

Egypt's Ten Plagues

'The Lord God said to Abram, "Know for sure, your descendents will live as foreigners in a land that is not theirs (Egypt) and will serve them (as slaves). They will afflict them (the Hebrews) for four hundred years. I will judge that nation whom they will serve. Afterward they (the Hebrews) will come out with great wealth"' (Genesis 15:13 & 14).

The Pharaoh in the time of Moses was a hard, stubborn and ruthless man. His heart was very hard and the Lord hardened his heart even more so. He would not initially allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt but after ten horrific plagues, the Pharaoh forced the Hebrews to flee and they took tons of gold, silver, precious stones, flocks, herds and clothing as payment for many years of unpaid slavery. They were not slaves when they first went into Egypt but after Joseph died and a new Pharaoh arose, the Hebrews were then forced to be slaves. In spite of their slavery the Hebrews had so many children, at one point in time the Hebrews outnumbered the Egyptians. The ten plagues were divine judgement on a very idolatrous nation. After the plagues Egypt had nothing left; no fresh water, no livestock, no fruit, no vegetables, no grains, no food, no grass, no trees, no economy, no clothing, no jewellery, just sickness, death and piles of dead rotting, stinking frogs, fish and hoards of biting insects. 'There arose a new king over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Behold, the children of Israel are more in number and mightier than we. Come, let us deal wisely with them lest they multiply and if any war breaks out, they ally themselves with our enemies and fight against us and escape out of the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over the children of Israel to afflict them with their burdens. They built storage cities for Pharaoh in Pithom and Ramses. But the more they afflicted them, the more the children of Israel multiplied and the more they spread out. The people of Egypt were grieved because of the children of Israel. The Egyptians ruthlessly made the children of Israel serve and they made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and in brick, in all manner of service in the field, in which they ruthlessly made them serve' (Exodus 1:8 to 14).

The whole situation was part of a large eternal master plan orchestrated by the Lord God to symbolise the future coming of our Saviour. Abraham symbolised the Father. Isaac symbolised the chosen Son. Jacob and his numerous offspring symbolised the millions of people since Jesus, who go through the waters of baptism. The way the Israelites fled Egypt, symbolic of sin and our old life being left behind, the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, manna from heaven and the Rock that followed the children of Israel through the wilderness, are events that were impossible for humans to achieve. They were supernatural miracles from the Lord. The Hebrews trek through the Red Sea was a physical and spiritual event to symbolise baptism in water. 'Our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea and were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food (manna) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank of a Rock that followed them and the Rock was Jesus' (1 Corinthians 10:1 to 4). The supernatural cloud and fire were symbolic of baptism in the Holy Spirit. The manna was symbolic of the broken body of Jesus – heavenly Bread from heaven. The Rock that gave pure water, the Rock that followed the children of Israel was the Rock of our Salvation, the foundation of our faith and the pure water of the spoken Word of God. These events were wholly supernatural and symbolic of events that were to come years into the future of mankind – long after the children of Israel left Egypt.

It all started when the Lord caused Joseph to be forced into Egypt and He caused the famine in Canaan where the Hebrews lived. 'God called for a famine on the land. He destroyed the food supplies. He sent a man (Joseph) before them (the children of Israel). Joseph was sold for a slave' (Psalm 105:16 & 17). Joseph said to his wicked brothers, "As for you, you meant evil against me but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as the famine is this day, to save many people alive" (Genesis 50:20). Then the Lord led the Hebrew tribes to Egypt. 'Israel came into Egypt. Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham' (Psalm 105:23). After four hundred and thirty years of increasing their numbers and prospering He led them out of Egypt. 'Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen and they acquired possessions. They were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly' (Genesis 47:27). To make the Hebrews leave Egypt and go to their Promised Land, the Lord created terrible animosity between the Egyptians and the Hebrews. The Hebrews seemed to be happy enough in Egypt and to force them to want to leave, He made them overburdened slaves. 'God increased His people greatly and made them stronger than their adversaries (the Egyptians). He turned the Egyptians heart to hate His people (the Hebrews), to conspire against His servants' (Psalm 105:24 & 25). The Lord's master plan was to have a spiritually mature nation, living in their own land as He first told Abraham. 'The Lord remembered His holy Word and His servant Abraham. He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen with singing. He gave them the lands of the pagan nations' (Psalm 105:42 to 44). The overall purpose of creating the nation of Israel was to have a special people of His own, a holy nation to bring to the whole earth the oracles of God for mankind to live by, and a holy people through whom He could send the Jewish

Saviour of all mankind. "I AM the Lord, your Holy One, your King, the Creator of Israel" (Isaiah 43:15). "You (Israel) are a holy people to the Lord your God and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for His own possession, above all peoples who are on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 14:2). "You will be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). 'They (the Jews) were entrusted with the oracles of God' (Romans 3:2). 'Salvation comes from the Jews' (John 4:22).

