

Ezekiel 29:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet thus saith the Lord GOD; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered:

Analysis

Yet thus saith the Lord GOD; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered introduces hope. Unlike Israel's permanent exile of northern kingdom, Egypt will be restored after forty years. This demonstrates measured justice—judgment is severe but not eternal. God's justice is perfectly calibrated, not excessive. The promise of gathering after forty years shows that judgment serves remedial purposes. God disciplines to correct, not merely to punish. Even pagan nations receive measured judgment designed to accomplish divine purposes rather than vindictive destruction.

Historical Context

Egypt did recover limited independence after Persian conquest and continued to exist (unlike Assyria or later Babylon which disappeared). Though never regaining former glory, Egypt survived as a nation. The forty-year desolation ended, and population returned. This partial restoration differs from Israel's eventual messianic restoration but demonstrates God's mercy even in judgment of pagan nations.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does measured justice differ from vindictive punishment?
2. What does restoration after forty years teach about judgment's purposes?
3. Why does God show mercy even to pagan nations that defied Him?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	כֹּה	אָמַר	אֲדָנִי	יְהוָה	מֶלֶךְ	אֲרֻבַּע	שָׁנָה
H3588	H3541	Yet thus saith	the Lord	GOD	At the end	of forty	years
		H559	H136	H3069	H7093	H705	H8141
אֶקְבֹּץ	אֶת	מִצְרַיִם	מִן	הָעַמִּים	אֲשֶׁר		
will I gather	H853	the Egyptians	H4480	from the people	H834		
H6908		H4714		H5971			
נִפְּצוּ	שָׁמָּה:						
whither they were scattered	H8033						
H6327							

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 19:22 (References Lord): And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

Jeremiah 46:26 (References Lord): And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD.