

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

ל א	תַּעֲבֹר	בְּה	וְגַל	אָדָם	וְגַל	בְּהֵמָה	ל א
H3808	shall pass through	H0	No foot	of man	No foot	of beast	H3808
	H5674		H7272	H120	H7272	H929	
	תַּעֲבֹר	בְּה	וְגַל	אָדָם	וְגַל	בְּהֵמָה	ל א
	shall pass through	H0	H3808	it neither	shall it be inhabited	forty	
	H5674			H3427		H705	
שָׁנָה:							
years							
H8141							

Additional Cross-References

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.