

Deuteronomy 28:68

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

Analysis

And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships—this reverses the Exodus, Israel's founding narrative. The Hebrew *wēhešîḇākā* YHWH *mišrayim* *bā'ōniyyōt* (וְהֵשִׁיבְךָ יְהוָה מִצְרַיִם בְּאֹנִיּוֹת) 'and the LORD will return you to Egypt in ships') means literal return to slavery. **By the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again** references God's promise in Deuteronomy 17:16 that Israel would never return to Egypt. **And there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you**—so worthless that even as slaves, no one wants you.

This final curse epitomizes total reversal: from freedom to slavery, from Promised Land to Egypt, from God's treasured possession to rejected merchandise. 'With ships' may reference slave ships or deportation vessels. The phrase 'no man shall buy you' is devastating—valueless even as slaves. After the Bar Kokhba revolt (AD 135), Romans sold so many Jewish slaves that the market was glutted and prices collapsed—literal fulfillment.

Historical Context

After AD 70, Vespasian sold thousands of Jews as slaves. After Bar Kokhba (AD 135), Hadrian sold Jewish captives so cheaply at Mamre that the slave market

crashed—buyers couldn't be found. Some were shipped to Egypt. This verse's specific fulfillment demonstrates divine authorship of Scripture.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does returning to 'Egypt' symbolize the complete failure of covenant relationship?
2. What does the worthlessness of Israel as slaves teach about the consequences of rejecting God?
3. How does Christ's redemption price (His blood) contrast with Israel's worthlessness under curse?

Interlinear Text

וְהָשִׁיבָךְ	יְהוָה הִוא	מִצְרַיִם	בְּאֲנִיּוֹת	בְּדֶרֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר
again	And the LORD	thee into Egypt	with ships	by the way	
H7725	H3068	H4714	H591	H1870	H834
אֲמַר רְהִי	לְךָ	לֹא	תֶסֶף	עוֹד	לִרְאֹתָהּ
whereof I spake			it no more again		unto thee Thou shalt see
H559	H0	H3808	H3254	H5750	H7200
וְהִתְמַכְּרֶתָם	שָׁם	לְאֹיְבֶיךָ	לְעֶבְדֵי יָם	וְלִשְׂפָחֹת	וְלִשְׂפָחֹת
and there ye shall be sold		unto your enemies	for bondmen	and bondwomen	
H4376	H8033	H341	H5650	H8198	
וְאִין	קִנְיָהּ:				
	and no man shall buy				
H369	H7069				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:12 (References Egypt): And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

Hosea 9:3 (References Lord): They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.

Jeremiah 43:7 (References Lord): So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: thus came they even to Tahpanhes.

Hosea 8:13 (References Lord): They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

Deuteronomy 17:16 (References Lord): But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

Luke 21:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Nehemiah 5:8 (Parallel theme): And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.

Esther 7:4 (Parallel theme): For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

Exodus 20:2 (References Lord): I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.