

Psalms 78:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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 (יַאֲר, "rivers") specifically denotes the Nile and its channels. Nōzēl (נֹזֵל, "floods") means flowing streams or tributaries. God transformed Egypt's source of life into death.

Dām (דָּם, "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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וַיַּהַפֵּךְ	לְדָם	וְאֶרְיָהֶם	וְנַזְלֵיהֶם	בַּל
And had turned	into blood	their rivers	and their floods	H1077
H2015	H1818	H2975	H5140	

וְשָׁתוּן:
that they could not drink
H8354

Additional Cross-References

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