FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?
(and the people imagine a vain thing?) Ps 2: 1

Part 2

In a former article I wrote of the attempt of many in our contemporary society to cast doubt on the authenticity of the Bible from a geographical and archeological standpoint. I attempted to show that this is a vain thing because the bible has been demonstrated time and again to be accurate from these standpoints of view.

Of all the remarkable events related by the scriptures is the account of the plagues visited upon the nation of Egypt at the time of the exodus. This is a remarkable narrative in that it is accepted by those people of faith who put their trust in the authenticity of the scriptures, but is scorned by those "learned scholars" of various disciplines on the basis that the account given in the Bible is the only account in existence, and thus can not be verified.

Further, they inform us, if the account in the Bible is a true account, these "plagues" can be explained by "natural phenomena" that occurred regularly in this region of the world.

I believe that it would be profitable for all interested parties (the skeptics and those who believe) to examine both these claims objectively to see if they are true.

As I stated in the earlier article, it is not necessary for those of us who are believers to have these things "proven" to us, but for the benefit of the unbelievers and skeptics of this world, there might be some profit.

The Israelites had been slaves to the Egyptians for about 430 years and were suffering under the yoke. Exo.3:9-10. God spoke to Moses,

"...thou shalt come, thou and all the elders of Israel, unto the king of

Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The Lord God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. ***And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.***" Exo 3: 18-20.

Allow me to list these "wonders" that God said he would visit on the land of Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to release his slaves from their bondage.

1	All the water in Egypt turned to **blood**.	Exo 7: 15-22
2	Overpowering swarms of **frogs**.	8: 2-15
3	Plagues of **lice**.	8: 17-19
4	Swarms of **flies**.	8: 21-24
5	A "**murrain**" (plague) on livestock.	9: 3-7
6	**Boils** with **blains** on the people and animals.	9: 8-12
7	**Hail** (accompanied with fire)	9: 18-32
8	Swarms of **locusts** eating all crops.	10: 4-20
9	Total **darkness** over the entire land.	10: 21-24
10	**Death** of the "firstborn" of Egypt.	11: 4-10 & 12: 29

These accounts, if accurate, describe a series of traumatic events purported to have been inflicted on an entire nation, on a scale that could be hardly unnoticed by historians, especially those of a nation as advanced culturally as Egypt. But the "wise men" of the world tell us that no one noticed them except the Israelite scribes, so we must read them with skepticism, especially so for the fact that the Israelites were slaves, formerly nomads, without education or culture. In short, these are the accounts of illiterate, superstitious men, exaggerating local phenomena.

"Wise men" tell us these things can all be explained according to natural happenings. Without corroborating accounts, they say, we really can't put much credence in these writings. **Or can we???**

AN EGYPTIAN EYEWITNESS

There was found in the Egyptian city of Memphis, a papyrus containing the account of one "Ipuwer", an eyewitness of a series of

catastrophes that devastated Egypt during this time. This papyrus was obtained by the Museum of Leiden (Holland) in 1838 from its possessor, one "Anastasi", an Egyptian. It contains a remarkable narrative which all would do well to consider. It is the Egyptian version of a great catastrophe. I will refer to the passages of the scriptures and the papyrus in parallel.

THE EARTH IN UPHEAVAL

Papyrus 2: 8 "Forsooth, the land turns round as does a potter's wheel. 2: 11, The towns are destroyed. Upper Egypt has become dry (waste)." 3: 13, "All is ruin!" 7: 14, "The residence (palace) is overturned in a minute." 4: 2, "Years of noise. There is no end to noise." The Hebrew word for **noise** is also the word for **earthquake**. Earthquakes are often accompanied with loud sounds. Not infrequently, the rumblings and earth shaking often go on for long periods of time.

Papyrus 6: 1, "Oh, that the earth would cease from noise, and tumult (uproar) be no more." The royal residence was thrown down "in the minute". This could be only describing the devastating effects of an earth-upheaval. Let us look at the plagues in their order.

PLAGUE ONE

Papyrus 2: 5-6 "Plague is throughout the land. Blood is everywhere." Exo 7: 21, "*...there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.*"

Papyrus 2: 10, "The river is blood." Exo 7: 20, "*...all the waters that were in the river were turned into blood.*"

The water was loathsome to the people; they could not drink it.

