

# Ezekiel 29:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

## Analysis

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No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years predicts extreme desolation lasting forty years. The number forty appears frequently in Scripture as a period of testing, judgment, or transition (flood, wilderness wandering, Nineveh's warning, Christ's temptation). Neither human nor animal will traverse Egypt for this period—indicating complete abandonment. The specificity (forty years) demonstrates this isn't poetic exaggeration but literal prophecy. Uninhabited means population removed through deportation and destruction.

## Historical Context

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Following Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and subsequent turmoil, Egypt experienced severe depopulation. Though exact chronology is debated, historical records indicate significant Egyptian exile to Babylon and internal displacement. The forty-year desolation represents the period when Egypt lost sovereignty and population, not regaining stability until Persian period.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why does forty frequently appear as a period of judgment or testing?
2. What does complete abandonment (no human or beast) symbolize about divine displeasure?
3. How do specific time periods in prophecy differ from symbolic imagery?

## Interlinear Text

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H3808

אֶרְבֶּע יְמִין וְ גַּל אֶד מ בָּהֵם ה וְ גַּל אֶד מ  
shall pass through H5674 H0 it neither shall it be inhabited H3427 forty H705  
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שָׁנָתֶה:

years

H8141

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 32:13** (Parallel theme): I will destroy also all the beasts thereof from beside the great waters; neither shall the foot of man trouble them any more, nor the hoofs of beasts trouble them.