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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Peoples of the Bible – The Egyptians

TEACHING SUMMARY

The Egyptians are one of the most frequently mentioned peoples in the Bible besides the Israelites. Their civilization developed along the Nile River and became one of the most powerful and influential cultures in the ancient world.

The Egyptians descended from Mitzraim, one of the grandsons of Noah. Their kingdom formed when the major cities of Memphis and Thebes united under a single government ruled by a king known as Pharaoh.

The Pharaoh was considered both the political ruler and a divine figure who represented the god Horus. Egyptians believed that the Pharaoh was responsible for maintaining justice and ensuring that the gods were properly honored.

The fertile land along the Nile River made Egypt one of the most productive agricultural regions in the ancient world. The yearly flooding of the Nile deposited rich soil that allowed Egypt to produce large quantities of grain.

Egypt was also known for its massive stone architecture. The pyramids, temples, and statues built by the Egyptians are some of the most famous monuments in history.

Egyptian religion was extremely complex and involved the worship of hundreds of gods. Some of the most important were Amun-Ra, the sun god, Osiris, the god of the underworld, and Horus, the god of kingship. The Egyptians also practiced magic, spells, and rituals intended to influence the spiritual world.

One important event that revealed the power of the true God occurred during the Exodus. Through the ten plagues, YHWH demonstrated that He had authority over the natural world and over the gods the Egyptians believed controlled those domains.

Egypt had many interactions with the people of Israel. Joseph rose to power in Egypt after interpreting Pharaoh's dreams. Later, the Israelites lived in Egypt for generations before being enslaved. God delivered them from Egypt during the Exodus, an event remembered every year during Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Throughout Israel's history, some leaders mistakenly trusted Egypt for protection rather than trusting God. The prophets warned that reliance on Egypt would ultimately fail.

Despite Egypt's idolatry and opposition to God, Scripture also contains prophecies that one day Egyptians will worship YHWH alongside Israel and other nations.

The story of Egypt reminds believers that God is the one who delivers His people from slavery and calls them to live faithfully for Him.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Egyptians descended from Mitzraim, a grandson of Noah.
- Their civilization developed along the Nile River.
- Egypt was ruled by kings known as Pharaohs.
- The Pharaoh was considered a divine ruler representing the god Horus.
- The Nile River made Egypt one of the most fertile regions in the ancient world.
- Egypt was known for its pyramids, temples, and stone monuments.
- Egyptian religion included many gods, magic, and spells.
- God demonstrated His power over Egypt through the ten plagues.
- The Exodus marked Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt.
- The prophets warned Israel not to trust Egypt instead of trusting God.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The Egyptians descended from _____, a grandson of Noah.
2. Egypt's civilization developed along the _____ River.
3. The Egyptian king was known as the _____.
4. The Pharaoh was believed to represent the god _____.

5. Two important Egyptian cities were _____ and _____.
 6. The yearly flooding of the Nile produced fertile _____.
 7. God delivered the Israelites from Egypt during the _____.
 8. This event is remembered during the festivals of _____ and Unleavened Bread.
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Challenging

1. One major Egyptian god was _____, the sun god.
 2. The Egyptians believed that the dead would be judged in the _____.
 3. Egyptian religion involved practices such as _____ and spells.
 4. Joseph became second in command in Egypt after interpreting _____ dreams.
 5. Some Israelites later tried to rely on _____ instead of trusting God.
 6. Pharaoh _____ attacked Jerusalem and took treasures from the temple.
 7. The Pharaoh _____ killed King Josiah of Judah.
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GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was the Nile River so important to Egypt's civilization?
2. What made the Egyptian Pharaoh such a powerful figure?
3. How did the plagues demonstrate that YHWH was greater than the gods of Egypt?
4. Why do you think God wanted Israel to remember the Exodus every year?
5. What lessons can we learn from Israel's temptation to rely on Egypt instead of God?
6. How does the story of the Exodus illustrate God's power to deliver His people?
7. What do the prophecies about Egypt worshiping YHWH teach us about God's plan for the nations?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Mitzraim
2. Nile
3. Pharaoh
4. Horus
5. Memphis / Thebes
6. Soil
7. Exodus
8. Passover

Challenging

1. Amun-Ra
2. Afterlife
3. Magic
4. Pharaoh's
5. Egypt
6. Shishak
7. Neco