

Exodus 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Verse 1 describes the plague on livestock, targeting Apis bull cult and Hathor cow goddess. God strikes Egyptian livestock while Israelite animals remain healthy. The 'set time' (מוֹעֵד, moed—appointed time) emphasizes God's sovereignty over timing.

Historical Context

Apis bull represented Ptah's fertility and strength. Hathor, cow goddess, symbolized motherhood and music. Egyptians worshipped cattle as sacred; their death struck at core religious identity while demonstrating YHWH's power over life.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's precise timing demonstrate His sovereignty?
2. What idols masquerading as 'life-givers' has God exposed in your experience?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	בֹּא	אֵל	פַּרְעֹה
him Thus saith	Then the LORD	H413	unto Moses	Go	H413	in unto Pharaoh
H559	H3068		H4872	H935		H6547
וְדַבֵּרְתָּ	אֵלָיו	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	הָעִבְרִים
and tell	H413	H3541	him Thus saith	Then the LORD	God	of the Hebrews
H1696			H559	H3068	H430	H5680
אֶת שְׁלַח	עַמִּי	יַעֲבֹדֵנִי				
go	H853	Let my people	that they may serve			
H7971		H5971	H5647			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 8:1 (References Lord): And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 10:3 (References God): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 8:20 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, 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.