁸ But when **the magicians** tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they **could not**. Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, ¹⁹ the magicians said to Pharaoh, “**This is the finger of God.**”

But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he **would not listen**, just as the LORD had said.



Fourth plague...



...flies...

²² “But on that day I will deal **differently** with the land of **Goshen, where my people live**; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. ²³ I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow.’”





²⁵ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God **here in the land.**”

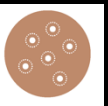
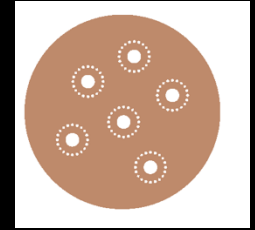
²⁶ But Moses said, “... ²⁷ We must take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us.”

²⁸ Pharaoh said, “I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but you must **not go very far. Now pray for me.**”



Fifth and sixth plagues...

- Death of livestock...
- Boils...



Seventh plague...



¹⁸ Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the **worst hailstorm** that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now

¹⁹ Give an order now to **bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter**, because the hail will fall on every person and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.”

²⁰ Those officials of Pharaoh who **feared the word of the LORD** hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. ²¹ But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field.



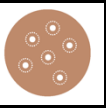


²⁷ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron.
“This time I have **sinned**,” he said to them.

“The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. ²⁸ Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. **I will let you go**; you don’t have to stay any longer.”

...

³⁴ When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials **hardened their hearts**. ³⁵ So Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he **would not** let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.



Eighth plague...

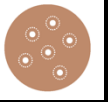


[...locusts...]

Ex. 10:8 Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the LORD your God,” he said. “But tell me **who will be going.**”

[everyone...]






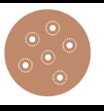



¹⁰ Pharaoh said, “The LORD be with you—[you must be be joking] if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. ¹¹ No! Have **only the men** go and worship the LORD, since that’s what you have been asking for.” Then **Moses and Aaron were driven out** of Pharaoh’s presence.





Ninth Plague...

[darkness ...]


24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, “Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only **leave your flocks and herds** behind.”

25 But Moses said, “You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God. 26 Our livestock too must go with us...”


27 But the LORD **hardened Pharaoh’s heart**, and he was not willing to let them go. 28 Pharaoh said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Make sure you **do not appear before me again!**”


THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12


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1  **BLOOD** (7:14-24)
The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.


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Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.

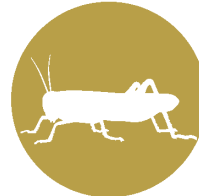
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5  **LIVESTOCK** (9:1-7)
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9  **DARKNESS** (10:21-29)
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10  **FIRSTBORN** (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.

Part 2: eh?

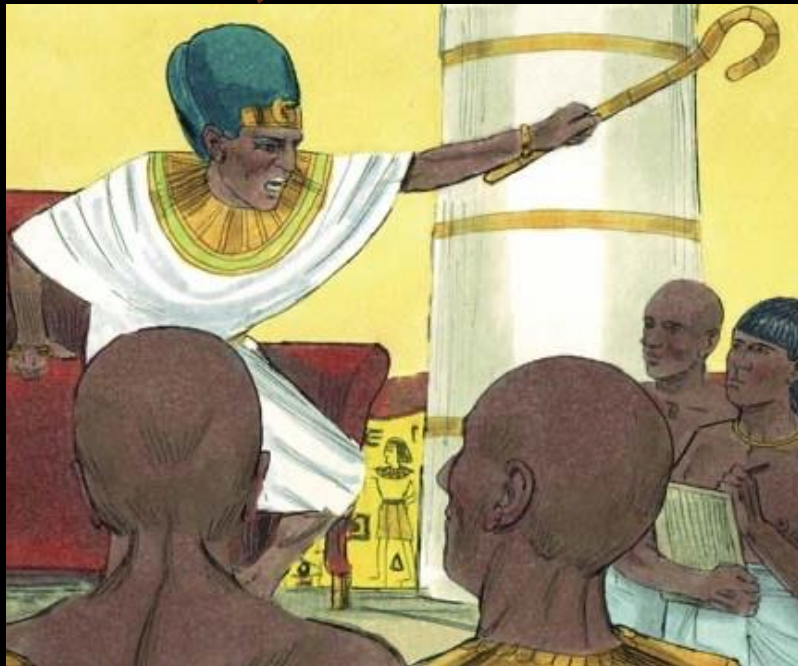
What was that all about?

(i.e. whatever shall I talk about on Sunday?)

God's authority on the line??

Pharaoh: "I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go. Get back to your work!" (Ex.5:2,4b)

⁵And the Egyptians will know that I **am the LORD** when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."



Judgement?

Ex.12:12 “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.

PLAGUE**GODS OF EGYPT**

1	WATER TURNED TO BLOOD Exodus 7:14-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khnum - Guardian of river's source. • Hapi - Spirit of the Nile. • Osiris - Nile was his bloodstream.
2	FROGS Exodus 8:1-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hapi } Frog goddess to Egypt. • Heqt } Both related to fertility
3	LICE Exodus 8:16-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seb - The earth god of Egypt
4	FLIES Exodus 8:20-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uatchit - The fly god of Egypt.
5	DISEASE ON CATTLE Exodus 9:1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ptah • Mnevis } Egyptian gods associated • Hathor • Amon } bulls and cows.
6	BOILS Exodus 9:8-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sekhmet - Egyptian goddess of Epidemics • Serapis } Egyptian gods of healing. • Imhotep }
7	HAIL Exodus 9:13-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nut - Egyptian sky goddess. • Isis & Seth - Egyptian agriculture deities. • Shu - Egyptian god of the atmosphere.
8	LOCUSTS Exodus 10:1-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serapia - Egyptian deity protector from Locusts
9	DARKNESS Exodus 10:21-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re • Amon-re • Aten } Egyptian sun gods. • Atum • Horus } • Thoth - Egyptian moon god.

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- **BLOOD** (7:14-24)
The fish in the Nile died
- **FROGS** (7:26-36)
Frogs cover the land. Pharaoh promises to let them go, but changes his mind.

- **GNATS** (8:16-19)
gnats came on people and animals
- **FLIES** (8:20-32)
the land was ruined
- **LIVESTOCK** (9:1-7)
All the livestock of the Egyptians died
- **BOILS** (9:8-12)
festering boils broke out on people and animals
- **HAIL** (9:13-35)
The flax and barley were destroyed
- **LOCUSTS** (10:1-20)
They devoured all that was left
- **DARKNESS** (10:21-29)
Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- **FIRSTBORN** (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
there was not a house without someone dead

Some big questions...

- Did that really **happen**?
- Is the Bible **true** (or not)?
- Are there **other gods** / spiritual powers?
- Was God **different** then?
- Did God **cause** the plagues?
- Did God **make** Pharoah stubborn?
- What does it all **mean** for us now?



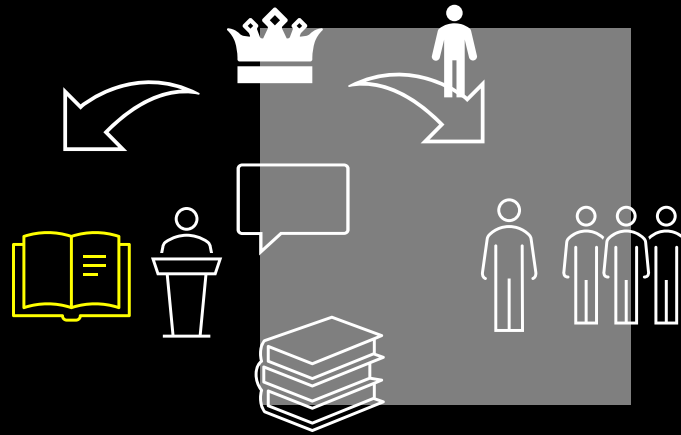
A-ha!

Questions about the Bible...

Is the Bible **true** (or not)?

Did that really **happen**?