What was the reason for the Lord's severe judgement on Egypt? Egypt was probably the most idolatrous nation in the world at that time. Certainly, the whole world was in the grip of sin and paganism but Egypt seemed to be extreme because they worshipped everything except God Himself. They had the children of Israel living within their borders who worshipped our Creator God so the Egyptians had no excuse for their extreme idolatry. As a result of the idolatry plus the way they treated the Hebrews, the Lord sent the plagues in judgement. Moses was raised and educated as an Egyptian prince but chose to forgo the privileges associated with his position and sided with the Hebrews. Moses' decision would have been a terrible affront to the Egyptians so Pharaoh would have been annoyed with him before Moses told Pharaoh to allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt. 'By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill treatment with God's people, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time' (Hebrews 11:24 & 25). After this series of terrible events, Egypt's Pharaoh's became less powerful and the extreme idolatry slowed, but did not cease altogether. Even today, people all over the world have copies of ancient Egyptian gods in their homes.

The ten plagues were to show the children of Israel, the Lord is alive, He is all power and is worthy of their reverence, worship and trust. The plagues were also to show the Egyptians, their gods were worthless and useless in the face of Almighty God. "By this you will know I AM the Lord" (Exodus 7:17). "... So you may know there is none like Me in all the earth. By now I could have struck you and your people with pestilence and you would have all died but for this very purpose have I let you live, to show you My power and so My name will be declared throughout the earth" (Exodus 9:14 to 16). The plagues were judgement on the Egyptians because they worshipped various gods. The Egyptians worshipped snakes, the sun, the Nile River, various animals, birds, insects, childbirth, frogs, food crops, the desert, the weather and yes, even infected boils but they never worshipped the Lord.

The first warning that happened before the plagues, was when Aaron's rod ate up the rods belonging to the magicians. 'God said, "Take your rod and cast it down before Pharaoh so it will become a serpent." Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and they did as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants and it became a serpent. Pharaoh called for the magicians and the sorcerers. They did in like manner with their enchantments. They cast down every man his rod and they became serpents, but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods' (Exodus 7:9 to 12). That was judgement for worshipping snakes, other species of serpent and reptiles.

The plague of blood in the waterways; 'Thus says the Lord, "By this you will know I am the Lord. Behold, I will smite with the rod in My hand the waters in the River (Nile) and they will be turned to blood. The fish in the river will die. The river will stink and the Egyptians will loathe to drink water from it." The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, rivers, pools and ponds of water so they may become blood and there will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt in containers both of wood and of stone.'" Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. Aaron lifted up the rod and smote the waters in the (Nile) River in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants and all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died and the river stank. The Egyptians could not drink its water and there was blood throughout the land of Egypt. The magicians of Egypt did in like manner with their enchantments ... The Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the River Nile. Seven days later...' (Exodus 7:17 to 25). Turning the Nile into blood was judgement for worshipping the god and goddess of the Nile, the guardian of the Nile and the 'bloodstream' of the Nile.

The plague of frogs; 'The Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let My people go so they may serve Me and if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite your entire land with frogs. The (Nile) River will swarm with frogs up into your house, into your bedchamber and on your bed, into the houses of your servants and on your people, into your ovens, your kneading bowls and your dough. The frogs will come up on you and on your people and all your servants." The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the streams and pools, causing frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt and the frogs came up and covered the land, but the magicians did the same thing with their enchantments and brought up more frogs

on the land of Egypt ... Moses cried to the Lord as he had agreed with Pharaoh concerning the frogs and the Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, villages and out of the fields. The people gathered them together in heaps and the land was loathsome and stank' (Exodus 8:1 to 14). The plague of frogs was judgement for worshipping the frog-headed goddess of fertility and birth. Frogs were sacred to the Egyptians and were not to be killed.

The plague of biting insects; lice, gnats, mosquitos, sand flies, midges, gadflies; 'The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the ground so it may become biting insects throughout the land of Egypt'." Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth and there came biting insects on man and beast. The dust of the land became biting insects throughout the land of Egypt. The magicians tried by their enchantments to bring forth biting insects but they could not' (Exodus 8:16 to 18). The plague of biting insects was judgement for worshipping the god of the desert.

