

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' (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

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

כִּי	אִם	מֵאֵל	אֶתְּ	לְשַׁלְּחַם	וְעוֹדְךָ	מִמֶּנִּי יִקַּח
H3588	H518	For if thou refuse	H859	to let them go	H5750	and wilt hold
		H3986		H7971		H2388
:וְאֶתְּ						
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: