



The seven plagues of Egypt: An assessment of past and present heavy rainfall at Thebes (Egypt)

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Natural disasters have often shaped human history, sometimes opening new perspectives, in other cases blocking the development of the society or driving important changes. From this point of view it is important the knowledge of the past in order not only to understand the evolution of the human history in the past, but also to contribute to the understanding of the present evolution and to possibly contribute to the solution of current problems related to changes of natural environmental conditions, including climate

In the framework of the national project “Plagues of Egypt”, a complex and multidisciplinary study is being conducted on the natural disasters in ancient Egypt, including eruptions, earthquakes, floods and wars, famines and epidemics analyzing a series of different sources including, among others, archaeological data and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

A database has been compiled containing details of several heavy rain events occurred in ancient Egypt at Thebes (the actual Luxor), and will be presented for the first time, together with the results of a comparison between episodes from the past with torrential rain episodes occurred in the last 30 years. An attempt is also made to explain the atmospheric dynamics leading to heavy rainfall in the past and in the present in an arid context such as Thebes region, and results will be presented.