

# EGYPT'S 'Gods' and GOD'S PLAGUES: TODAY'S 'Gods' and CORONA-VIRUS.

I think I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that these past weeks are the most extraordinary days that I have ever lived through in my lifetime. Inside these past few brief weeks, the whole global 'way of living' has been basically turned on its head and life, in so many areas, has ground to a halt.

For those of us who have been graciously brought into a living relationship with the only true and living God, the Tri-une God who has revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible, and through His Incarnate son, the Lord Jesus Christ, there has been much 'speculation', particularly aired on social media, as to 'where is God in all of this'. Is the devil to blame for this corona-virus crisis or is God sending and speaking through this corona-virus pandemic?

There is first of all no doubt that this pandemic has not taken God by surprise – **“Remember the former things of old: for I am God and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure” (Isaiah 46:9-10).**

There is no question that God has in accordance with His perfect but inscrutable sovereignty released this measure of suffering, death, and disruption for His purposes. His 'attention-getting actions' are not foreign to history or to the Bible. While the message is always the same, to believe the revelation of God, the means of humbling His creation because of its pride and arrogance and complicity with the demonic forces is sometimes quite breath-taking.

The Bible does tell of a time when a powerful, self-confident, self-sufficient nation was very quickly 'brought to its knees' and life as they knew it was totally disrupted and all that they relied upon and looked to was shown to be **“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)** and to be at the mercy of the one and only God of all that exists - see **Isaiah 40:21-26** noting in particular **verse 23 “It is He... That brings the princes to nothing; he makes the judges of the earth as vanity”**.

I'm referring to the nation of **EGYPT** during the time and events recorded in the book of Exodus, in particular chapters 4-12. In those chapters we read of the return of Moses to Egypt after his self-imposed exile and of his appearing before Pharaoh with a simple but straightforward message for him from God **“Let my people go” (Exodus 5:1).**

As we know, Pharaoh stubbornly refused to obey God's command and so Moses was shall we say, perplexed, and said to God **“since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all” (Exodus 5:23.** I think it would be fair to say that Moses was both disappointed and 'miffed'.

However, God graciously overlooked that 'rebuke' by Moses and in reply said **“Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh” (Exodus 6:1)**. God was about to deal with a leader and a nation that ignored the God of Heaven and His commands and that persecuted His people. From **Exodus 7:14** onwards and through to **Exodus 12:30** we then read of a series of **10 plagues that God sent** and inflicted upon the nation and people of Egypt.

There is a very interesting table in **The Bible Knowledge Commentary** that lists details of each of the plagues and how, in fact, they were a direct challenge to the many false **'gods'** that the Egyptians looked to and worshipped. Very quickly the Egyptians were to learn that the **'gods'** they trusted in were useless and worthless – they were in fact **“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)** and they were idols ripe for destruction – the types mentioned in **Isaiah 40:18-20**.

I will now copy that table into this short article (false 'gods' highlighted in yellow)

## Exodus

### The Plagues and the Gods and Goddesses of Egypt

Plagues	References	Possible Egyptian Gods and Goddesses of Egypt Attacked by the Plagues*
1. Nile turned to blood	Exodus 7:14-25	Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile; and others
2. Frogs	8:1-15	Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head
3. Gnats	8:16-19	Set, god of the desert
4. Flies	8:20-32	Re, a sun god; or the god Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly
5. Death of livestock	9:1-7	Hathor, goddess with a cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility
6. Boils	9:8-12	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god; Isis, goddess of healing
7. Hail	9:13-35	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility; Set, god of storms
8. Locusts	10:1-20	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, god of crops and fertility
9. Darkness	10:21-29	Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess
10. Death of the firstborn	11:1-12:30	Min, god of reproduction; Heqet, goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, goddess who protected children; Pharaoh's firstborn son, a god

\*Some gods and goddesses had more than one function or area of responsibility. Also in ancient Egyptian religion many of the gods and goddesses who were worshiped in one city or location and/or at one period of time were believed to have assimilated the gods and goddesses of other areas and time periods. Their religion was thus often complex and at times even contradictory.

