

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' (*תִּזְמֹן*, 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

פַּרְעֹה אֶל בְּאַל מֵשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה אָמַר
in unto Pharaoh Go unto Moses Then the LORD Thus saith him him
H6547 H413 H4872 H935 H3068 H413
Am 559 3068 413 935 3068 413

בְּאַל יְהוָה אָמַר יְהוָה אֶל יְהוָה אָמַר
of the Hebrews God Then the LORD Thus saith him him and tell
H5680 H430 H3068 H559 H3541 H413
Al 6547 430 3068 559 3541 413

לְעַבְדֵנִי יְהוָה אֶת שְׁלֹחֶנִי
that they may serve Let my people go go
H5647 H5971 H853 H7971
Al 6547 5971 853 7971

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.