

Exodus 10:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

Analysis

Verse 20 describes the locust plague, targeting Osiris (agriculture god) and Isis (grain goddess). Moses warns locusts will 'cover the face of the earth' and devour everything the hail left. Pharaoh's servants beg him to relent, recognizing Egypt's destruction.

Historical Context

Osiris ruled agriculture and resurrection, while Isis protected crops. Locusts were ancient Near Eastern terror, but this swarm's density exceeded natural plague. The total devastation left Egypt economically ruined.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God demonstrate His power through natural means taken to supernatural extremes?
2. What does Pharaoh's servants' fear teach about recognizing God's hand in judgment?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּחַזֵּק	יְהוָה	אֶת	לִב	פַּרְעֹה	וְלֹא	חָלַח	אֶת
hardened	But the LORD	H853	heart	Pharaoh's	H3808	go	H853
H2388	H3068		H3820	H6547		H7971	
וְכִן יִבְנֶה				יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
so that he would not let the children				of Israel			
H1121				H3478			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 4:21 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

Exodus 11:10 (References Lord): And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

Deuteronomy 2:30 (References Lord): But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.