

Psalms 105:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

Analysis

The seventh plague (hail, Exodus 9:22-26) is recounted here. The Hebrew emphasizes the transformation: instead of rain (blessing), God gave hail (judgment). 'Flaming fire' refers to lightning mingled with hail, creating an unprecedented supernatural storm. This plague challenged Nut (sky goddess), Shu (air god), and Tefnut (moisture goddess). The agricultural devastation demonstrated God's authority over Egypt's economic foundation. Reformed theology sees this as common grace withdrawn—God sustains all creation, but in judgment He may remove His preserving hand, revealing creation's dependence on Him.

Historical Context

This plague fell during the barley and flax harvest season (Exodus 9:31-32), maximizing economic impact. Egypt's wealth depended on agricultural exports, making this judgment particularly severe. The psalm's recounting reminds Israel that their deliverance came through God's active judgment on their oppressors, not through natural circumstances or human strength.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the withdrawal of God's common grace reveal our dependence on Him?
2. What agricultural and economic 'gods' do modern societies trust instead of the Creator?
3. How should God's control over nature affect environmental stewardship and policy?

Interlinear Text

נָתַן	לְשִׁמְיָהֶם	בָּרַד	אֵשׁ	לִקְבֹּב וְתִתֵּן	בְּאַרְצָם:
He gave	for rain	them hail	fire	and flaming	in their land
H5414	H1653	H1259	H784	H3852	H776

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