

For Discussion

7:8-13

Theme	First Panel 1:1-4:18	Second Panel 4:19-40:38
Entering Egypt	1:1-7, Eleven tribes go to Egypt & multiply	4:19-31, Moses returns to Egypt with his family
Oppression	1:8-22, Pharaoh oppresses Israel	5:1-6:1, Oppression increases
Leaders raised up	2:1-4, Moses born	6:2-27, Moses & Aaron appointed
Moses & Pharaoh	2:5-10, Moses as a son	6:28-13:16, Moses as a deliverer
Travel to Horeb	2:11-15, Moses flees to Midian	13:17-17:7, Israel from Egypt to Sinai
Conflict	2:16-17, Moses overcomes shepherds	17:8-16, Moses overcomes Amalek
Moses and Jethro	2:18-22, Moses' Midianite family	18:1-27, Moses' Midianite family
Encounter with God at Horeb	2:23-4:18, Moses to "serve God upon this mountain," 3:12	19:1-40:38, At Horeb, Israel enters covenant with God

- How does the miracle of 7:9-10 differ from that of 4:3?
- What distinct meanings did the Egyptians attach to the two serpents?
- What does the NT teach about the significance of the two serpents?
- What does the serpent of 7:9-10 represent in Biblical descriptions of creation?
- What is ironic about the decision of the Egyptian magicians to duplicate this and other miracles performed by Aaron and Moses?
- What spiritual lesson about the relation between the Lord and Satan do the miracles of 4:3-4 and 7:10-12 teach?
- What other examples of this relation do we find in Scripture?
- What is the significance of the series of nine plagues in 7:14-10:29?

Two Kinds of Serpent in the Bible

Exo 4:2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a **serpent** (נחש *nachash* H5175, LXX ὄφις *ofis* G3789); ...

Exo 7:9 ... then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a **serpent** (תנין *tannin* H8577, LXX δράκων *drakōn* G1404)

Tannin (“dragon”) in the Bible

Psa 74:13 Thou didst **divide the sea** by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the **dragons** (תנין) in the waters.

Isa 51:9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut **Rahab**, and wounded the **dragon** (תנין)? 10 Art thou not it which hath **dried the sea**, the waters of the great deep; ...

Job 26:12 He **divideth the sea** with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud (**Rahab**).

