

Exodus 10:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Analysis

Verse 23 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

לֹא	רָאוּ	אִישׁ	אֶת	אֲחֵיו	וְלֹא	קָמוּ	אִישׁ	מִתַּחַת יוֹ
H3808	They saw	any	H853	another	H3808	neither rose	any	H8478
	H7200	H376		H251		H6965	H376	
	שָׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים	וְלֹכֵל	בְּנֵי		יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְ	הָ
	from his place for three	days	H3605	but all the children		of Israel		H1961
	H7969	H3117		H1121		H3478		
	אִם	אֶת	בְּמִוְשְׁבֵיהֶם:					
	had light	in their dwellings						
	H216	H4186						

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 8:22 (Parallel theme): And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

Isaiah 42:16 (Light): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Exodus 9:4 (References Israel): And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.

1 Peter 2:9 (Light): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: