

Questions About How the Hebrew Slaves Survived the First 9 Egyptian Plagues

By Pastor Ed Anderson

How did the Hebrew slaves survive the first 9 plagues in Egypt...they were not affected?

Answer:

Great question! The Bible reveals that **the Hebrew slaves in Egypt were protected** during the first **nine plagues** leading up to the Exodus. This supernatural protection was a **sign of God's covenant**, His power to preserve His people, and a message to Pharaoh that **Yahweh distinguishes His people from the Egyptians**.

Let's break it down from Scripture:

Summary: Did the Israelites Suffer the First 9 Plagues?

The short answer: **No, they were not affected by most of them**. The Bible makes clear that **God shielded the land of Goshen**, where the Israelites lived.

1. Plagues That Affected Only the Egyptians

Here's how the Bible describes God **separating** His people:

Plague 4 – Flies

"I will set apart the land of **Goshen**, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there... that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth."

— *Exodus 8:22*

Plague 5 – Livestock Disease

"The LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die."

— *Exodus 9:4*

Plague 6 – Boils

The boils broke out on the Egyptians, but there's **no mention** of them affecting the Israelites. The implication is that they were spared.

Plague 7 – Hailstorm

“Only in the land of **Goshen**, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail.”
— *Exodus 9:26*

Plague 9 – Darkness

“But all the people of Israel had **light where they lived.**”
— *Exodus 10:23*

2. Why Did God Protect the Hebrews?

God was doing several things:

Showing He makes a distinction between His people and others

“I will put a division between My people and your people.”
— *Exodus 8:23*

Demonstrating His covenant faithfulness

God had promised to deliver His people and keep them, even through judgment.

Building their trust in Him for the Exodus

The Hebrews had been slaves for centuries. By preserving them, God was **strengthening their faith** before the great test of leaving Egypt.

3. Could It Be Natural Causes?

Some try to explain the plagues naturally (e.g., red algae, insect cycles, volcanic ash). But the **precision** with which these plagues:

- targeted the **Egyptians only**
- were **timed** by Moses' word
- and were **lifted** at God's command

...makes it undeniably supernatural. The separation of **Goshen** is especially **unexplainable by natural means**.

4. What About the 10th Plague?

The 10th plague (death of the firstborn) **did require obedience** from the Hebrews:

They had to apply the **blood of the lamb** to their doorposts.— *Exodus 12:7*

This shows the deeper spiritual truth:

God protects His people—but also invites them to respond by **faith and obedience**.

New Testament Parallels

The **Exodus plagues foreshadow the end-time plagues** in Revelation, where again:

- God's people are **protected** (Revelation 7:3, 9:4)
- The plagues reveal God's power and expose false gods
- God calls His people to **trust and obey**, even before full deliverance

Final Thought:

Yes, the Hebrew slaves **survived the first 9 plagues** because **God shielded them**, often in **specific and visible ways**, especially in the **land of Goshen**. These were **miracles of mercy**, not just judgment on Egypt.