¹⁶ All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

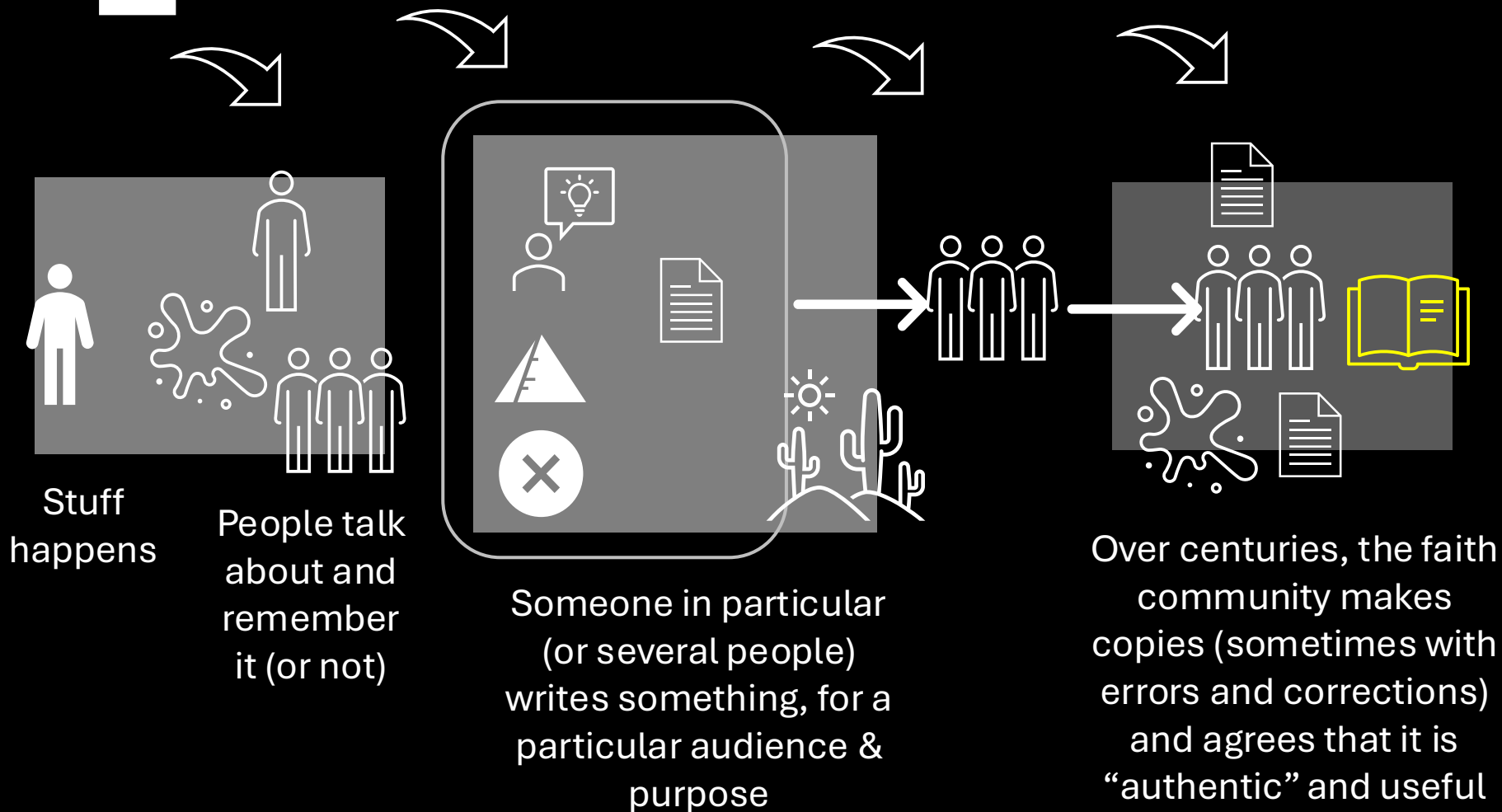


What is God saying to you
through this verse today?
Chew it over, meditate on it,
pray it.

¹⁶ All Scripture is **God-breathed**...



God in-spires (breaths into) all kinds of people and situations...



Objective
reporting?

God-breathed

Scientifically
accurate?

“True”?

Comprehensive?

Useful

“Inerrant”?

