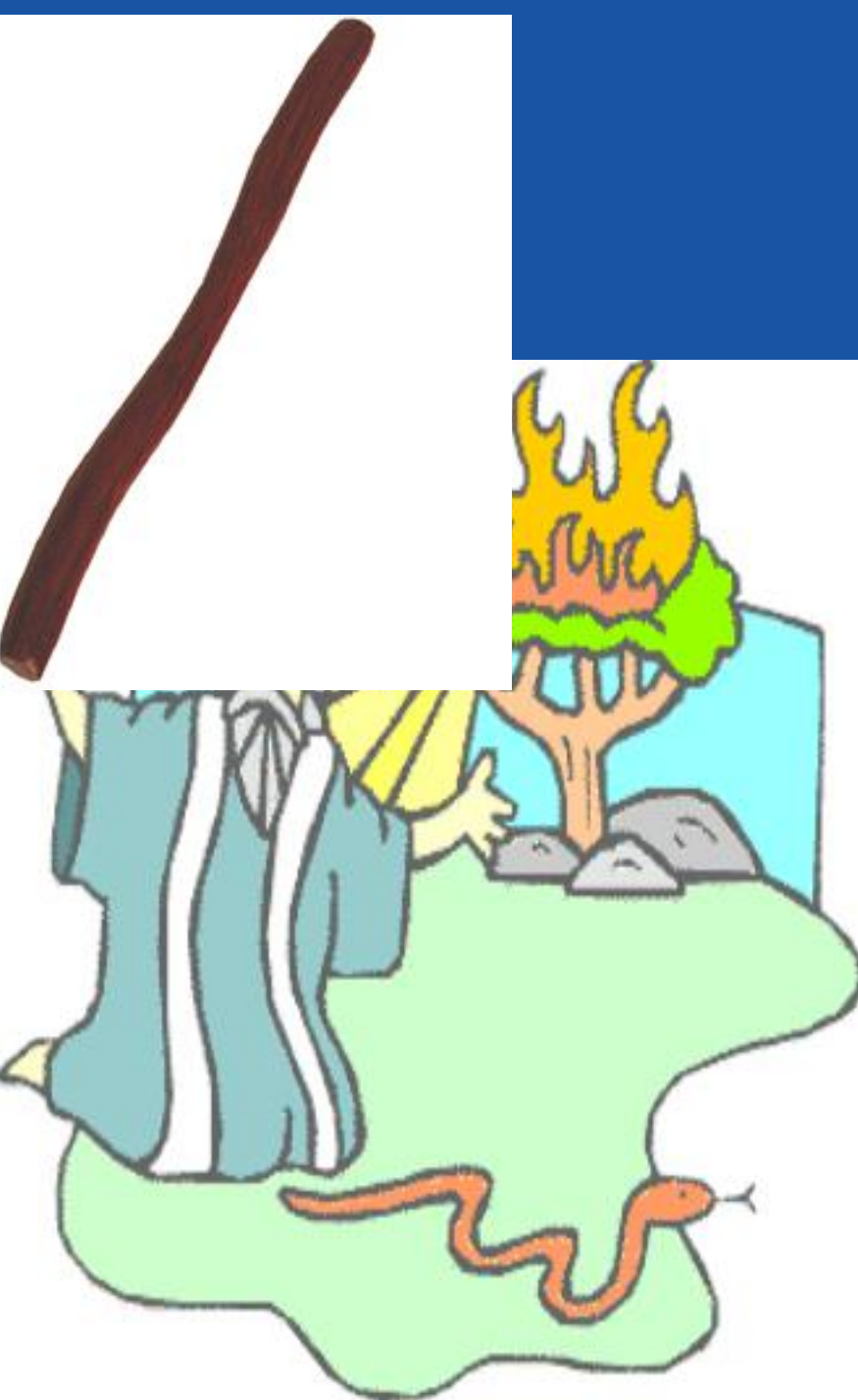


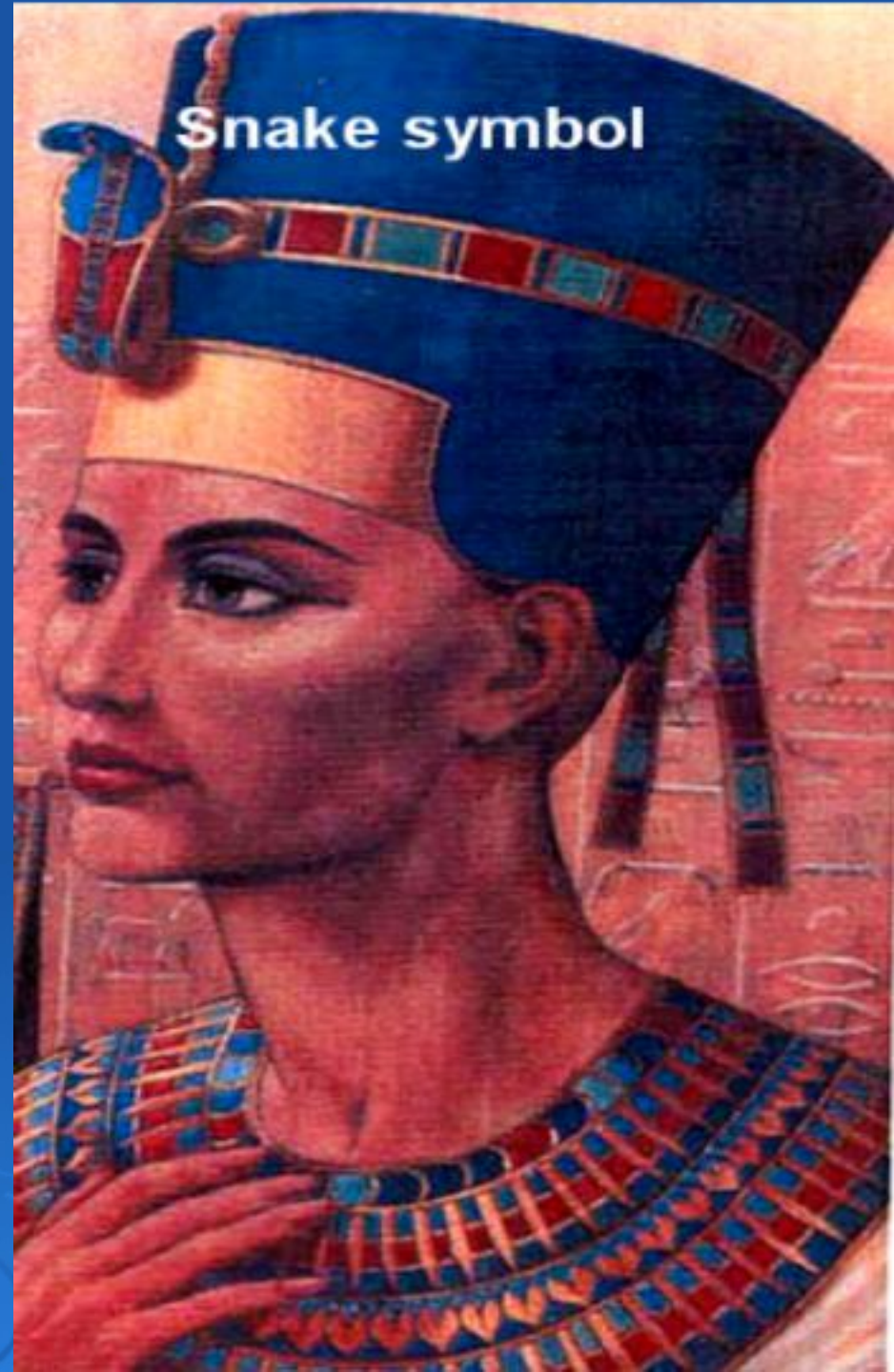
EXODUS CHAPTER 4



- Biblical theophanies are rare
- Last recorded was with Jacob, 500 years earlier
- Moses, a reluctant Prophet
- God gives Moses proofs
- Moses given right to wield God's power
- He did NOT become a magician

