

## CHAPTER 2

# PASSOVER REFLECTIONS: WHAT MEN PUT BEFORE GOD HE TURNED AGAINST THEM

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*... Holyday, or of the New Moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the Body is of Christ.*

—Apostle Paul (KJV)

**B**EAUTIFUL AND MEANINGFUL things are taught and foreshadowed by God's holy days. Let's see what other parts of God's plan Passover foreshadows.

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. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

—Ex. 12:12–13

Notice God said, “I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night”—not the next night. It was “that night” God said, “I will pass-over you.” Passover night was the fourteenth of Abib, not the fifteenth.

Now let’s notice what was necessary for Israel to leave Egypt. God turned their false gods against them. I fear God will likewise have to turn our false gods against some of us before we willingly come out of this world, symbolized by leaving Egypt. If you have gods, what are they called? Do you allow anything to come before the true God—YHVH—or between you and obedience to Him?

Each of the ten plagues had in it an element of what God was teaching the Egyptians, and the whole world: the realization that the God of Israel is the only true God. Therefore, He turned all their false gods against them and showed those gods to be feeble and subservient to the eternal God. So God will eventually do for each of us, if we allow *anything* to come between us and Him. Do you have any false gods?

Paul said covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5). Many people serve themselves first, as if they were the greatest or most important individuals. Some serve the god of self, or self-preservation. Others serve the god of entertainment. Others serve their work or career as their god—the “job” god. Others serve sports or idolize their sports heroes. Others idolize musicians or movie stars and even pay to covet and experience vicariously worldly evil deeds as a form of “entertainment”—things for which God has severely punished nations and

people. Is there any thing or practice that, by our actions, we allow to come before God?

Below are a few ways God turned the Egyptians' gods against them:

- The Egyptians worshipped fish and water as part of their idolatrous religion. The triangular symbols of fish and water are rooted with ancient pagan religious meaning dating back thousands of years to ancient Egypt and Babylon. So God caused the waters to turn to blood and all the fish to die (Ex. 7:18–21). This showed that their pagan gods and symbols had no life or redeeming value. Because they did not come from the true YHVH, they were not a blessing!
- The Egyptians worshipped the fly and its worm, the maggot. The maggot was worshipped for its medicinal use. It was used to eat the gangrenous dead tissue from the sick or wounded to prevent or fight the spread of infection. In fact the name “Baal-Zebub,” the god of Ekron (1 Kings 1), literally means “god of flies.” So God turned the maggots and flies against the Egyptians (Ex. 8:20–24), as only the great I Am is a true healing God (Ex. 15:26).
- Frogs symbolized the god of fertility to the Egyptians. So God turned their gods against them with the plague of frogs, and their “gods” became a great burden that permeated all aspects of their lives (Ex. 8:1–11).

- The Egyptians worshipped the sun, as the Romans did. This is where “Sunday” worship originated. Therefore God caused the sun to turn dark for three days (Ex. 10:21) to show that only He is the true source of Light, and that those who serve the only true God who made the earth and sun will keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy—not the day of the sun (Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:11).
- In Egypt, as in Babylon, the firstborn was sometimes offered up to their pagan gods in idolatrous worship, so God took their firstborn, showing that only He is God, and He owns and controls *all*. Therefore we owe our lives to Him.

Anything we place or treasure before the one true God is an idol. When we rob Him of His rightful place, we too may find our “gods” turning against us and becoming a curse. Unless we repent and turn to God unconditionally, our idolatry can keep us bound by sin, struggling to live as God wants us to live. Let’s seek first the kingdom of God and humbly follow Yeshua out of “Egypt” to a new, joyful life!