

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

Psalms 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

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|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| לֵאמֹר | אֵל יוֹ | יְהוָה | אֱלֹהֵי | הָעִבְרִים | שָׁלַח |
| And thou shalt say | H413 | unto him The LORD | God | of the Hebrews | go |
| H559 | | H3068 | H430 | H5680 | H7971 |
| אֵל יוֹ | לֵאמֹר | שָׁלַח | אֶת | עַמִּי | וַיַּעֲבֹד נִי |
| H413 | And thou shalt say | go | H853 | Let my people | that they may serve |
| | H559 | H7971 | | H5971 | H5647 |
| בַּמִּדְבָּר | וְהִנֵּה | לֹא | שָׁמַעְתָּ | עַד | |
| me in the wilderness | H2009 | H3808 | thou wouldst not hear | H5704 | |
| H4057 | | | H8085 | | |
| 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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