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## Tsiyon News

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Divine Judgments Unfold

Exodus 9+10

### Divine Judgments Unfold

'This is what YHWH, the Elohim of the Hebrews, says: ".. I will send all my plagues against your heart, against your officials, and against your people; that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. 15 For now I would have stretched out my hand, and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth; 16 but indeed for this cause I have made you stand: to show in you my power, and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth." Exodus 9

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# The Mystery of the Shasu and the Name Yahweh in Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts

Reprint of article by Charles Aling, Clyde Billington, Gordon Govier: Jan 13, 2010: ASSIST News http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2010/s10010053.htm

"There is even a reference dating to ca. 1250 BC in Papyrus Anastasi I to a group of giant Shasu living in Canaan who may be identified with the giants encount-ered by the Israelites at the time of the Exodus. Clearly the Egyptians knew about Yahweh as can be seen in the Soleb and

### Amarah-West topographical lists, but they did not worship him, and they apparently did not want to worship him."

(St. Paul, Mn.)—The following are excerpts from an intriguing article published in ASSIST News. To read it in its entirety, click on the link provided.



The oldest historical mention of ancient Israel occurs in the Merneptah stele, an Egyptian monument dated to 1208 BC But mention of Israel's God, Yahweh, occurs even earlier in Egyptian inscriptions in conjunction with a group of people called the Shasu. (*Photo: the Merneptah stele*)

Among ancient Egyptian designations for types of foreign peoples in the New Kingdom Period (1550–1070 BC), the term Shasu occurs fairly frequently. It is generally accepted that the term Shasu means nomads or Bedouin people, referring primarily to the nomadic peoples of Syria-Palestine. There are two hieroglyphic references in New Kingdom Period texts to an area called "the land of the Shasu of Yahweh." Except for the Old Testament, these are the oldest references found in any ancient texts to the God Yahweh.It is very likely that the Egyptians of the New Kingdom Period classified all of the ancient Edomites, Ammonites, Moabites, Amalekites, Midianites, Kenites, Hapiru, and Israelites as Shasu.

There is even a reference dating to ca. 1250 BC in Papyrus Anastasi I to a group of giant Shasu living in Canaan who may be identified with the giants encountered by the Israelites at the time of the Exodus. Clearly the Egyptians knew about Yahweh

as can be seen in the Soleb and Amarah-West topographical lists, but they did not worship him, and they apparently did not want to worship him.

Nor was Yahweh equated to or identified with any Egyptian deity. There were no temples to Yahweh built by the Egyptians, nor were there any artistic representations made of him, or in fact even any discussions of him in Egyptian texts. It appears that the ancient Egyptians placed Yahweh into a category all by himself. To say the least, this is very strange for the syncretistic Egyptians. A possible explanation is that Yahweh was seen by the Egyptians as an enemy God, of an enemy tribal group which was a part of the hated Shasu peoples who lived north of Egypt.

Pharaoh Amenhotep III, or his scribes, knew about the Hebrew God Yahweh in 1400 BC. This fact is highly significant when trying to date the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt under Moses.

In conclusion, It is clear that there once was a group of Shasu Bedouin/nomads living in Syria-Palestine who were associated with either a deity or a place named Yahweh. It is also clear that the name Yahweh was known to the Egyptians in the 18th Dynasty during the reign of Pharaoh Amenhotep III.

We also know from the Old Testament that there were other worshippers of Yahweh in Canaan who did not go into Egypt and therefore did not leave Egypt at the time of the Exodus. The question thus arises, were they perhaps the Shasu of Yahweh mentioned at Soleb and Amarah?

Although we do not have all the information that we wish we did, it is significant that there are no mentions of the Shasu of Yahweh in Egyptian texts earlier than the reign of Amenhotep III... The reason may very well be because the Shasu of Yahweh were indeed the Israelites and that they were still living in Egypt in the early 18th Dynasty.

The fact that the Shasu of Yahweh first appear in topographical lists under Amenhotep III in ca. 1400 BC fits perfectly with the Early Date of the Exodus, but this fact presents major problems for those scholars who prefer a Late Date for the Exodus during the reign of Pharaoh Ramses II in the 13th century BC. In any case, these references to Yahweh have been ignored for far too long by both conservative and liberal Bible scholars.

It thus appears very likely that the Shasu of Yahweh, who are mentioned in the topographical texts at Soleb and Amarah-West, were the Israelites who by about 1400 BC had settled into their own land in the mountains of Canaan. It also appears that for the ancient Egyptians the one feature that distinguished the Israelites from all the other Shasu (Semitic herders) in this area was their worship of the God Yahweh.

To read the full article click here

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#### From Eliyahu

A number of authors have documented what appears to be a strange fixation of NASA with the gods of ancient Egyptian religion, the Osiris Rex ("King Osiris") mission being a current example. This is but one of many ways that ancient Egypt continues to cast its long shadow into our modern



world. Actually, the mysteries of ancient Egypt have been considered fascinating by many, from the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans forward. In fact, the Greeks and Romans were so enamored with ancient Egypt that they perpetuated much of the knowledge, culture and even religion of ancient Egypt by incorporating and adapting it within their own respective spheres of influence. An interesting example is the Egyptian phalic symbol known as an obelisk, a massive upright stone pole tipped with a pyramid shape. *Wikipedia* explains:

The Ancient Romans were strongly influenced by the obelisk form, to the extent that there are now more than twice as many obelisks standing in Rome as remain in Egypt .. The largest obelisk successfully erected in ancient times weighed 455 tons .. All fell after the Roman period except for the Vatican obelisk and were re-erected in different locations .. Rome is the obelisk capital

of the world. The most prominent is the 25 metres (82 ft), 331-ton obelisk at Saint Peter's Square in Rome. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obelisk]



Obelisks are just one example of Ancient Egyptian influence that continues down to our day. The same pagan Egyptian religion that inspired the creation

of obelisks influences our world in ways you might never have guessed. It is this same religious philosophy that was totally repudiated by YHWH through the Ten Plagues He brought on Egypt, leading up to the Exodus. The mystery religion of ancient Egypt, remarkably, remains a formidable competitor, even today, with the true worship of the one and only True God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, YHWH. The old pagan religion of Egypt is being covertly revived in our day. Incredibly, initiation into the Egyptian cult religion goes on around us on a massive scale, influencing millions, possibly, even ourselves. Don't think so? Listen to our latest Midrash for concrete examples, and open your eyes.

Blessings and Shalom!

Eliyahu ben David www.tsiyon.org

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