Exodus 7:8-13

8 And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

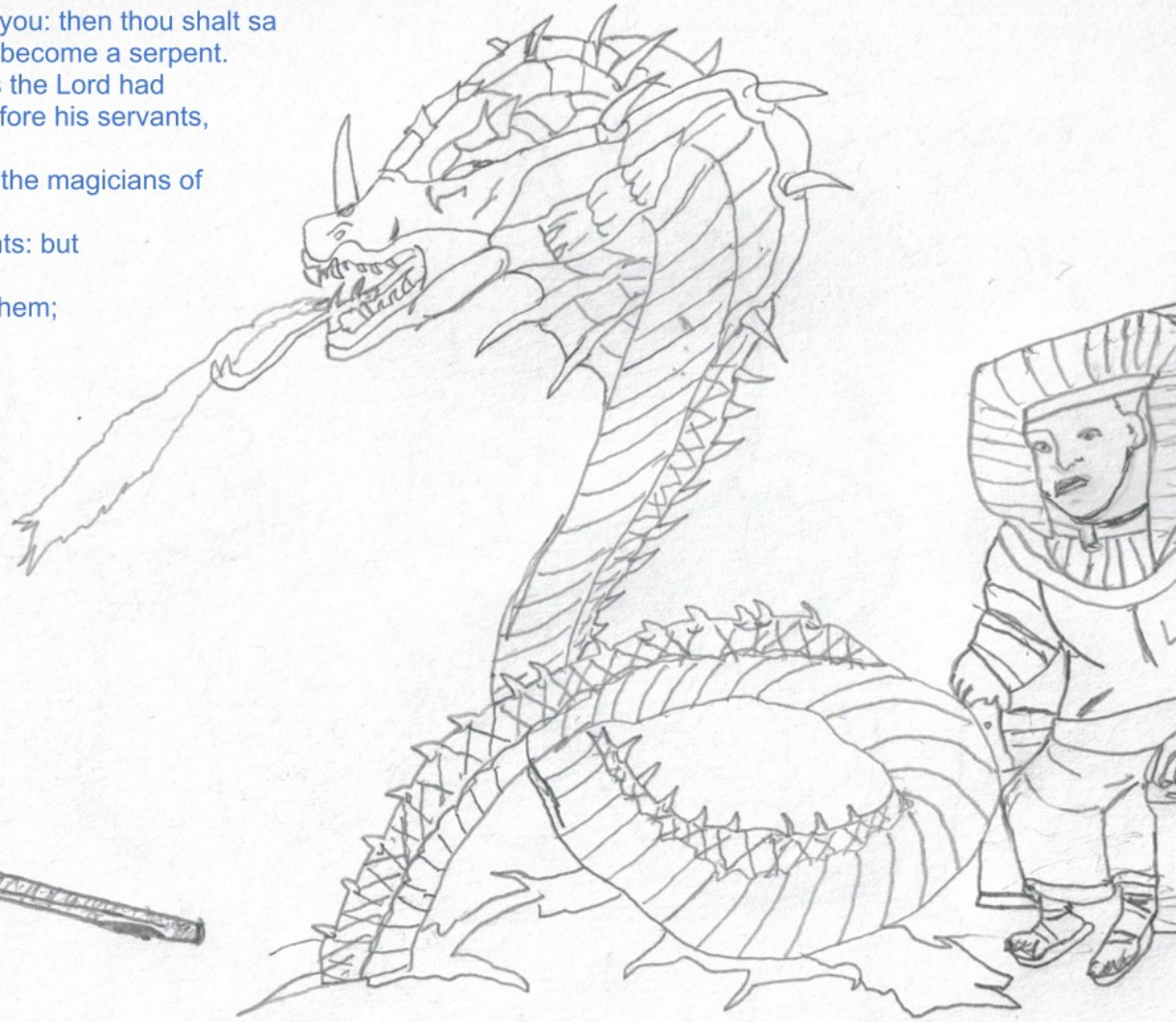
10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

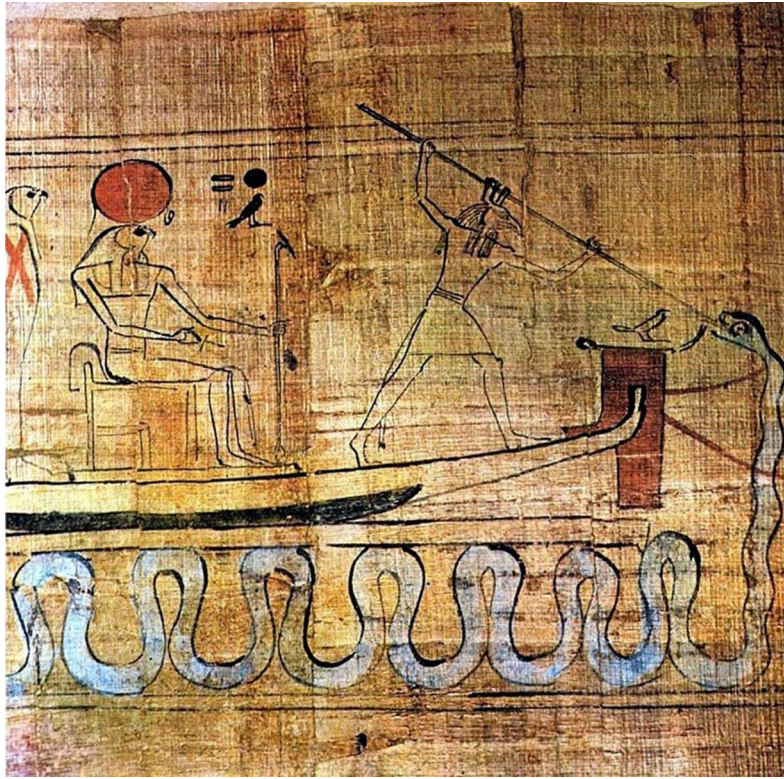
12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said.

What happened when Aaron threw his staff before Pharaoh?



Two Serpents in Egyptian Religion



Exod 7:9 תנין *tannin* H8577
LXX “dragon”

Python (?)