THE STAFF AND THE SNAKE

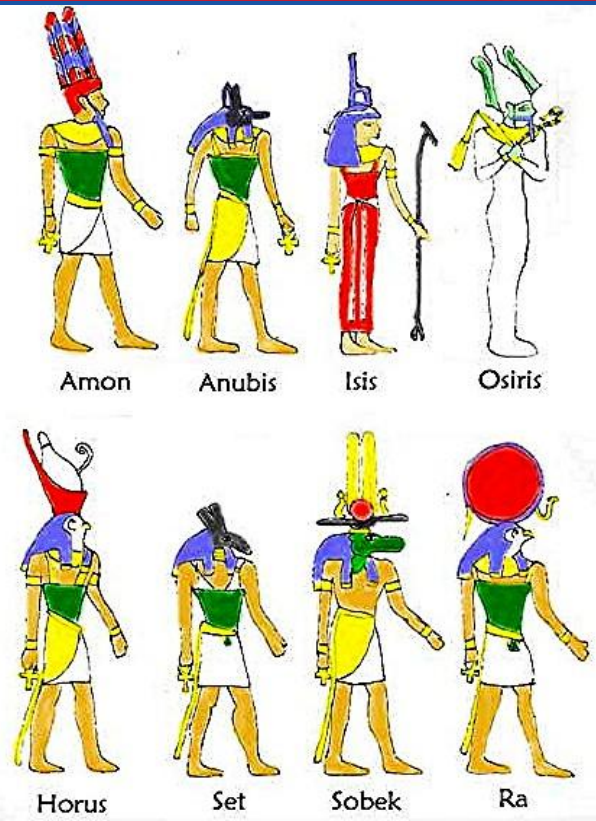
- Serpent was the Egyptian symbol for royal power
- Cobra-goddess of Lower Egypt
- Moses clean hand became diseased as the 2nd sign
- Israel began as pure, but became impure
- Diseased hand was NOT Leprosy
- Tzara'at = any number of skin diseases
- Indicated outward sign of inward spiritual condition





GOD ABOVE ALL GODS

- Nile itself was a god
- Blood central to the divine plan
- In that era, gods were territorial
- All Mystery Babylon religions operated in basically the same way
- Israel did not quickly believe that there was only ONE God
- For Israel “God above all gods” was literal