Papyrus 2: 10, "Men shrink from tasting—human beings, and thirst after water." Exo 7: 24, "*And all the Egyptians digged round about the river; for they could not drink of the water of the river.*"

The fish in the lakes and the river died, and worms, insects, and reptiles bred throughout the water.

Papyrus 3: 10-13, "That is our water! That is our happiness! What shall we do in respect thereof? All is ruin! Exo 7: 21, "*..and the river stank.*"

Much of the papyrus has succumbed to the ravages of time and is gone. The narrative resumes:

PLAGUE SEVEN

Papyrus 4: 14, "Trees are destroyed. 6: 1, "No fruit nor herbs are found." Exo 9:25, "*...and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.*"

This portent was accompanied by consuming fire. Destruction by fire spread over all the land.

Papyrus 2: 10, "Forsooth, gates, columns and walls are consumed by fire." Ex. 9: 24, "*So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.*"

The consequence of this plague rendered the fields of Egypt barren and void of foodstuffs Another result of this was the loss of the royal duties (taxes) on this produce. The royal storehouses were empty.

Papyrus 10: 3-6, "Lower Egypt weeps...The entire palace is without its revenues. To it belong (by right) wheat and barley, geese and fish." Ex. 9: 31-32 "*...the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled.*"

SUDDEN DESTRUCTION, NOT A BAD HARVEST

Papyrus 6: 3, "Forsooth, grain has perished on every side." 5: 12, "Forsooth, that has perished which yesterday **was seen**. The land is left over to its weariness like the cutting of flax."

"Cutting of flax". Could this refer to the plague of locusts? Hail is very destructive to crops in the fields, but crops destroyed by hail do not

appear to be "cut".

CATTLE AFFLICTED

The papyrus does not relate the "murrain (plague)" as more of the text is missing, but the text refers to it indirectly.

Papyrus 5: 5, "All animals, their hearts weep. Cattle moan..." Ex. 9: 3, *"...the hand of the Lord is upon thy cattle which is in the field...there shall be a grievous murrain (plague)."*

On top of this, the hail and fire made the frightened cattle flee and they were lost.

Papyrus 9: 2-3, "Behold, cattle are left to stray, and there is none to gather them together. Each man fetches for himself those that are branded with his name." Ex. 9: 19, *"...gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field...".* Vs 21, *"And he that regarded not the word of the Lord left his servants and his cattle in the field."*

Pharaoh had been warned to spare his animals this agony, but chose to ignore it with the dire consequences shown.

THE NINTH PLAGUE

Papyrus 9: 11, "The land is not light..." Ex. 10: 22-23, *"...there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days..."*

The expression "shadow of death" is found in different places in the scriptures. Could this be inspired by what the Lord sent on Egypt, as observed by the Israelites? **Certainly, considering what followed the "plague of darkness" would forever be ingrained in their collective memories as the "shadow of death".**

Thus far, we have considered the portions of the Egyptian papyrus that are still intact. Could there be any doubt that "Ipuwer" was relating the same thing as Exodus 9 and 10? An honest man, without

prejudice, would be compelled to answer "yes".

There was a 10th plague sent upon Egypt that we haven't dealt with as yet. It requires considerable space to deal with all the scriptural aspects, as well as corroborating sources. In addition to the "Ipuwer" papyrus referred to already, there is another corroborating evidence that is very compelling. This, however, remains for a following article for conclusion.

The scriptures are true! the evidence is true! Why do the people imagine a "vain thing"? Your brother in Christ, J D Logan.

"He Hath Opened Mine Eyes"

In the 9th chapter of John, Jesus healed a blind man. This man confessed how Jesus had healed him, and received persecution. The Pharisees told him in John 9:29. "We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is."

But notice his answer of faith in verse 30. "The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes."

We may not be physically blind, but Jesus has opened our eyes spiritually in a very real way. One of the beautiful lines from "Amazing Grace" is: "I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see."

He has opened our eyes to see what obedience is. Jesus loved His Father, and constantly sought to please Him. Remember what He said when He stayed behind in Jerusalem at 12 years old, and His parents came seeking Him? Luke 2:49. "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" In John 8:29, Jesus said. "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." In Matt. 26:53-54, when Jesus was captured, He said. "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Read the words of Jesus when He prayed in Gethsemane facing death on the cross, Matt. 26:39. "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." His life was a constant example of obedience that we should follow.

