

Exodus 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still,

Analysis

Verse 2 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אַם כִּי

H3588

אַם

H518

כִּי מֵאַת

For if thou refuse

H3986

אַתָּה מֵאַת

H859

לְשַׁלְמָה

to let them go

H7971

מְכִזֵּין יְהִי יְשִׁיבָה

H5750

וְאַתָּה תְּהִלֵּן

and wilt hold

H2388

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H0

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 8:2 (Parallel theme): And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:

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