

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

בָּתְּ וּנְשָׁמְמָה הַשְׁמָמָה מִצְבֵּן יְמִינָתִי אֲתָּה בְּאֶרְצֹותִי
And I will make of the countries of Egypt desolate among
H5414 H853 H776 H4714 H8077 H8432

עַרְיָם בָּתְּ וּנְשָׁמְמָה וְתִשְׁמַת בְּאֶרְצֹותִי
of the countries that are desolate and her cities among and her cities
H776 H8074 H5892 H8432 H5892

וְפִצְתַּת יְמִינָתִי שְׁנָה אַרְבָּעִים שְׁמָמָה הַתְּהִיא יְמִינָתִי מִמְּבָבּוֹת
that are laid waste H1961 desolate forty years and I will scatter
H2717 H8077 H705 H8141 H6327

אֲתָּה מִצְבֵּן יְמִינָתִי בְּגֹויִם יְמִינָתִי וְיִרְאָתָה בְּאֶרְצֹותִי
of Egypt among the nations and will disperse of the countries
H853 H4714 H1471 H2219 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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