

Ezekiel 30:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it.

Analysis

And I will make the rivers dry—The Nile, Egypt's lifeblood, would be turned into יַבְבָּשָׁה (yabbāshāh, 'dry ground'). This echoes the Exodus plagues (Exodus 7:14-24) and demonstrates God's power over Egypt's source of life and pride.

And sell the land into the hand of the wicked—God would מָכַר (mākar, 'sell/hand over') Egypt to רָעִים (rā'im, 'evil/wicked ones')—the Babylonians. Though themselves wicked, Babylon served God's purposes as instruments of judgment. **And I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers**—בְּיַד־זָרִים (bəyad-zārīm, 'by the hand of foreigners'). Egypt, who enslaved foreign peoples, would be devastated by foreigners. **I the LORD have spoken it**—The divine signature אֲנִי יְהוָה דִּבַּרְתִּי (ānî YHWH dibbartî) guarantees fulfillment.

Historical Context

The Nile's annual flooding was central to Egyptian civilization, religion, and economy. Saying God would 'make the rivers dry' attacked Egypt's fundamental identity. While not literal permanent drought, Babylon's invasion disrupted irrigation systems, agriculture, and commerce—effectively 'drying' Egypt's prosperity. The land passed from native Egyptian control to foreign powers: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome—never fully independent again.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does God's power over the Nile teach about His authority over nations' resources?
2. How does selling Egypt to 'the wicked' demonstrate God's use of imperfect instruments?
3. What modern 'rivers'—sources of national strength—might God dry up in judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַתִּי י'	יְאֲרִים	חֲרָבָה	וּמָכַרְתִּי י'	אֶת	אֶרֶץ
And I will make	the rivers	dry	and sell	H853	and I will make the land
H5414	H2975	H2724	H4376		H776
בְּיָד	כַּעַיִם	וְהִשְׁמַתִּי י'	אֶרֶץ		
by the hand	of the wicked	waste	and I will make the land		
H3027	H7451	H8074	H776		
וּמִלְאָהּ	בְּיָד	זָרִים	אֲנִי י'	יְהוָה	דִּבַּרְתִּי
and all that is therein	by the hand	of strangers	H589	I the LORD	have spoken
H4393	H3027	H2114		H3068	H1696

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 29:3 (References Lord): Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.

