

Exodus 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

Analysis

Verse 12 introduces the plague of boils (שְׁחִנָּה, shechin—infamed sores), targeting Sekhmet (goddess of healing) and Imhotep (god of medicine). The magicians themselves are afflicted and cannot stand before Moses. This plague physically marks Egypt's defeat.

Historical Context

Sekhmet was lioness goddess who both caused and healed disease. Imhotep, deified architect, became god of healing. Their inability to prevent or cure boils demonstrates YHWH's supremacy over health and disease.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the magicians' personal affliction teach about false religion's impotence?
2. How does physical suffering sometimes reveal spiritual realities?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמַע עַל אֶלְפָתָן הַבָּבֶן לְבָבֵךְ אַת יְהִי הַלְּבָב הַפָּרָעָה כִּי יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ
hardened And the LORD H853 the heart of Pharaoh H3808 and he hearkened H8085
H2388 H3068 H3820 H6547

מֹשֶׁה אֶל יְהִי הַלְּבָב דָּבָר פָּאֵשׁ רָאָשׁ בְּאָשָׁר אֶלְפָתָן
unto Moses H413 And the LORD H3068 had spoken H834 H1696

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 4:21 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

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