

# Psalms 78:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

## Analysis

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**And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.** The first plague (Exodus 7:14-25) attacked Egypt's lifeline—the Nile. *Yě'ōr* (יְאָרֶר, "rivers") specifically denotes the Nile and its channels. *Nōzēl* (נֹזֶל, "floods") means flowing streams or tributaries. God transformed Egypt's source of life into death.

*Dām* (דָם, "blood") represented both death and defilement. The plague made water undrinkable, killed fish, and created a stench—total corruption of Egypt's water supply. This directly challenged Hapi, the Nile-god Egyptians believed brought annual inundation and fertility. Yahweh demonstrated control over what Egypt worshiped.

The plague's theological significance extends beyond Egypt: blood represents life in biblical theology, and the Nile turned to blood foreshadowed the Passover blood that would bring life to Israel while bringing death to Egypt. Ultimately, it points to Christ's blood that transforms death into life for all who trust Him.

## Historical Context

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The Nile was Egypt's everything—irrigation, transportation, fishing, and religious devotion. Annual flooding deposited nutrient-rich silt, enabling agriculture. Turning it to blood for seven days (Exodus 7:25) was ecological, economic, and theological catastrophe simultaneously.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What "life sources" do you depend on that God might need to expose as insufficient?
2. How does God challenging Egypt's false gods parallel His claim on every area of your life?
3. What does the plague's severity teach about God's determination to free His people?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּלֹא נַזְלִיכָּם יָאִרְיָה מִלְּזָם תַּעֲשֵׂפָה  
And had turned into blood their rivers and their floods H1077

H2015

H1818

H2975

H5140

וְשִׁבְעִים:

that they could not drink

H8354

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 105:29** (Blood): He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish.

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