

Questions::

1. Have you ever read the Bible just for the narrative? Why or why not?
2. Listening to the narrative we have gotten through so far has it helped in your understanding of the Bible at all yet?
3. Do you see Jesus (or things pointing to Jesus) in the story so far?*
4. What do you think about the idea of Spiritual Warfare taking place on Earth through the Egyptian Plagues?
5. A tabernacle was made for God to dwell with His people. Coming from the Garden, to the Tabernacle, we are now God's house. How does this thought of you being the tabernacle that God lives in like the Garden and the Tabernacle be for it make you feel or what does it make you think about?

*Joseph is a good "type" or foreshadow for Jesus. Joseph comes to Egypt where he is falsely accused of a crime, he is cast into prison. The king of Egypt calls Joseph out of the prison where Joseph is seated at the king's right hand co-leading Egypt with Pharaoh. Because of this Joseph is able to physically save his family.

Recap:

God's Name is Yahweh: יהוה - Yahweh means HE IS.

God created heaven and earth, bringing order out of chaos. Light out of darkness.

God made a Garden where He physically dwelled with Adam and Eve

An first angelic rebel deceived Adam and Eve into disobeying God.

Adam and Eve brought sin into the world through disobedience and were cast out of the Garden

Angels rebelled, Mankind rebelled.

God flooded the Earth to start a new.

Man rebelled and Angel's rebelled again.

God disinherited the nations (because that's what they asked for).

God made a covenant with a man named Abraham and miraculously moved in Abraham and his wife Sarah to give them offspring. Isaac. Isaac had a son Jacob.

Jacob wrestled with God (physically) for an entire night until God blessed Him.

God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Jacob (Israel) has twelve sons.

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

God is about to speak to Joseph and use him to save his family.

Joseph Saves His Family

After some time, Joseph, Jacob's second youngest son, who is now seventeen, has a dream. He gathered his brothers and

Genesis 37:6–7 ESV

⁶ He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

His brothers already didn't like Joseph because he was Jacob's favorite son. Joseph dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and his parents.

Genesis 37:9–11 ESV

⁹ Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

His brothers became so jealous of Joseph that they plotted to kill him. They made a plan to kill him, but instead, they decided they could make some money off Joseph, so they sold him into slavery. They told their father that Joseph had been killed by some wild animals. Meanwhile, Joseph ended up enslaved in Egypt to a man named Potiphar. While Joseph served in Potiphar's house:

Genesis 39:2–5 ESV

² The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

After some time, however, Potiphar's wife began to desire Joseph and tried to seduce him. Joseph refused, and Potiphar's wife set Joseph up. Joseph ended up being thrown into prison, where Joseph met Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and chief baker, who also had been thrown into prison for committing an offense against Pharaoh. While in prison, the two officers had their own dreams but did not understand them. Joseph interpreted their dream. Both men dreamed about what Pharaoh would do to them. The chief cupbearer would be forgiven and continue serving Pharaoh, while the chief baker would be sentenced to death. It took place exactly as Joseph had predicted. The chief cupbearer forgot about Joseph, but the Lord prospered Joseph even in prison, with Joseph being put in charge of all the prisoners.

After two years, Pharaoh dreamed a dream and did not understand the interpretation. Pharaoh saw seven healthy cows standing by the Nile River and seven more ugly and thin cows. Pharaoh then had a second dream, much like the first one. Pharaoh called for his magicians and wise men in the morning, but no one could interpret the dreams. The chief cupbearer remembered what Joseph had done in that prison and told Pharaoh. Pharaoh called for Joseph, and Joseph interpreted the dream for Pharaoh. Egypt would undergo seven years of plentiful harvest followed by a worldwide famine for the next seven years.

Just as Joseph had spoken, seven years of bountiful harvest and seven years of famine occurred. During that time, Joseph was made second in command over all of Egypt. Joseph instructed the Egyptians to store food to prepare for the famine, and they filled their storehouses. Because of the famine, Joseph's family needed food; they heard Egypt had food, so Jacob sent Joseph's ten older brothers to get food, keeping Joseph's younger brother behind.

When the older brothers, the ones who had sold Joseph into slavery, came to Egypt, they did not recognize Joseph. Joseph asked them about his family and returned them to get their youngest brother. Joseph's first dream came true on their return trip: his brothers bowed down to him. Joseph revealed who he was and that he had forgiven his brothers. Yahweh had used what his brothers did to save Joseph's family. Joseph sent for his parents to come and live in Egypt, where there was plenty of food. Joseph's second dream came true as Joseph's father and mother bowed before him when they arrived in Egypt.

