

Exodus 10:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Analysis

Verse 27 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

וַיִּחַזֵּק	יְהוָה	אֶת	לֵב	פַּרְעֹה	וְלֹא	אָבָה
hardened	But the LORD	H853	heart	Pharaoh's	H3808	and he would
H2388	H3068		H3820	H6547		H14

לֹא־יִשְׁלַח־ם׃
not let them go
H7971

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 10:20 (References Lord): But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

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 14:4 (References Lord): And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

Exodus 14:8 (References Lord): And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.