The plague of flies; 'The Lord said, "Behold, I will send swarms of flies on you, your servants, your people and into your houses, and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies and also the ground on which they stand, but on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen in which My people dwell so no swarms of flies will be there, so you will know I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. I will put a division and a sign between My people and your people. By tomorrow this sign will be evident." There came grievous swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and his servants' houses and in all of Egypt the land was ruined by the great invasion of flies. Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land!" But Moses said, "It is not appropriate to do that, for the animals the Egyptians hold sacred and will not permit to be slain are those we are accustomed to sacrifice to the Lord our God. If we did this before the eyes of the Egyptians, they would stone us. We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He will command us." ... The Lord removed the swarms of attacking flies from Pharaoh, from his servants and his people. There remained not one fly' (Exodus 8:21 to 31). The plague of flies was judgement for worshipping the gods of bugs and scarab beetles.

The plague of disease on the livestock; 'Behold, the hand of the Lord will come on your livestock out in the field; on the horses, donkeys, camels, herds of cattle and the flocks. There will be a very severe plague, but the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, and nothing will die of all that belongs to the children of Israel. Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land. The next day Lord smote all the livestock of Egypt until they died but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died. Pharaoh sent to find out and behold, there was not one dead of all the livestock of the children of Israel' (Exodus 9:3 to 7). The death of livestock was judgement for worshipping the god and goddess of four legged, hooved animals often depicted in the form of cattle.

The plague of sores and boils; 'The Lord told Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of ashes from the brick-kiln and let Moses sprinkle them toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. It will become small dust over all the land of Egypt and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout Egypt." So they took ashes from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses threw the ashes toward the sky and it became boils erupting in sores on man and beast' (Exodus 9:8 to 10). The boils and sores were judgement for worshipping the gods of health and diseases, depicted as infected sores and boils.

The plague of bad weather; rain, hail, thunder, lightning, wind; 'The Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go so they may serve Me. This time I will send all My plagues on your heart and on your servants and your people, so you may know there is none like Me in all the earth. By now I could have put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence and you would have all died but for this very purpose have I let you live, to show you My power and so My name will be declared throughout the earth. Since you are still exalting yourself against My people by not letting them go, behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain down very heavy hail, such as has not been in Egypt from its founding until now. Therefore, hastily gather in to shelter your (surviving) livestock and all that you have in the field, for every man and beast in the field not brought home will be struck by the hail and will die." Those who feared the Word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses and shelters. Those who ignored the Word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field. The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the heavens so there may be hail on man and beast and on all the vegetation of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." Moses stretched out his rod toward the heavens and the Lord sent thunder, lightning and hail down to the earth, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. The hail struck down throughout Egypt, everything that was in the field, both man and beast. The hail beat down all the vegetation and destroyed every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen where the

Israelites lived, was there no hail ... The flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bloom. The wheat and spelt (a species of grain similar to wheat) were not smitten for they ripen late and had not grown' (Exodus 9:13 to 32). The storm of thunder, lightning and hail was judgement for worshipping the goddess of the sky and the god of storms.

The plague of locusts; 'The Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants to show My power. You will recount to your sons and your grandsons what I have done to Egypt and the signs I have done there so you may know I am the Lord ... Behold tomorrow, I will bring locusts into your country. They will cover the land so one will not be able to see the ground and they will eat the remainder (wheat and spelt), of what is left after the hail and the locusts will eat every tree in the field. The locusts will fill your houses and those of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen until this day." ... The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so they may come up on the land of Egypt and eat all the vegetation the hail has left." Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt and the Lord brought an east wind on the land all of that day and night, and when it was morning the east wind brought the locusts. The locusts came and settled on the whole country of Egypt, a very dreadful plague of them like never before, nor will there ever be again. They covered the whole land so the ground was darkened and they ate every bit of vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees the hail had left. There remained no green thing of the trees or the plants of the field in all of Egypt ... The Lord turned a strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not one locust remained in Egypt' (Exodus 10:1 to 19). The plague of locusts was judgement for worshipping the god of crop fertility.

The plague of darkness; 'The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the heavens so there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness which may be felt." Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky and for three days a thick darkness was all over the land of Egypt. The Egyptians could not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the Israelites had natural light in their dwellings' (Exodus 10:21 to 23). The oppressive three-day darkness was judgement for worshipping the Pharaoh who represented the sun god.