Slavery in Egypt and the Exodus

When Joseph's family arrived in Egypt, he convinced Pharaoh to let his family stay in Goshen. There, Joseph's family thrived. After some time, Jacob became ill and called Joseph to bless him. Joseph now had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, who came with Joseph to see Jacob. Jacob spoke to them about Yahweh and blessed them. Jacob then adopted Manasseh and Ephraim as his own to receive an inheritance in the land God had promised Abraham all those years ago.

Jacob passed away, and his children thrived, having large families. Because they were descendants of Jacob, whose name was also Israel, they were called Israelites.

The Israelites lived in Egypt for hundreds of years and grew large in number. New Pharaohs had come and gone, and the newest Pharaoh did not like how large the Israelites had become. To prevent Israel from amassing an army and taking over Egypt, Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites. This, however, did not stop the Israelites from growing, so Pharaoh ordered every male baby to be killed.

Moses

An Israelite woman, a descendant of Levi, hid her newborn son in an ark and placed the ark in the Nile River to give her baby a chance to live. Pharaoh's daughter found the baby boy as the ark floated down the river. She adopted the baby as her own and named him Moses, which means "draw out," for she drew the child out of the water.

Exodus 2:11–12 ESV

¹¹ One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Moses thought he had gotten away from it but had been seen committing thing murder. When Pharaoh learned of it, Pharaoh sought to kill Moses, so Moses fled into the wilderness. As Moses fled, he met a priest of Yahweh. Moses served the priest as a shepherd and protector of his house. He married one of the priest's daughters. Many years later, Moses was tending the flock, and the angel of Yahweh appeared to Moses in a bush that was on fire but did not burn away.

Exodus 3:3–8 ESV

³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are

standing is holy ground.”⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.⁷ Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Moses had many questions; he didn't want to return to Egypt. After Moses made excuse after excuse, Yahweh told Moses that he would lead the people out of slavery, but because Moses did not speak well, Aaron, Moses' brother, would assist him. Moses would be the political leader, and Aaron would be the high priest.

War against the gods of Egypt - Spiritual Warfare on Earth

Exodus 5:1–2 LEB

¹ And afterward, Moses and Aaron went, and they said to Pharaoh, “Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel, ‘Release my people so that they may hold a festival for me in the desert.’ ”² And Pharaoh said, “Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to release Israel? I do not know Yahweh, and also I will not release Israel.”

In Egypt, they did not serve Yahweh. Instead, they had their own gods, some of the same rebellious sons of God we spoke of from the Tower of Babel. Egypt had a pantheon of gods, and Pharaoh himself was believed to be one of these gods. It was his job as a god to Egypt to keep Chaos away from Egypt and ensure the Nile provided water for their livestock and fields. When Pharaoh said, “Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice, I do not know Yahweh,” Pharaoh was challenging Yahweh, proclaiming himself to be superior.

Because of Moses and Aaron, Pharaoh made life more demanding for the Israelites. Yahweh told Moses to warn Pharaoh that if he didn't let Yahweh's people go, He would war against them and their gods.

Numbers 33:4 (LEB)

4 On their gods also Yahweh executed judgments.

But Pharaoh still refused to submit to the one true God, Yahweh. Yahweh kept his word and put 10 plagues on the people of Egypt. Yahweh struck the Nile, turning it to blood; he caused frogs, gnats, flies, and locusts to swarm the land and destroy their crops. He caused the livestock to die and the Egyptians to have painful boils. The Lord caused hail and lightning to fall on Egypt. Each and every plague was explicitly aimed against one of Egypt's gods. For the ninth plague, Yahweh plotted out the sun. The Egyptian's foremost god was represented by the sun. But it was Yahweh who created the sun on the fifth day of Creation, and this god was no match for Him.

After every plague, Moses would go to Pharaoh and ask if he had enough; if only Pharaoh would let the Israelites go, the plagues would stop. But for Pharaoh, this would mean admitting he was not in control, that Yahweh was Most High, and that he and his gods could not stand against Him. Pharaoh hardened his heart, and Yahweh poured out his judgment against Pharaoh. The tenth plague would be the most severe. The death of every firstborn in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh died, his firstborn son would rule Egypt as the god of the Nile.

But Yahweh is merciful; to save their sons, Egyptians, and Israelites alike would have to do one thing. Take a lamb and slaughter it. They would then take the lamb and prepare it as a meal in honor of Yahweh. They would take the blood and put the blood on the doorposts. Yahweh Himself (Psalm 78:51-52) would pour out his judgment that night against Egypt but any doorpost that He saw blood on would cause the Lord to “passover” the house and spare the firstborn son.

