

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 (בַּקְרָה אָמַן לֹא יָמִינוּ גַם לְשָׁבֵן הַאֲתֹהֶת) פֶּאֲלָה וְלֹא יְשִׁמְעוּן לְקַלְבָּן וְלִקְרָחָת מִמְּיָמִים בְּיָמֵר וְשִׁפְכַּת הַבָּשָׂה וְפִיו הַמִּים אֲשֶׁר תִּקְחֶחָ מִן-הַיָּם וְפִיו לְדִם (בְּבָשָׂת)—The third sign: **water... shall become blood**. The **river** (הַיָּם, 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵם יִנְחַלְתִּי	וְאֵם יִנְחַלְתִּי	וְאֵם יִנְחַלְתִּי
H1961	H518	H3808
And it shall come to pass if they will not believe		H1571
	H539	
לְקַלְלָה בְּנֵי שְׁמֻעָה וְאֵלָה בְּנֵי לְשָׁנָה יִ	לְקַלְלָה בְּנֵי שְׁמֻעָה וְאֵלָה בְּנֵי לְשָׁנָה יִ	לְקַלְלָה בְּנֵי שְׁמֻעָה וְאֵלָה בְּנֵי לְשָׁנָה יִ
also these two signs	H428	H3808
H8147	H226	H8085
neither hearken unto thy voice		H6963
תַּקְלֵחַ תְּ	תַּקְלֵחַ תְּ	תַּקְלֵחַ תְּ
that thou shalt take land and the water	H4325	H2975
H3947		H8210
פִּיאָר וְשִׁפְכַּת הַבְּשָׂר הַ	פִּיאָר וְשִׁפְכַּת הַבְּשָׂר הַ	פִּיאָר וְשִׁפְכַּת הַבְּשָׂר הַ
of the river and pour it upon the dry		H3004
וְאֵם יִנְחַלְתִּי	וְאֵם יִנְחַלְתִּי	וְאֵם יִנְחַלְתִּי
H1961	land and the water	H1961
H4325	H834	H2975
that thou shalt take of the river	H3947	H4480
בְּשָׂתָן לְ	בְּשָׂתָן לְ	בְּשָׂתָן לְ
shall become blood upon the dry	H3006	
H1818		

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