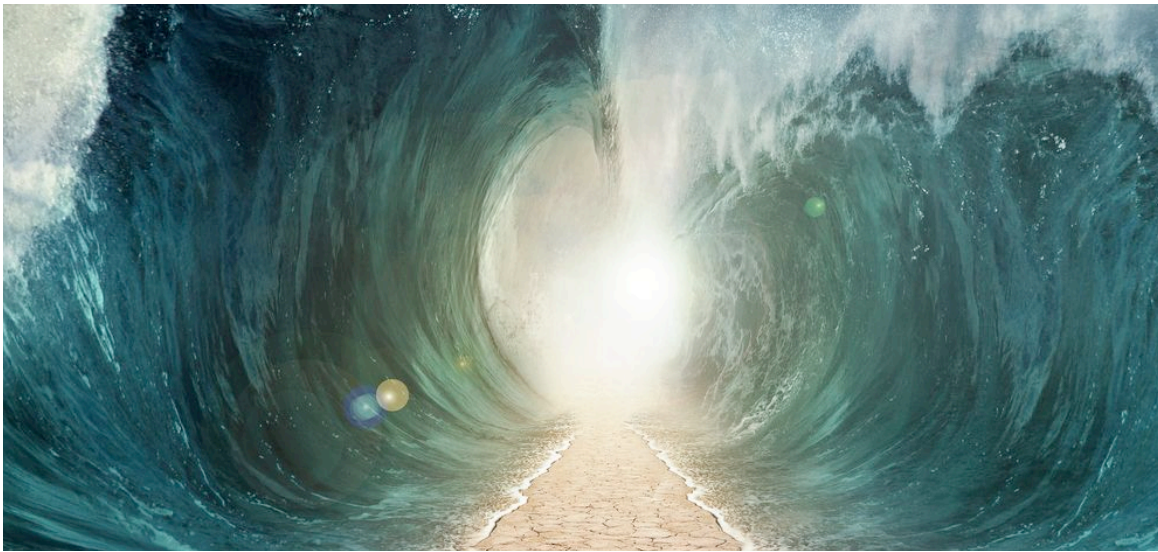


## Week 5: The Exodus

*“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians,  
and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.”*  
Exodus 19:4



As seen, the Egyptians were not an irreligious people, especially by modern standards. They recognized divine power working in the forces of nature all around them, and although they did not know the one God, through their worship of their various gods they paid homage to the divine power they had recognized in nature.

At the same time, the presence of the Israelites alongside the Egyptians was bound to be a separate force that could never integrate into the Egyptian way of life and worship: as we saw in class 3 the Israelites were and are a people set apart. Likewise, the Egyptian religion was so closely bound with their identity as a kingdom and people that only a great event catastrophe could have impelled them to integrate into the Israelites way of life and worship.

The word ‘plague’ actually means ‘wonder’ (our connotation of a bad phenomenon only comes from the ten plagues themselves). Many times the Ten Plagues are viewed as punishments of an angry God upon an irreligious people. However, this is not the only way that the events can be viewed. In history, the motivations of the actors involved are important. In this case, God is the actor and

cause and we must read very carefully to try and understand God's purpose in sending the plagues. Clues in the text reveal His purposes.

Readings:

- Exodus 4:27-31; 5; 6:1-13; 7-12; 14:5-31, 15; 19.
- Reading on the Egyptian gods and the plagues: <http://www.gotquestions.org/ten-plagues-Egypt.html>

This map tracks the passage of the Israelite out of Egypt and through the wilderness of Sinai. It will serve as a helpful reference as you go through your readings.