In the morning, Egypt woke to the terror that Moses was not lying. Among the dead was Pharaoh’s firstborn son, the heir to the throne, and the next god of Egypt. Pharaoh commanded Moses to take his people and leave immediately. As they left, not only did the Israelites go, but a great multitude of Egyptians and others followed. The Egyptians gave the Israelites all the treasures they owned. Precious metal and precious stones.

But Pharaoh changed his mind as the Israelites were on their way out of Egypt. He could not let these slaves go; it would destroy his reputation, it would destroy their economy, and he would be ruined. Pharaoh chased after them with his army, and the Israelites found themselves with an army on one side and a sea on the other.

Exodus 14:13–14 LEB

¹³ And Moses said to the people, “You must not be afraid. Stand *still* and see the salvation of Yahweh, which he will accomplish for you today, because *the* Egyptians whom you see today you will see never again. ¹⁴ Yahweh will fight for you, and you must be quiet.”

Exodus 14:19–25 ESV

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

Before the Egyptians could flee, the waters fell back on the Egyptian army. Just as Yahweh had brought life out of Chaos at Creation, He split the sea and brought forth dry ground for the Israelites to cross. The sea swallowed up Pharaoh’s forces, delivering Israel from their enemy and their slavery.

A Covenant Is Made - God Will Dwell With His People Again

Israel marched to a mountain called Sinai. Because of the number of people and the wilderness they were in, God caused manna to rain from heaven every morning as food for the Israelites. This round, white grain could be made into a cake that tasted like honey. While Israel was at the mountain, Yahweh took Israel to be His people. He made a covenant with them, and Israel agreed. He gave Moses a set of laws that would separate the Israelite people from the surrounding nations. If they were to represent Yahweh as His people, they could not live sinful lives like the nations did.

Among the many laws, Yahweh commanded Israel to take a Sabbath. Yahweh had made everything in Creation in six days and rested on the seventh. Yahweh told Israel they should work for six days and rest on the seventh. Yahweh promised He would bless them as His people served Him, tithed (brought a tenth of their wages/crops/livestock/etc.), and brought offerings. They would accomplish more in six days than the surrounding nations in seven.

The Tabernacle (mishkan)

Yahweh also gave them instructions for a tent, the Tabernacle. This Tabernacle would serve as Yahweh's home on earth. The Tabernacle would contain three rooms. The outermost room would be a courtyard, where Israelites could come with an offering and have a meal with God. There would be an inner room called the Holy Place where a lampstand would burn olive oil 24/7, and fresh bread and wine would be set on a table. This would show the Israelites that Yahweh was home. There would also be an altar that burned sweet-smelling incense day and night; this would be the prayers of the people being brought before Yahweh.

Then, there was a final room; this room would be separated, and no one could enter. This room would be called the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies. It would be where Yahweh's glory, His manifest Presence on earth, would dwell. The Most Holy Place would be guarded by a thick veil preventing anyone from accidentally wandering in. The Israelites would fashion a box of wood and gold inside the room and call it the Ark of the Covenant. This Ark would house two identical stone tablets with the terms of the Covenant on them. One copy was Israel's; one copy was Yahweh's.

The Tabernacle was decorated like the Garden of Eden, with trees, fruit, vibrant colors, and gold. Pictures sown into the veil of Cherubim (Throne Guardians) guarded the Most Holy Place. The purpose of this Covenant and this tent was not to give Israel rules and make their lives difficult. Yahweh longed to be back in the Garden, how He had made the man and woman. The law and the tent were Yahweh's sign that He was returning the world to that Garden. He would start by making Himself a home and dwelling with His people just like He did all those years ago.

Exodus 29:45–46 ESV

⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

Tabernacle in Hebrew is "mishkan" which comes from "shakan" which means "to dwell or settle in a place". The Tabernacle is also called the "House of Yahweh."

The garden, the tabernacle, and you

When God made the Garden it was His dwelling (Hebrew: shakan) place with mankind. When man sinned they were cast out of the Garden. This was not God's will, He went out of His way to make a people for Himself. He then went out of His way to draw these people to Himself. Lastly He had the people make a mishkan, a tabernacle, a dwelling place, for Him to live with His people.

Today there is no tabernacle, there is no temple, made by human hands where God resides. Instead the New Testament (in Greek) calls you and I the dwelling place of God. The Greek words used in the New Testament is the same word used in the Old Testament for Tabernacle and House.

