

Exodus 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

Analysis

Verse 17 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| כֹּה | אָמַר | יְהוָה | בְּזֹאת | תֵּדַע | כִּי |
| H3541 | Thus saith | that I am the LORD | H2063 | In this thou shalt know | H3588 |
| | H559 | H3068 | | H3045 | |
| אֲנִי | יְהוָה | הִנֵּה | אֲנֹכִי | מִכָּה | בַּמֶּטֶה |
| H589 | that I am the LORD | H2009 | H595 | behold I will smite | with the rod |
| | H3068 | | | H5221 | H4294 |
| אֲשֶׁר | בְּיָדִי | עַל | הַמַּיִם | אֲשֶׁר | בַּיָּאֵר |
| H834 | that is in mine hand | H5921 | upon the waters | H834 | which are in the river |
| | H3027 | | H4325 | | H2975 |
| וְנִהְפְּכוּ | | לְדָם: | | | |
| and they shall be turned | | to blood | | | |
| H2015 | | H1818 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 4:9 (Blood): 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.

Exodus 7:5 (References Lord): And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Exodus 5:2 (References Lord): And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

Psalms 9:16 (References Lord): The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

Ezekiel 38:23 (References Lord): Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 39:28 (References Lord): Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

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