Questions about God's nature...

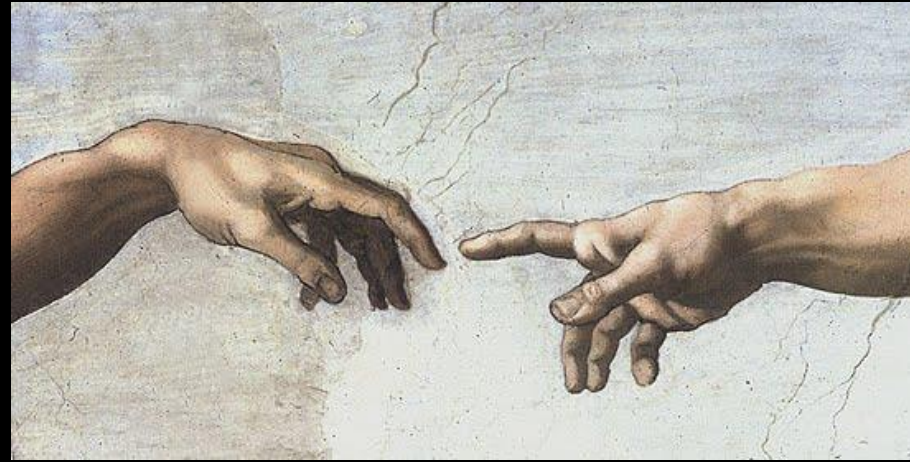
Are there **other gods** / spiritual powers?

Was God **different** then?

Are there spiritual powers & entities?



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Has God changed?

- People's **understanding** of God has changed
- Because God has **revealed** more of Godself
- Especially in **Jesus**
- **Jesus** is the **lens** through which we read the bible
- Under the inspiration of the **Holy Spirit**



Questions about God's actions...

- Did God **cause** the plagues?
- Did God **make** Pharaoh stubborn?

How does God / the world work?

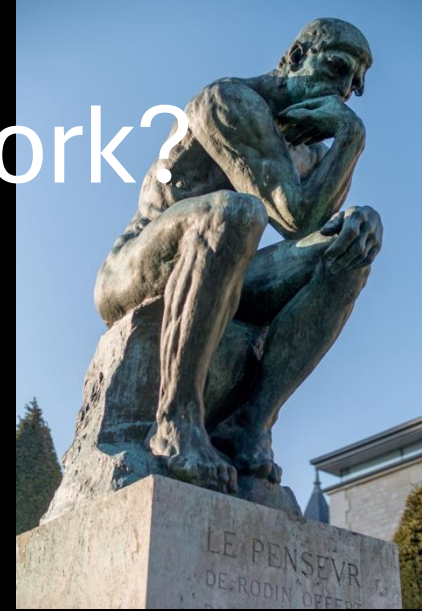
God does everything?

God wills everything?

God is at work in everything?

