

# Exodus 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

## Analysis

**And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land** (וְהָיָה אִם-לֹא יֵאֱמִינוּ גַם לִשְׁנֵי הָאֵתוֹת) וְהָיָה אִם-לֹא יִשְׁמָעוּן לְקוֹלְךָ וְלָקַחְתָּ מִמִּימֵי הַיָּאֵר וְשָׁפַכְתָּ הַבִּצָּה וְהָיָה הַמַּיִם אֶשֶׁר תִּקַּח מִן-הַיָּאֵר וְהָיָה לְדָם (בְּבִשָּׁת)—The third sign: **water... shall become blood**. The **river** (הַיָּאֵר, haye'or)—the Nile, Egypt's lifeline and deity. Turning Nile water to blood attacks Egypt's chief god and foreshadows the first plague (7:17-21). Blood represents death, judgment, and God's sovereignty over nature and false gods. This sign escalates from personal (rod/leprosy) to national/environmental judgment. If Israel remains skeptical after three signs, they're beyond reasonable doubt into willful unbelief. The blood sign previews the plagues' ultimate purpose: demonstrating YHWH's supremacy over all Egyptian deities.

## Historical Context

The Nile was sacred to Egypt—source of life, irrigation, transportation, and associated with gods like Hapi (Nile god) and Osiris. Turning it to blood was theological warfare, showing YHWH's supremacy. The first plague would be this

sign writ large—all Egypt's waters turned to blood (7:19-21). The contrast between death (blood) and life (water) symbolizes the choice between YHWH and false gods.

## **Related Passages**

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does the water-to-blood sign demonstrate God's power over both natural resources and the spiritual forces nations trust in?
2. What 'Nile rivers'—sources of life and security—does God call you to recognize as under His sovereign control, not autonomous powers?

וְהָיָה H1961	אִם H518	לֹא H3808	וְאָמַר יָנוּ H539		גַּם H1571
And it shall come to pass if they will not believe					
אֵלֶּם H8147	לְשׁוֹנֵי H226	וְהָיָה H428	וְלֹא H3808	וְשָׁמְעוּ H8085	לְקוֹלִי H6963
also	these two	signs	neither	hearken	unto thy voice
וְתָקַח H3947	הָאָרֶץ H4325	וְהַמַּיִם H2975	הַנָּהָר H8210	וְשָׁפַכְתָּ H3004	הַיָּבֵשׁ H1961
that thou shalt take	land and the water	of the river	and pour	it upon the dry	
וְהָיָה H1961	הָאָרֶץ H4325	וְהַמַּיִם H834	וְתָקַח H3947	מִן H4480	הַנָּהָר H2975
land and the water	that thou shalt take	of the river			
וְהָיָה H1818	לְדָם H3006	בַּיָּבֵשׁ H3006			
shall become	blood	upon the dry			