He has opened our eyes to love. Jesus died for us because He loved us. Eph. 5:2. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Rev. 1:5. "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,". Again, we should follow Christ's example. I John 4:10-11. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

He has opened our eyes to truth. In John 4:24 Jesus said. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 14:6. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." How do we learn truth? By following the words of Jesus, John 8:31-32. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Jesus causes us to see obedience, love, and truth. Let's listen to His words and follow His example. Let's use John 15:10 to summarize and close this article. Jesus said. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

In Christian love,
Bro. J.D. Logan

YUMA, ARIZONA

April 4/2006

Hello to everyone, most everyone down here in Yuma are doing well. We have a few that have a bad day here and there but for the most part we are doing good. Brother Harry Davis has gone to the doctors to check for the arteries in his neck and the diagnosis by the doctors was that they were about 50% closed and they didn't feel that was enough to warrant the surgery to clean them out. He was relieved

as we all were. The weather is still cool here but soon our hot days will arrive, all too soon. The only problem that we've had weather wise has been some windy days with sand blowing in from the sand dunes West of town. The sand manages to get inside of everything even when you have all the windows and doors closed and locked.

Our meeting is over and the sadness of missing all the brothers and sisters has set in. It was a wonderful meeting and I believe that everyone that was in attendance had a great time. I know that all of us here enjoyed every minute of it. There were quite a number of people that were here, some for the whole meeting and some that could be here but for a few days. I counted sixteen different congregations that were represented here. Sister Lynell Forsman counted somewhere around 65,000 miles that were traveled by those that were here in attendance. Through the week we had lessons brought to us by Brothers Bill McCay (2), Gene McKinney (1) Charlie Johnson (1), Ellis Forsman (2), Jerry McCay (2), Russell Morris (1), Doug Ferguson (1). They each and everyone were well presented and deeply appreciated. Some very impressive and thought provoking messages were brought to our attention and for our edification. I know that it took me closer to God and I'm sure that everyone that was able to hear them was likewise uplifted. It is a wonderful thing to be able to come together and study God's precious Word with fellow members of God's family. The singing was simply wonderful again this year so I know the praise and glory from our singing and prayers went directly to God's Ears and that He must have loved hearing it as much as we all enjoyed singing them. I learned some old songs, new for me, and heard some songs that I haven't heard in quite some time and they were sang with such enthusiasm.

There were no mishaps this year, with the one exception of an unnamed brother walking into one of our air-conditioning units that are outside the kitchen door and at about head level, I believe he preached later that night and did a great job so he must not have been injured too badly.

I would like also to thank the ones that allowed us the use of their travel trailers, motor homes etc. to use during the meeting, without them it would have been much more difficult to have housed all that came; also thanks to those that were able to drag or drive their own units all the many miles to be with us. Every year the ladies, both our local ladies and those ladies (and some guys) that attended for

all of the help in cooking and cleaning every night and every afternoon, again without them it wouldn't have been possible. A special thanks to my Aunt Verda Nelson for running it all there in the kitchen, she was there every day, usually multiple times through out the day to begin the preparations for the evening meals.

4/09/2006; Sister Alice Davis was hospitalized for a day this last week because she had a spell with her Acid Reflux and couldn't eat drink or even swallow for that matter but is out and back home. Sister Alice was wearing a neck brace for a problem that she developed at the hospital; hopefully that problem will go away. She was able to attend church services this morning and this evening. By the way we had a guest speaker at this mornings services, Brother Joe Davis, his wife Diana and their three sons Joey, Robert and Jesse came down and Joe Sr. had a lesson concerning "The Growth of The Christian". It was good to see him again after such a long time. Brother Robert Davis went out to the Church at Citrus City and held services out there this morning and Robert and Debra said that everyone out at Citrus City was fine and doing well. Thank you all again for the participation at our meeting this year and may God bless you all. We love you all.

Denny and Susie Davis
and the Yuma Congregation

OLD TOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hello all;

I am glad to report that we closed on our property last week. Lord willing we will be starting on our building within a few weeks. We are excited and happy to be able to be near realizing this dream.

Every one here is in good health. Our summer is coming early it seems with temps in the 90s already. However, the Lord has blessed us with a lot of much needed rainfall this spring.

Our new building will be located at the corner of Kezer Road and US Hwy 59 north. It is very easily found from I-40. From the I-40 and Hwy 59 intersection we are exactly 17 miles north on Hwy 59. We invite all passing through to stop and worship with us, and fellowship. For any information you can contact: Mick Boen at 479-652-2824

In brotherly love,
Mick Boen

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren;

Well, here it is the middle of April and we don't have a whole lot to report yet. We had a wonderful time at the Yuma meeting as always, and now we look back on more great memories. We were able to stop and spend some time with Jerry and Betty Perigen on the way down and then with Al and Okja Way on the way back to Modesto. We hadn't been able to visit with them for quite some time. Concerning the meeting, the preaching was good, the singing was great, (especially the singing after the services each night), and the food and fellowship was excellent. Brother Denny has already mentioned the speakers so I won't need to elaborate. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all who made us so welcome. We know that all the effort that it takes to have a meeting such as this is quite tiring and we appreciate all of your work.

After the meeting, Al, Charlotte, Veda and I stayed and visited till Wednesday morning and then left for San Diego to meet Rick, Teri, and Mikaela and attend the graduation of our youngest grandson, Brady Lamb, from the Marine Corps Recruit Training Camp. He graduated as platoon leader and Honor Man of platoon 2061, Echo Company. He was home for 10 days and then went back to Camp Pendleton for more training. The ceremony Thursday morning and then the graduation on Friday were very moving. These young men have to be in tiptop shape to be able to pass all the requirements.

Two of our grandsons are going into Law Enforcement. Travis Lamb with the Washington State Patrol, and Matt McCay with the Yakima Police Department. They also have some very rigorous training to go through.

Well, at long last, the final inspection was signed off and the construction and remodel of our church building is complete.

We invite all who can come and be with us for our meeting in August to please do so. We will do our best to welcome and accommodate all of you who can come.

We just received a note from Brother Rex Mickey stating that they have had a baptizing at Flora Vista. A young man named Abran Luna. We rejoice along with all the Brethren and the angels in Heaven. We certainly need these young ones coming along to fill the place of we older ones who are coming to the end of our lives. We know that His

words will last forever

Please keep the ill and hurting in your prayers. Also, please remember us.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McCay Sr.

BAPTISMS

Abran Luna	Flora Vista, NM

MEETINGS

July 15th-24th	Beaver's Bend, OK	Guest Speakers
August 6th-13th	Yakima, WA	Jerry McCay

PUZZLE 6

ACROSS

1 Type of large boat Noah built (Gen. 8:18)
5 "Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one rotten ____ can spoil a barrelful"; round, firm fruit with white flesh (Ecc. 9:18)
9 Work out by mutual agreement (Mk. 14:10)
11 Make amends or satisfaction for (Lev. 4:28)
12 Bottom (Exo. 19:2)
13 "So that Christ could give her to himself as a glorious Church without a single ____ or wrinkle or any other blemish" (Eph. 5:27)
14 Second book of the Bible: abbr.
16 "Who else is like the Lord among the gods? Who is glorious in holiness like him? Who is so awesome in splendor, A ____ God?"; miracle-doing (Exo. 15:11)
18 Wane; decrease in strength (Deu. 32:36)
20 "Meanwhile little Samuel was helping the Lord by assisting Eli. Messages from the Lord were very ____ in those days"; infrequent (1 Sa. 3:1)
21 Affected, artificial manner (2 Co. 11:20)
24 Transported goods (Jon. 1:5)
25 Reduced to a lower rank (1 Sa. 18:13)
26 Deadly pale (Jer. 30:6)
27 "You are a letter from Christ, written by us. It is not a letter written with pen and ____, but by the Spirit of the living God;

DOWN

2 "Again and again their voices ____, 'Praise the Lord!'"; resounded (Rev. 19:3)
4 Ancient musical instrument similar to a zither (1 Sa. 10:5)
5 "Let ____ your lightning bolts, your arrows, Lord, upon your enemies, and scatter them"; unrestrained (Psa. 144:6)
6 Clothing (2 Ki. 25:29)
7 Returned from the dead (Col. 1:18)
8 "If you ____ to the Lord, reverence him; for everyone who does this has everything he needs"; are related to (Psa. 34:9)
10 "If I am ____ by Satan, what about your own followers? For they cast out demons"; authorized by (Luk. 11:19)
15 Terror-causing (Psa. 22:12)
16 Miserable, unhappy, vile person (Mat. 18:32)
17 Feeble-minded or foolish persons (Joh. 11:49)
19 "Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your ____ with wheat and barley"; farm buildings (Pro. 3:9)
22 "Any story sounds true until someone tells the other ____ and sets the record straight" (Pro. 18:17)
23 "Don't bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One. ____" (Mat. 6:13)



