

Exodus 10:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

Analysis

Verse 21 introduces the plague of darkness, directly targeting Ra, Egypt's supreme sun god. Darkness covered Egypt for three days—'darkness which may be felt' (v.21)—while Israel had light in Goshen. This penultimate plague strikes at Egypt's chief deity.

Historical Context

Ra, the sun god, was Pharaoh's divine father and Egypt's supreme deity. His daily journey across sky sustained cosmic order (ma'at). Three days of darkness demonstrated Ra's impotence and YHWH's absolute supremacy over Egypt's highest god.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this plague reveal the ultimate showdown between YHWH and Egypt's gods?

2. What does the light in Goshen symbolize about God's people?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	נָטָה	יָדוֹ	עַל
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	Stretch out	thine hand	H5921
H559	H3068		H4872	H5186	H3027	
הַשָּׁמַיִם	יְהוָה	חֹשֶׁךְ	עַל	אֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	
toward heaven	H1961	even darkness	H5921	over the land	of Egypt	
H8064		H2822		H776	H4714	
וַיִּהְיֶה	חֹשֶׁךְ					
which may be felt	even darkness					
H4959	H2822					

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:4 (Darkness): For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2 Peter 2:17 (Darkness): These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

Luke 23:44 (Darkness): And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

Jude 1:6 (Darkness): And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Psalms 105:28 (Darkness): He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word.

Proverbs 4:19 (Darkness): The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Mark 15:33 (Darkness): And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Exodus 9:22 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.

Matthew 27:45 (Darkness): Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Deuteronomy 28:29 (Darkness): And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.