

Name(s):

Date:

Period:

## Three Ways to Look at the Ten Plagues

**Directions:** Use the article to answer the questions below.

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1. What pattern in the plague narratives was noticed by Rabbi Rashbam in the 12<sup>th</sup> century?
2. What pattern was noticed by Bahya ben Asher in the 13th Century and Don Isaac Abravanel in the 15th Century?
3. How do the plague narratives differ from the curse lists in Leviticus and Deuteronomy?
4. Briefly explain how the plague narratives can be understood in terms of Egypt's ecosystem.

5. What are weaknesses of this explanation?
6. Briefly explain how the plague narratives can be understood as a series of attacks on the Egyptian pantheon (explain which plagues specifically correspond to Egyptian gods), and explain the relevance of the connection.
7. What are the weaknesses of this explanation?
8. Briefly explain how the plague narratives can be understood in light of the creation story in Genesis. Specifically list the parallels between the two stories, and explain the relevance of the connection.

9. Why does the author believe the fact that there are specifically ten plagues is significant?

10. To what extent does the author believe that the plague narratives can be considered historical?

11. What is his proposed reconstruction of how all of these explanations might be taken into account, giving us a more complete understanding of the plague narratives?