Sources: *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, under the word "Egypt"; Lionel Casson, *Ancient Egypt* (New York: Time-Life Books, 1965); Pierre Montet, *Egypt and the Bible* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1968).

Are there any lessons to learn from all of this for the world we are currently living in? I think the first and most important lesson to learn is that when people and nations defy the only True and Living God of Heaven, He most certainly takes notice and, at the time of His choosing, He does directly intervene in 'the affairs of men'.

Patently He waited for 120 years whilst Noah both preached and built the ark and then the day came when God said to Noah **“Come, thou and all thy house into the ark... and Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him into the ark... and the Lord shut him in” (Genesis 7:1;7;16).**

The pace and extent of God-defying godlessness has accelerated around the world in recent decades. False religions like Islam have grown worldwide in power and influence as has also atheistic secular humanism, called by some 'cultural Marxism'.

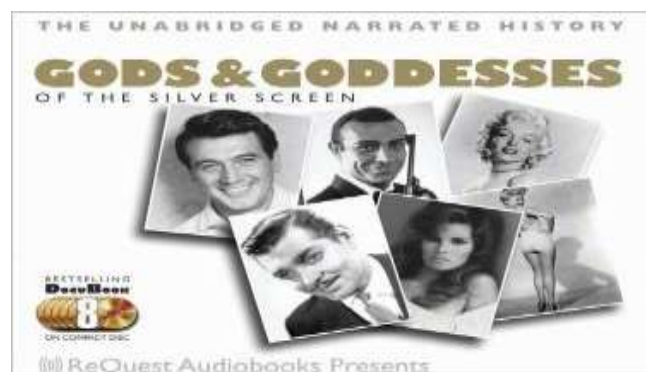
The influence of Christianity in the world has waned and many nations have simply educated, or perhaps 'indoctrinated' would be a better term, the notion of the God of The Bible completely out of the mind and thinking of young people. Having no true **'God'** to worship and adore the people have created 'substitute gods' to worship and adore.

It is revealing to look at the areas and activities that the corona-virus crisis has impacted upon – areas and activities that so many regularly flock to, 'worship' and devote their time to – particularly on a Sunday when many of God's people are, in contrast, often meeting to worship their Creator and Saviour.

**SPORT:** So many could not survive without their weekend fix of sporting activity, whether playing or spectating, be that soccer, rugby or whatever. But all that has stopped. Then, major iconic sporting events like, The Grand National, The Wimbledon Fortnight, The Olympic Games have been cancelled.

**POP MUSIC:** For many, money is no object when it comes to going to concerts, downloading albums and following trends set by their pop 'idols'. Many of such 'pop-pilgrimages' are of course now on indefinite hold.

**SCREEN IDOLS:** Over the decades of movie-making the big stars have virtually been 'deified' as they are often referred to as screen 'gods' or 'goddesses' as this image for a CD audio book demonstrates –



Fans queue eagerly and expectantly to virtually worship these actors and actresses as they walk the red carpet, either for premieres or for glittering award ceremonies. TV coverage is extensive and extravagant. But now, the movie-making machine has ground to a halt and movie-houses are empty and many people are suffering 'withdrawal symptoms' as they have to content themselves with reruns of past glories. Much the same could be said about the 'small-screen' idols (on television) and I just wonder how many episodes of the popular soap operas are 'in the can' and how soon will the TV companies be forced to air reruns of previous episodes. Fans of the big and small screens will be denied their chance to 'worship' new 'visions' of their screen 'gods' and goddesses"

**MONEY**: Notable figures who were trusting in their riches have suddenly found that these were of no value in a time like this – they have discovered the truth of words penned by the richest of men, Solomon, who outlined all the many treasures that he possessed in **Ecclesiastes 2:8-10** but concluded in **verse 11** **"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought... and behold all was vanity"**.