The plague of death to all firstborn; 'The Lord said to Moses, "Yet one more plague will I put on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterwards he will let you go. When he lets you go, he will thrust all of you out together. Speak now in the hearing of the children of Israel and let every man and woman ask of their neighbours, for jewels of silver and jewels of gold." The Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moses was exceedingly great in the land of Egypt and in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and the Egyptian people. Moses said, 'Thus says the Lord, "About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt and slay all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the maidservant who is behind the hand mill, and all the firstborn of the livestock. There will be a great cry in the whole land of Egypt, such as has never been nor ever will be again, but against any of the children of Israel will not so much as a dog bark against man or beast, so you will know the Lord makes a distinction between the Egyptians and Israel. All your servants will bow down to me saying, 'Get out and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out." Moses went out from Pharaoh in great anger' (Exodus 11:1 to 8). 'At midnight the Lord slew every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the (remaining) livestock. Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, all his servants and all the Egyptians and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Get up and get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites. Go, serve the Lord as you said. Take your flocks and your herds as you have said and be gone! Bless me also." The Egyptians were insistent the people depart from the land in haste for they said, "We are all dead men." The children of Israel took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. They did according to the word of Moses and they asked the Egyptians for their jewels of silver, of gold and clothing. The Lord gave the children of Israel favour in the sight of the Egyptians so they gave them what they asked and they stripped the Egyptians of those things. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 on foot, men, women and children. A mixed multitude of Egyptians (and other peoples) went with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. They baked unleavened cakes of the dough they brought from Egypt. It was not leavened because they were driven from Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared for themselves any food. The time the children of Israel had dwelt in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. At the end of the four hundred and thirty years, to that very day, all the host (the multitude) of the Lord went out of Egypt' (Exodus 12:29 to 41). The deaths of the eldest sons was judgement for worshipping the so-called protector-god of children.

When Pharaoh had half-heartedly told Moses the Israelites they could go off and worship God but they were to stay in Egypt, Moses said they could never do that because they would sacrifice animals and birds the Egyptians held to be sacred. 'Moses said, "It is not appropriate to do that, for the animals the Egyptians hold sacred and will not permit to be slain are those which we are accustomed to sacrifice to the Lord our God. If we did this before the eyes of the Egyptians, they would stone us' (Exodus 8:26). Moses and the children of Israel had to wait until they were free of Egypt before they could worship and serve God. The same applies to us. We have to leave our old life behind us before we can worship and serve the Lord.

Apart from obvious supernatural events as mentioned above, a lot of what the Lord does, He does by using what He has already created and is thus already available. Sometimes He uses the natural along with the supernatural to achieve His purposes and one example is the conception and birth of Jesus. Jesus was conceived supernaturally when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary then He was born naturally after a normal pregnancy. There may have been supernatural and natural explanations for the ten plagues in Egypt; blood in the waterways, frogs, biting insects, flies, disease/pestilence, boils/sores, hail storms, locusts, eerie thick darkness and finally the death of firstborn.

A possible chain of natural events could be an explanation for the ten plagues. Scientists have been studying the ten plagues for years. Here are some possible scientific explanations for the plagues. The scientists could be correct or the events could have been purely supernatural. A steele dated to sometime around 1500 BC had etched on it the devastation the Egyptian people suffered. The steele was not written by a Hebrew but an eyewitness, possibly an Egyptian. He gave an independent historical account of the storm, thunder, hail, rain, damage to crops, destruction to homes, the dreadful outbreak of sickness, darkness for three days and the numerous deaths. According to the steele, Mount Thero on the Greek Island of Santorini erupted. We now know that happened in 1613 BC. It was where the Minoans lived so most of them were killed too. Billions of tons of corrosive volcanic ash was forced thousands of metres into the atmosphere, covering a vast area and spread as far as Egypt. Excavations of a city called Carnak showed it was ruined during that time by tons of volcanic ash. The normal weather patterns would have been disturbed by the volcanic activity and could have caused the situation that led to the plagues. We need to keep in mind, in those days hygiene was non-existent so the spread of disease was rampant. They did not have any knowledge of bacteria in insects, especially flies. The Nile River is fresh water so there was no control of bacteria like there would have been in salty seawater. The volcanic activity could have caused the Nile River to dry considerably. Water pools would become stagnant. The Egyptians were used to red soil particles in the Nile River water but what caused the water to become blood? Was it actual blood or was the water foul, toxic and the colour of blood? One explanation could be red algae, known as Burgundy Blood Algae (*oscillatoria rubescens*) that emits toxins and causes a terrible odour. Throughout the world, up to 60,000 people die of algae poisoning every year. Algae are single cell animals that breed and thrive in large numbers. The toxic algae can cause paralysis and can adversely affect people with asthma and other related illnesses. Algae do not remain on the surface but fill the body of water down deep. Any body of water that is still or slow flowing is in danger of algal growth. Algae can live in water, deep down in the muddy riverbed and can lie dormant for many years and only grow when conditions are favourable. As the algae dies it stains the water blood red. When the water surface breaks open the tiny cells, 16 neurotoxins are released into the air. Ancient Egyptians would not have been able to see the individual micro-organisms but they saw the red water.