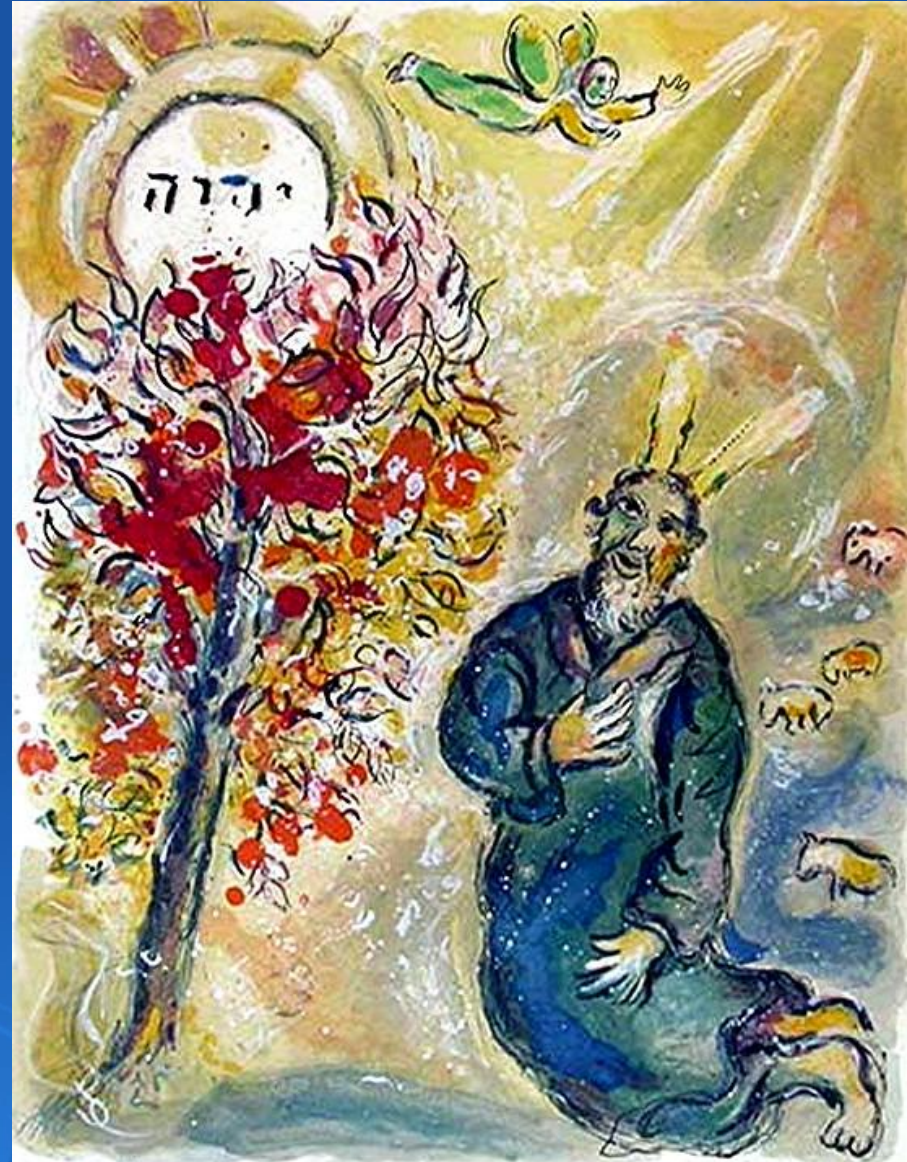
HEBREWS BELIEVED IN OTHER GODS

- **“No other god”** Ex. 20 was NOT a symbolic meaning
- Whole world believed in many gods
- El, the god of Israel, permitted them but **ONE God**
- Israel considered “god-poor”
- It took a long time for Israel to understand that **ONE GOD** is all there was
- The Lord begins with us right where we are



A VERBAL WRESTLING MATCH

- Moses says he can't speak well
- God's response: "Who gives a man a mouth?"
- God says He will be there with Moses during his mission
- Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh = I will be there howsoever I will be there
- God's presence will be external to Moses, not within as for today's Believers
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- Shekinah, Angel of Yahweh also manifestations of God



AARON WITH BE MOSES' MOUTH



- Moses will be “as God” to Aaron!
- Moses to carry same authority as God Himself
- Similar authority as Yeshua
- No wonder Moses didn't want the job
- Moses is told the men who wanted to kill him are dead
- Time for Moses to go back to Egypt

PHARAOH'S HARDENED HEART

- We're told that GOD would harden Pharaoh's heart
- Is that fair?
- Does God harden hearts so that people can NOT be saved?
- God tells Moses IN ADVANCE that Pharaoh's heart will be hard
- Story of Moses and Pharaoh uses "harden" 20 times
- 10 times God hardens Pharaoh
- 10 times Pharaoh hardens himself



PRACTICAL LESSONS

- God will NOT always strive with man
- There comes a time when He leaves us in our hardened condition, and we are destroyed
- Sometimes the already rebellious man will have his heart FURTHER hardened for God's purposes to be carried out
- At other times that further hardening is to BRING that man to brokenness and salvation
- Change usually ONLY occurs when our pain is great enough
- Proverbs 29: ***"...he that hardens himself shall suddenly be destroyed, and for that there is no remedy..."***

