

Exodus 9:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled.

Analysis

Verse 31 describes the plague of hail with fire, targeting Nut (sky goddess) and Seth (storm god). This unprecedented storm combines hail and fire, destroying crops and livestock left in fields. God reveals 'there is none like me in all the earth' (v.14).

Historical Context

Nut, sky goddess, arched over earth as protective dome. Seth controlled storms and chaos. The storm's supernatural nature—fire and ice together—proves divine origin. Only those who 'feared the word of the LORD' (v.20) saved their livestock.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God use creation to reveal His power?
2. What does the response of God-fearing Egyptians (v.20) teach about individual faith?

Interlinear Text

וְהַפֹּשֶׁת הַ	הַשְּׁעָרָה	נֶכַח תָּה	כִּי	הַשְּׁעָרָה	אֶבְיב
And the flax	and the barley	was smitten	H3588	and the barley	was in the ear
H6594	H8184	H5221		H8184	H24
וְהַפֹּשֶׁת הַ	גִּבָּעָל:				
And the flax	was bolled				
H6594	H1392				

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 1:22 (Parallel theme): So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth 2:23 (Parallel theme): So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.