

Exodus 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.

Analysis

Verse 16 in the first plague narrative describes the Nile turning to blood. This targets Hapi, Egyptian god of the Nile, demonstrating YHWH's supremacy over Egypt's life source. The water that sustains Egypt becomes death, reversing the blessing.

Historical Context

The Nile was Egypt's lifeline, worshipped as divine. Hapi's annual flood determined Egypt's prosperity. The plague striking Egypt's water supply while Goshen remained unaffected (8:22-23) demonstrates selective judgment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this plague reveal God's sovereignty over creation and false gods?
2. What modern 'life sources' do people trust instead of God?

Interlinear Text

שְׁלַח	קָרְבָּנִים	אֱלֹהִים	הָיָה	אֶל	לְאָמֵן	רַ
go	of the Hebrews	God	is	unto him	The LORD	say
H7971	H5680	H430	H3068	H413	And thou shalt say	
						H559
יְשִׁיבֵךְ	נִ	עַמּ	וְ	אֶת	שְׁלַח	לְאָמֵן
serve	that they may	people	that	you	go	say
H5647	H5971	H853	H413	H7971	And thou shalt say	
						H559
עַד	שְׁמַע	עַתָּה	לֹא	וְהִנֵּה	בְּמִדְבָּר	רַ
until	hear	now	not	Behold	in the wilderness	you
H5704	H8085	H3808	H2009	H4057	me in the wilderness	
						H4057
כֹּה:						
and behold	hitherto					
						H3541

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:18 (References God): And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

Exodus 9:1 (References God): Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 9:13 (References God): And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 3:12 (References God): And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

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