PHARAOH IS TO FREE GOD'S FIRSTBORN: ISRAEL



- Moses did not approach Pharaoh as a rebel, but as a prophet of God
- Firstborn ALWAYS a male
- Implication of firstborn is that others will follow
- God threatens to kill Pharaoh's firstborn, since Pharaoh will not release HIS firstborn: ISRAEL
- Firstborns are heirs to the kingdom

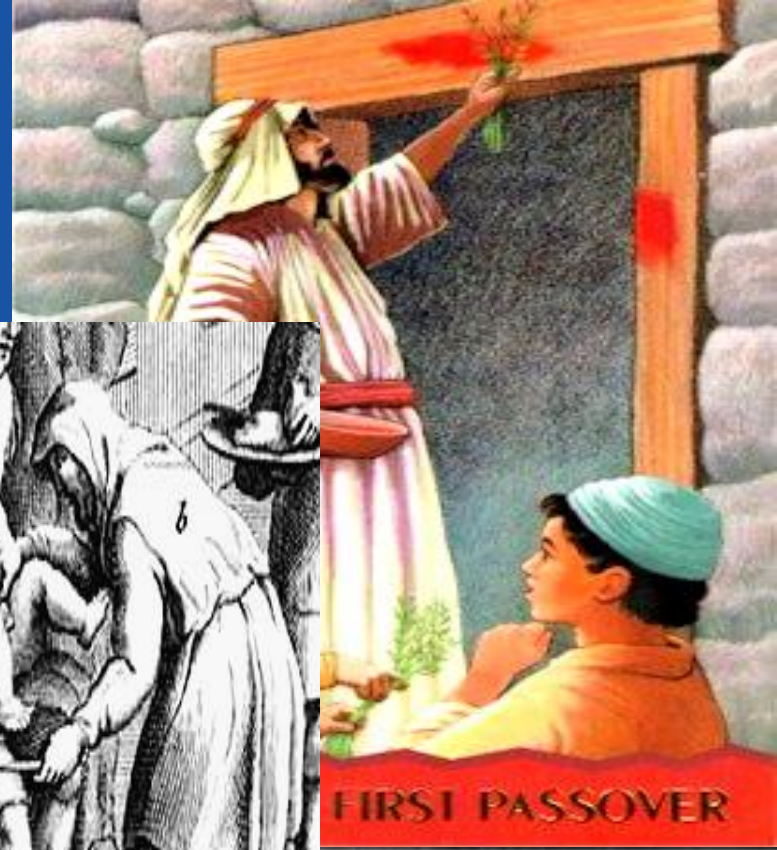
TZIPPORA CIRCUMCISES MOSES' SON



- I think the threat was aimed not at Moses, but his son
- Father's duty to perform the circumcision
- Moses was NOT a strong man, didn't even circumcise his own son
- Tzippora had at Moses for choosing THIS God that demanded blood

THE CIRCUMCISION CONNECTION

- Circumcision, Passover, and Christ's death are all organically connected!
- 1) Something has to die
- 2) Element of separation
- 3) Blood is central
- Tziphora did the circumcision
- Karet = cut-off
- Karet means separated from God's people and from God



CUT-OFF

- Karet not the proper word for ordinary cutting
- When cutting rope, meat, other Hebrew words are used: natach, gazith, batar, milah
- Act of circumcision is called B'rit-Milah, means "cut a covenant"
- Removal of foreskin (piece of flesh) is separated and dies.
- Foreskin is literally buried in the ground
- NT: We die to the flesh
- Foreskin: dies, separated
- Passover: all die who do not use the blood, separated
- Christ: physical body died, separated
- ***My God, My God, why have you forsaken (left, separated from) me!***
- Aaron goes to meet Moses at Mt. Horeb