

# Numbers 33:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

## Analysis

---

The Egyptians burying their firstborn 'whom the LORD had smitten' while Israel departed demonstrates that God's judgment and redemption occur simultaneously. While Egypt mourned, Israel celebrated. The additional note that God 'executed judgments also upon their gods' teaches that the plagues were not just natural disasters but theological judgments against Egypt's false deities. The Reformed understanding that God's salvation inherently involves judgment on sin and falsehood is powerfully illustrated here.

## Historical Context

---

Each plague had targeted specific Egyptian deities—the Nile (Hapi), the sun (Ra), etc. The death of the firstborn struck at Pharaoh himself, considered a god. The plagues demonstrated that Egypt's gods were powerless before Israel's God. While Egyptians buried their sons and mourned their gods' impotence, Israel marched free, vindicated by the true God's power.

## Related Passages

---

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

---

1. How does God's judgment on false gods demonstrate His exclusive claim to worship?
2. What does simultaneous judgment and redemption teach about God's holiness?
3. In what ways does the gospel include both deliverance for believers and judgment for unbelief?

## Interlinear Text

---

וּמִצְרַיִם For the Egyptians H4714	מִקְבְּרֵי יָם buried H6912	אֶת H853	אֲשֶׁר H834	הָכָה had smitten H5221	יְהוָה also the LORD H3068
כָּל H0	בְּנֵי H3605	אֶת H1060	וּבְאֵל הֵימָּן among them upon their gods H430	עָשָׂה executed H6213	
יְהוָה also the LORD H3068	שְׁפָטִים judgments H8201				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Exodus 12:12** (Judgment): For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

**Isaiah 19:1** (References Lord): The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

**Exodus 18:11** (References God): Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

**Zephaniah 2:11** (References God): The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)