

THE GOD OF ISRAEL versus THE gods OF EGYPT

Exodus presents a confrontation between Moses and the God that he represents and Pharaoh and the false gods that he represents.

Egypt, at this time, was considered to be the greatest kingdom on earth and its gods therefore were considered to be the greatest of the gods. Pharaoh himself was considered to be a god.

The spiritual ideal of the Egyptians was the concept of ma'at. This idea said that there was a cosmic (universe) order and balance regulated by the Pharaoh working in concert with the gods that be. Egyptians believed that when they died they became part of this universal order. For example, the Nile River was associated with many gods in this ordered system. The sun god was seen to nourish all of life.

A collapse of this order would cause the Egyptians to be totally disillusioned. The Pharaoh, as a god, had as his principal duty to the maintenance of this ma'at on earth. If it was in disarray, it would totally challenge the idea that Pharaoh was a deity and guardian of the ma'at order.

The 10 plagues totally confounded this order which was believed to be regulated by the Pharaoh and the other gods of Egypt, and thus undermined the entire worldview of the Egyptians. This showed that the God of Israel was superior to all the gods of Egypt and that there is none other like Him. With great power, YHWH manifested Himself as the One True Sovereign LORD over all.

Jacob had 12 sons. One of them named Joseph was sold into slavery and ended up in Egypt. In the providence of God, the entire family moved there and ended up in bondage. They lived there for 400 years. Into this context God sent Moses to be a deliverer of His people. God first revealed His Name YHWH to Moses, as seen in Exodus 3 and Exodus 6 and then sent him to Pharaoh with the message that he was to let God's people go.

In the end God showed Himself to be LORD over all the false gods of Egypt. The God of Israel (YHWH) ALONE is shown to be LORD over all!

Exodus 5:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.' "

2 And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”

Exodus 9:16 (NKJV)

16 But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

Exodus 12:12 (NKJV)

12 ‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike 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.

Exodus 15:11 (NKJV)

11 “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?

The answer is NO ONE! There is no other like the ONE TRUE God of Israel. He alone is the ONE TRUE God!