**MORAL DECADENCE**: The pace of '**moral decadence**' has gathered momentum at an incredible pace in just the last few years as science-defying '**moral madness**' has enveloped and gripped large sections of the world. Air-time and column inches are given to views that are utterly opposed to the God of Creation and His standards, His blue-prints for living and basic biology. But this corona-virus crisis has exposed much of the absolute folly of these views as the reality of there being only two possible genders for people has been highlighted by the reporting of the crisis. Mutilating transgender surgery has in many countries been suspended and that is no bad thing. Under this heading, the horror of **ABORTION** must not be overlooked. Whilst all around the world every effort is being made to save lives endangered by corona-virus, those who worship at the altar of '**my body, my choice**' refuse to back down and this was highlighted in the report on this link –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-52092131?fbclid=IwAR0FUKIE8flwYUCKpjHJWcRIqbbhJeAbM4je5vP3BJkPbSUpLDSCGA6lfqU>

In that report, in the context of 'Home' abortions by pill being legalised, we read this – '**Labour MP Stella Creasy campaigned to bring about the change in law in Northern Ireland - "Health care is a devolved matter but that doesn't devolve a human right not to be forced to have an unwanted pregnancy" she told Newsbeat.**' This is a difficult statement to fully grasp and understand but this is what I believe she means - **the right to 'not to be forced to have an unwanted pregnancy' is in her view a 'human right' that transcends the devolved issue of 'abortion' that she views as 'healthcare'** or as a friend I consulted wrote 'To her, Abortion = healthcare = a human right.'

On Facebook I then read this post by Paul Olphert, in relation to the North Down MP Stephen Farry, Deputy leader of the Alliance Party –

I never have used the word “Pillock” in my life before to describe anyone, I think it is probably more of an English slang for someone who is annoying, stupid or a fool. But considering this post has to do with pills and a fool then I thought it was appropriate in relation to MP Stephen Farry of the Alliance Party. It has emerged, now that England has introduced measures to allow women to take abortion pills at home, so that they can avoid visiting the hospitals for an abortion during the pandemic.

So, Mr Farry has waded into the debate by claiming that it is unfair to women in Northern Ireland not to be able to sit at home and end the life of their unborn also. He is now demanding that our Province be brought into line with England. It is hard to know what to say in response to the actions of the Deputy leader of the Alliance Party, because it seems that there are no depths of depravity that men are not prepared to dive into.

In the midst of a pandemic, where thousands of people are dying, they seem to want to make sure that little babies don't miss out on their early appointment with the death angel as it sweeps across our nation and indeed the world. One has to surely conclude or exclaim, is it any wonder a pandemic has been unleashed across the earth for man, even in the midst of the dead and dying, wants more to die.

Surely any sane and rational-thinking human being would see the irony of asking the population to **'save lives'** and **'Protect the NHS'** whilst at the same time they seek to ensure the murder of children in the womb. But such is depravity. They are blind to their own corruption and God's hatred of their prideful arrogance and sin. These modern-day so called 'progressives', like MPs Stella Creasy and Stephen Farry are basically advocating **'DIY MURDER'** and represent nothing more than being the present-day worshippers of the pagan 'gods' **Baal** and **Moloch** –

**Moloch**, also spelled **Molech**, a Canaanite deity associated in biblical sources with the practice of child sacrifice. The name derives from combining the consonants of the Hebrew *melech* (“king”) with the vowels of *boshet* (“shame”), the latter often being used in the Old Testament as a variant name for the popular god **Baal** (“Lord”).

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Moloch-ancient-god>

**Gender confusion, abortion** and then of course, not forgetting **'Same Sex'** so-called **'marriage'**. What a cocktail of **'Moral Decadence'** and the author and instigator of all this? – **“the god of this world” (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:4).**

Those who reject the God of the Bible, whether they realise it or not, are serving and worshipping **SATAN** who promises **“the pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:25)** and even in the midst of this corona-virus crisis they are determined to try and press ahead with their god-defying recklessness.