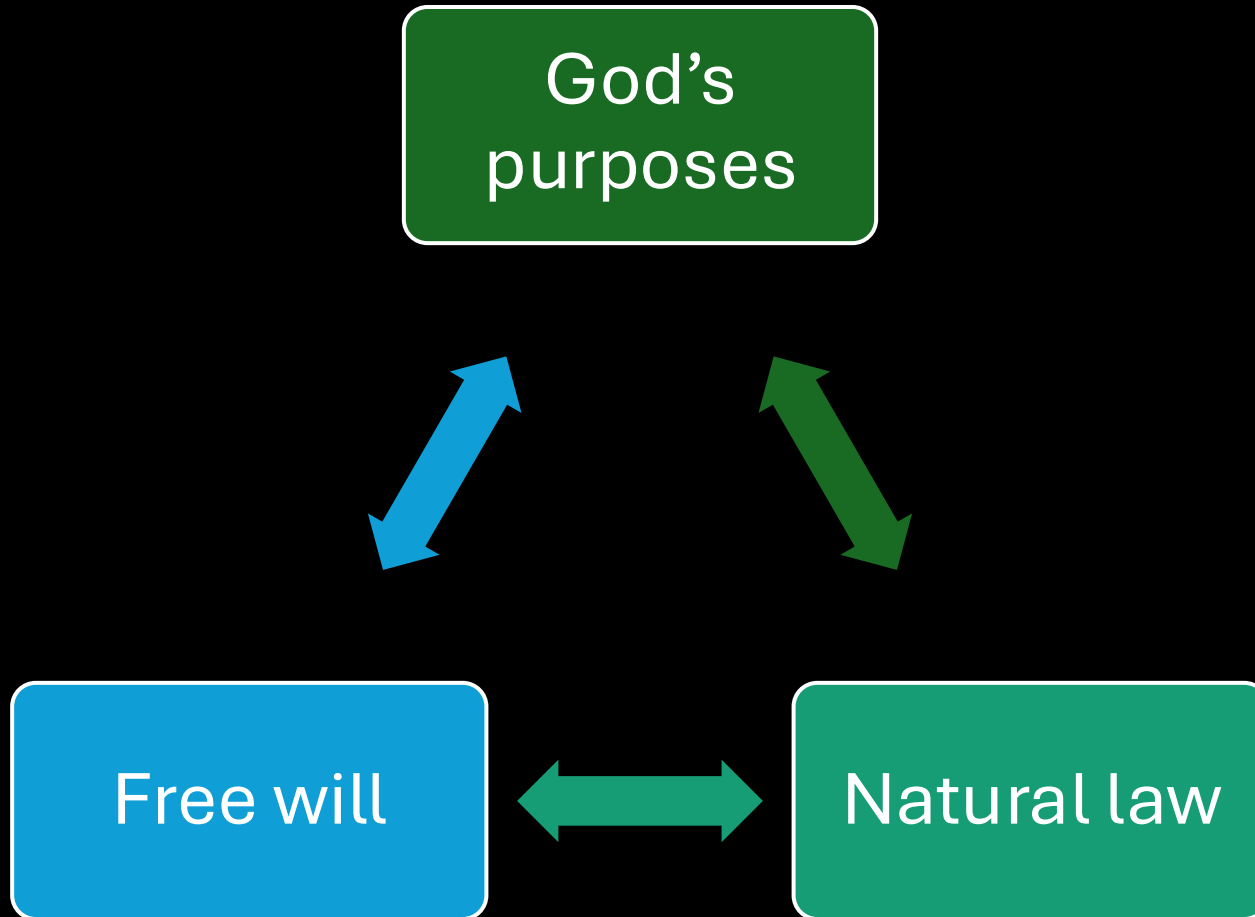
God allows everything?

(Romans 8:28)