God Apophis, promotes chaos

Evil: chaos

Exod 4:2 נחש *nachash* H5175
LXX “serpent”

Cobra

Goddess Wadjet, protects Egypt

Good: royal authority

Rev 12:9 And the great **dragon** was cast out, that old **serpent**, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (cf. 20:2)

7:12 Aaron's Rod Swallowed Their Rods

God's Sovereignty over Satan

The History of Job

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. [cf. 2:1]

Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

The Vision of Micaiah (1 Kings 22)

1Ki 22:19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a **lying spirit** in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. 23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a **lying spirit** in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

Significance of the Plagues

Natural Events?

- September: The Nile floods, bearing red soil and carrying toxic microorganisms.
- Frogs abound after the inundation of the Nile.
- Damp autumn months: Lice, flies, murrain and boils.
- January: Hail and rain.
- February: Appearance of locusts in early spring, over the green crops.
- March: Darkness from sandstorms.
- April: Death of the firstborn, dated by the Passover celebration.

But (Free, *Archaeology and Bible History*)

- Intensification
- Prediction
- Discrimination
- Orderliness
- Moral Purpose

Attack on Gods of Egypt?

Exo 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.**

Exo 18:11 Now I know that the LORD is **greater than all gods:** for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly **he was above them.**

Num 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: **upon their gods also the LORD**

Plague	Deities
1. Nile to blood	Hapi, god of the Nile and the annual inundation
2. Frogs	Heket, frog-headed goddess of childbirth
5. Cattle	Hathor (cow) or Apis (bull)
9. Darkness	Re or Horus, sun gods

But lice (3), flies (4), camels (5), boils (6), and locusts (8) aren't Egyptian gods

Significance: Undoing Creation?

Plague	Genesis	Exodus
1. Nile to Blood	Gen 1:10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.	Exo 7:19 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water , that they may become blood; ...
2. Frogs	Gen 1:20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature [swarmer] that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.	Exo 8:3 And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly [swarm with frogs] , which shall go up and come into thine house, ...
3. Lice	Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.	Exo 8:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.
9. Darkness	Gen 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.	Exo 10:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, ...

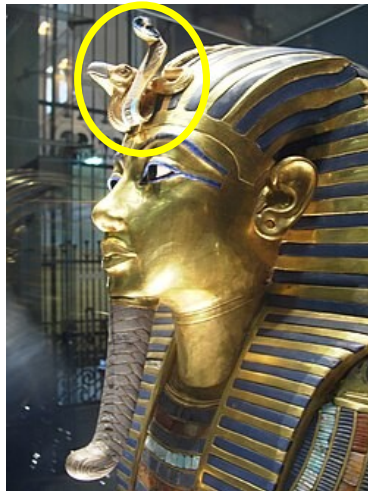
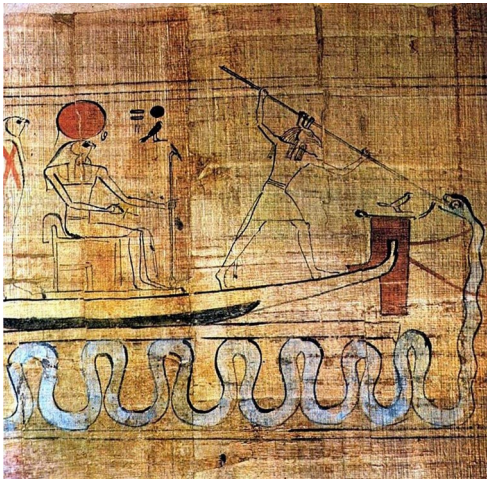
Significance (2)

Reversal of Creation?

But

- Non-specific alignments (e.g., swarming appears in the flood story, not just creation, and as something good)
- Some expressions don't match exactly (dust of the earth in Exodus vs. dust of the land in Genesis)
- Some plagues don't fit at all (boils), or are a stretch

Remember the Dragon:



Isa 51:9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut **Rahab**, and wounded the **dragon (תנין)**? 10 Art thou not it which **hath dried the sea**, the waters of the great deep; ...

Gen 1:2 And the earth was **without form, and void**; and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep.

Jer 4:23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was **without form, and void**; and the heavens, and they had **no light**. 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. 27 For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.