

Ezekiel 29:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

Analysis

And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate compares Egypt's fate to other judged nations. And her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years reiterates the time period. And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries predicts diaspora—population scattered in exile. This mirrors Israel's earlier judgment (Assyrian and Babylonian exiles). God applies the same justice to all peoples. Nations that judge Israel find themselves judged identically. The oppressor experiences what they inflicted—poetic justice.

Historical Context

Egyptian prisoners of war and exiles were deported by Babylon, just as Judeans had been. The reversal is striking: Egypt, which enslaved Israel in Exodus, is itself enslaved and exiled. Egypt, which mocked Jerusalem's fall, experiences identical judgment. What goes around comes around—divine justice is precisely measured.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God apply identical justice to all peoples regardless of status?
2. What does experiencing what we inflicted teach about divine justice?
3. How are current oppressors heading toward experiencing their own oppression?

Interlinear Text

וְנַתַּתִּי י' And I will make H5414	אֶת H853	בְּאַרְצוֹת: of the countries H776	מִצְרַיִם of Egypt H4714	שְׁמֵמָה ה' desolate H8077	בְּתוֹךְ among H8432
בְּאַרְצוֹת: of the countries H776	נֶשֶׁמ וְ that are desolate H8074	עָרֵי יָם and her cities H5892	בְּתוֹךְ among H8432	עָרֵי יָם and her cities H5892	
מְחֻרְבוֹת that are laid waste H2717	תְּהִי י' H1961	שְׁמֵמָה ה' desolate H8077	אַרְבַּעַיִם forty H705	שָׁנָה years H8141	וְהִפַּצְתִּי י' and I will scatter H6327
אֶת H853	מִצְרַיִם of Egypt H4714	בְּגוֹיֵם among the nations H1471	וְזָרִית יָם and will disperse H2219	בְּאַרְצוֹת: of the countries H776	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:19 (References Egypt): O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant.

Ezekiel 30:23 (References Egypt): And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

Ezekiel 30:7 (Parallel theme): And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted.

Ezekiel 30:26 (References Egypt): And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

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