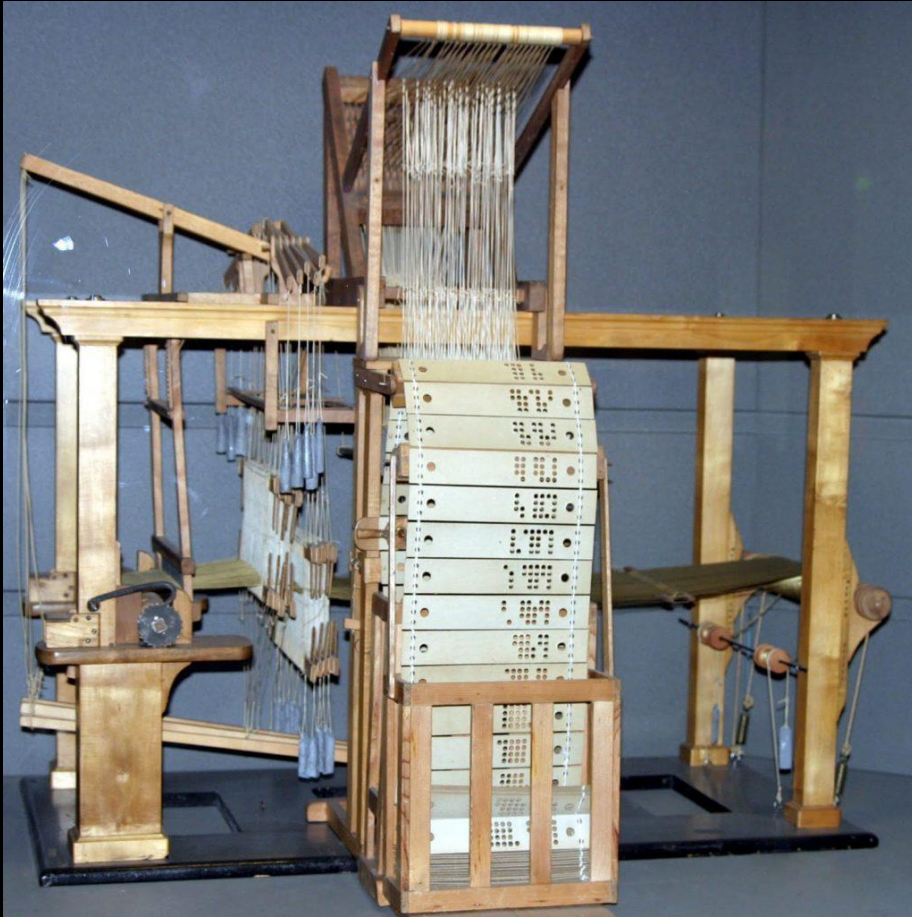


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But the **plans** of the LORD stand **firm forever**,
the **purposes of his heart** through all generations.
(Ps.33:11)



How does God / the world work?



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Like a Jacquard Loom?



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Dance?

One possible set of events (which God could use)

1. Heavy upland rain leads to an exceptionally high Nile which runs red with sediment (“**blood**”)
2. The unseasonable water level drive **frogs** from their usual territory
3. An epidemic of anthrax kills many of the frogs
4. **Midges** breed rapidly in the flood pools
5. **Flies** breed on the rotting frog carcasses
6. Anthrax spreads to the **cattle**
7. ...and then **people**
8. There is a major localised **thunderstorm**
9. **Locusts** which have bred in the wet south are blown north into Egypt
10. The strong wind raises a sandstorm that blankets Egypt in dust for 3 days **darkening** the sky

Did Pharoah have a **choice**, or was he **forced**?

- Biblical authors (and other theologians) sometimes err on the side of God's **does** or **wills** everything...
- Or make no distinction between (fore)-**knowledge** and **action**
- God gives Pharoah a lot of **chances**...
- The wise men & the officials **supported** him to begin with
- Pharoah **ignored** them when they opposed his view
- Saying “no” sets a **pattern**
 - It is **hard** for people to change or back down
- He doesn't **learn** from his crisis moments

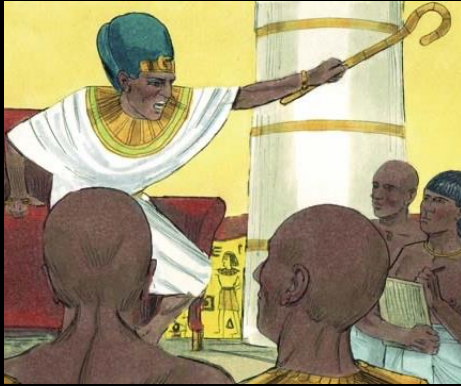
Questions for us...

What does it all **mean** for us now?

Journeys and Landmarks

- The Exodus was a major **landmark** on the **Israelites** journey of being God's people
 - Signifying their **chosen**-ness and God's **power**
 - (Followed by 40 years in the desert as a result of their lack of trust in God)
- Our **life's journey** has its own landmarks
 - Where we glimpse **God** or **love** or **purpose**
- **Remembering** helps us keep moving forward
- But most of the time (for me, at least) God's presence is rather **ordinary** and **easy to miss**
 - God works **in** and **through** "ordinary" things
 - Maybe life is more ceilidh than military parade :)

A power struggle... and a choice...



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- Being part of the economic **system** of **Empire**

- Hardening our hearts
- ...towards God
- ...towards others
- Grasping for certainty
- Doubling down on our mistakes
- Digging in

- **Worshipping** God in the **wilderness**

- Softening our hearts
- ...towards God
- ...towards others
- Bearing uncertainty
- Accepting our failures and learning from them
- Dancing with God