2 Corinthians 5:1–2 ESV

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,

You could literally translate this:

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (Josh's Illustration Version)

1 For we know that if the tabernacle that is our earthly tabernacle is destroyed we have a tabernacle from God, a tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tabernacle we groan, longing to put on our heavenly tabernacle.

The Priests

Someone would need to tend Yahweh's house, keep the incense and lights burning, and keep the bread and wine on the table. They would need to prepare the meals that the people of Israel came to present to Yahweh. They would also need to protect people from entering places they were not allowed. The tribe of Levi was chosen to be the priest of Israel, and Aaron, the brother of Moses, was chosen to be the High Priest. The High Priest alone would be able to enter the Most Holy Place, but only one day a year on a special feast/holiday.

Israel made the Tabernacle, and the presence of God, the Glory of Yahweh, came into the tent and dwelled there.

The Feasts

Yahweh set up six feasts; these holidays were days when Israel would remember who they were, who Yahweh was, and what He had done for them.

Passover, or Pesach, takes place in the spring and remembers when Yahweh passed over all the houses that had blood on their doorposts in Egypt and how He led them out of their slavery.

Firstfruits, or Reshit Katzir, was a celebration that Yahweh provided for the Israelites; he caused their crops to grow. This takes place on the Sabbath after Passover.

Pentecost, or Shavu'ot, took place 50 days after Passover. It marked the summer harvest and was another celebration of the Lord's provision.

Day of Trumpets, or Yom Teru'ah, occurs in the Fall and marks the end of the harvest season. As with the previous feasts, this is a celebration of Yahweh's provision. It also started the preparation for the next Feast.

Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, served as a reset for the Tabernacle. On the day of atonement, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies and offer a sacrifice for the unintentional sins of the people; this was like a reset switch for the Tabernacle. It reset everything back to its original state. Over time, things happened, people made mistakes, and the Tabernacle had to be reset for God to continue to dwell with His people.

Tabernacles, or Sukkot, also called Booths or Tents, was a feast to remember that Yahweh dwelled in a tent with the Israelites, who also dwelled in a tent. It served as a day of celebration that Yahweh was present with His people.

The purpose of these feasts was to serve as a reminder of who Yahweh was, six days every year to remind Israel that they were Yahweh's people.

The Sacrificial System

There are five different kinds of offerings the Israelites could bring to Yahweh.

The burnt offering or fellowship offering is an offering brought to spend time with God.

The grain offering or remembrance offering was to thank God for His covenant with Israel.

The peace offering or thanksgiving offering was to tell the Lord, "I am at peace; it is well with me, thank you!"

The sin offering or decontamination offering was for removing ritual "uncleanness." This wasn't about intentional sin or breaking of God's law. It was about accidentally or unintentionally becoming unclean. Being unclean also happened due to "just living." As life goes on, things like touching bodily fluids could make someone unclean. Another example of unclean is a fly landing in the anointing oil used in the Tabernacle. God's Tabernacle was a "sacred space." It was the place where God dwelled. Another way to define "unclean" is "unfit for sacred space." God cannot mix with anything that is not perfect. Therefore, to decontaminate that which is unclean, you would bring a sin offering. This would make you ritually clean, so spend time in the Tabernacle with God. However, you could not go further into the Tabernacle than to the altar where these sacrifices were offered.

The guilt offering or reparation offering covered several things:

- 1) Accidental misuse or destruction of tabernacle property. If you were at the Tabernacle and accidentally broke something, you would need to help repair whatever was broken and offer a guilt offering.
- 2) Unknowing breaking of the Lord's commandments. There are a lot of laws, and keeping them all straight would be a challenge for anyone. If you didn't know something would make you unclean, it wasn't held against you, but you would have to make the guilt offering.
- 3) Realizing that you have unknowingly cheated someone in a business deal. Perhaps you were selling a sheep, and you asked for \$100 only to find out the going rate for sheep is \$20. You would be responsible for returning some of the money and would be required to offer a guilt offering.

Notice that intentional or known sin is not mentioned. Often, we can think of the sacrificial system as a "Jesus before Jesus." This is not the case. In the sacrificial system, no offerings for forgiveness of known sin exists. I know I cannot steal; if I steal, I am guilty, and there is no sacrifice to bring forgiveness. Only Yahweh could forgive intentional sin. This is why Jesus' New Covenant is so much better than the Old Covenant system. Setting aside all the nuance of the rules and sacrifices, only Jesus can forgive us of our intentional sin, sin that we know or should have known was wrong but we did it anyway.