The Bible indicts mankind for worshipping the creature rather than the creator. What is meant by this is that mankind instinctively serves himself with his own moral compass, under the influence of subtle Satanic forces, systematically becoming more and more indifferent to the revelation of the creator as Paul declared in **Romans 1:20-25**.

These **'gods'** of **'SPORT'**, **'POP MUSIC'**, **'SCREEN IDOLS'** **'MONEY'** and **'MORAL DECADENCE'** mirror in many ways the ongoing, everyday sinful behaviour that eventually moved God to bring down the universal judgment of the flood **"in the days of Noah"**.

That expression was used by the Lord Himself to describe what conditions will be like just prior to His return and His final judgment of this world –

**"But as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26-27).**

Those people chose to ignore the preaching of Noah and in their eyes just got on with living their lives according to their own values, not realising perhaps, that by rejecting the true God, they were worshipping at the altar of **self-pride** (**"walking in the vanity of their mind"** **Ephesians 4:17**) that had been erected by **SATAN** as vividly described in type in **Isaiah 14:12-15** (**"I will be like the most high"** – **verse 14**).

Today's generation is really no different in many ways from those living in Egypt that I made reference to at the start of this article and so, by way of conclusion, let me quote some comments from **The Bible Knowledge Commentary** –

**'By the plagues God was judging the gods of Egypt (of which there were many) and showing Himself superior to them (Exodus 12:12; 18:11; Numbers 33:4) ... Also, the plagues may have been designed to oppose and show up the impotency of the Pharaoh. Pharaoh's people considered him the god Horus, the son of Hathor' (pp119-120).**

In answer to the question that many are asking, **'where is God in all of this'** I firmly believe that He is saying to the world that He has not changed His message of the gospel - that the world must repent and believe in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved from eternal wrath. It is also clear from His Word that, on occasions, He moves to mete out retribution and punishment on the world in a demonstration that He is sovereign and can purge and cleanse the world when it is awash with sin - **"I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt ... yet ye have not returned unto me ... prepare to meet thy God"** (**Amos 4:10 & 12**).

I had intended to end this article at this point, but, a brother in the Lord shared the following verse on Facebook and it is I believe most pertinent to what I have written so not only will I quote it but also a few brief thoughts that C H Spurgeon wrote on it –

**"Put them in fear, O Lord: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah". (Psalm 9:20).** Mr Spurgeon wrote – **'One would think that men would not grow so vain as to deny themselves to be but men, but it appears to be a lesson which only a divine schoolmaster can teach to some proud spirits ... May we (God's people) ever remember this, lest like those in the text ("The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God" – verse 17) we should be put in fear"**.

The same brother in the Lord also shared the link to a short but succinct article by **Peter Masters** of the **Metropolitan Tabernacle** in London and I commend it to you –

<https://www.metropolitantabernacle.org/Articles/God-s-Love-in-a-Pandemic?fbclid=IwAR1GwwfpiXo8kZpXGqzXTuTKNQL-FN0ApWyB5SE8Xd94chH-F1In1tJ26r8>

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## APPENDIX ADDED 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020

With perfect ‘providential timing’ a sister in the Lord posted a short home-made video on Facebook of an excerpt from **‘The Ten Commandments’** and it depicts where Pharaoh (Yul Brynner) returns to his palace having just seen his army drowned in the Red Sea and he utters the great line about the God of Moses –

### ‘His God is God’

This link takes you to a YouTube clip of that scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdzFUQ3Tt1k>

And then this relevant quote was posted on Facebook today

“God's meaning is, to save the unconverted, and to sanctify his own. I believe that every time the sun shines into your dwelling, it is meant to make you turn unto God; and it is the same with affliction. It is meant to make you turn to him; or if you be a child of God, every affliction is meant to make you cast your idols to the moles and to the bats, and to turn to God.” Robert Murray M'Cheyne

May many in today's corona-virus world be convinced, convicted and converted through the same truth.

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

As regards the compilation of the original article I want to record my thanks to my close friend. **ROB ZINS** for his valuable input – Rob's web site is located on <http://www.cwrc-rz.org/>