The plague of blood-red water that was possibly red algae, killed the freshwater fish. Without fish to control the frogspawn, the frogs multiplied in huge numbers. The algae forced the frogs to leave the water in vast numbers and after ingesting the algae, took a few days to die. The fish and frogs were not there to control the stinging insects and their larvae plus blowfly maggots, so there came swarms of biting insects; lice, mosquitoes, gadflies, gnats and blowflies. The hot weather, stagnant water and a lack of frogs and fish made the Nile a perfect breeding-ground for insects. Quite possibly, the swarms of flies and maggots were there breeding and feasting on the millions of dead frogs and dead fish. The spread of biting insects and flies could have caused the diseases that killed the livestock. Recently, a herd of cattle were killed by a huge swarm of mosquitos when the cows lost so much blood they died. That could also have been the cause of some of the livestock to die during the plagues. If people scratched the insect bites, it could have caused the sores to become infected and turn to boils. The poor innocent young Egyptian children, not yet old enough to be actively involved in the sin of idolatry would have suffered terribly during the plagues from thirst, hunger, insect bites, boils and dreadful diseases. The livestock would have died a terrible death. When judgement on a nation comes from God, the innocent in the land are not spared. The sins of the fathers are visited on the young. 'He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and on the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation' (Exodus 34:7).

The weather that caused the algae could also have caused the storms that brought thunder, lightning and hail, destroying livestock and vegetation. The warm wet weather and wet soil was perfect for a plague of locusts to emerge. They ate everything until nothing remained for the Egyptians to eat. The same weather pattern with strong winds combined with the lack of vegetation could have resulted in a terrible dust storm, so along with the volcanic ash cloud, could have caused the thick oppressive darkness the Egyptians could feel. In that culture, the firstborn son always had the first serving of any meal. He was also given the firstborn animal in the livestock for a gift when he was born. The extremely humid weather could have caused a toxic fungus called ergot to grow in the stored grain. The eldest son and his firstborn animals would have had the first serving of grain and would have thus been the first to fall victim to the toxic grain. Those things could have been a possible explanation for the plagues but nothing can explain the supernatural protection the children of Israel enjoyed. Only the Lord could have protected them from the plagues, unless their location was a factor. They lived in Goshen near to seawater in the Mediterranean Sea. Moreover, the Hebrews had knowledge of hygiene and washed so that could have helped save them and their livestock. The salty seawater would have killed the algae. Frogs do not breed in salt water. Fresh water insects do not breed in salt water. Without the frogs in Goshen, the flies would have bred further inland so that would have stopped the diseases and boils on the Israelites. Locusts do not usually eat salty vegetation. Perhaps the hail, dust storms or volcanic ash did not reach Goshen, or perhaps it was like the Bible says, the Lord protected the Israelites with His mighty hand.

Giving an explanation for the plagues actually misses the point of them. The children of Israel had to leave Egypt and the idolatry behind so they could mature spiritually and worship God. They were the very first group of people who were on the path to the Kingdom of God. They were the first tribe of people the Lord loved and that was because He loved Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 'Because God loved your forefathers He chose their descendants after them and brought you out of Egypt with His presence and with His great power' (Deuteronomy 4:37). We have to leave spiritual Egypt and our sin behind us so we can grow spiritually and bear spiritual fruit, sharing the Gospel message of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. We do not leave our old life behind by natural explanation; we leave our old lives behind and come out of our sinful lives by the saving grace and hand of the Lord. Jesus took our judgement on His body then our sin was nailed to the cross, opening the way for us to enter into the Kingdom of God. 'Put away your former way of life, the 'old man' (old sinful self), that is corrupt ... be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the 'new man', who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth' (Ephesians 4:22 to 24). 'The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people' (Titus 2:11). 'The time is fulfilled. The Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe in the Gospel' (Mark 1:15).

Amen and God bless you.

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