

Exodus 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.

Analysis

Verse 4 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְהִפָּלְהָה	וְהָיָה	בַּיּוֹם	מִקְנֵה הָאָרֶץ	וְשִׂמְרֵהָ לְ	וְיִבְיֶה	מִקְנֵה הָאָרֶץ
shall sever	And the LORD	H996	and the cattle	of Israel	H996	and the cattle
H6395	H3068		H4735	H3478		H4735
מִמִּצְרַיִם	וְלֹא	יָמָּוֶת	מִכָּל	לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל		
of Egypt	H3808	die	H3605	of all that is the children's	of Israel	
H4714		H4191		H1121	H3478	

וְכֵן יִהְיֶה
and there shall nothing
H1697

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 8:22 (References Lord): And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.