

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 יבשה (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 מכר (mākar, 'sell/hand over') Egypt to רעים (rā'îm, '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—ביד זרים (bēyad-zārîm, 'by the hand of foreigners'). Egypt, who enslaved foreign peoples, would be devastated by foreigners. **I the LORD have spoken it**—The divine signature אני יהוה דברתִי (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

אָנָּה וְמִכְּרָתִי סְבִבָּה יִאָרִים יִגְתַּתִּי
And I will make the rivers dry and sell and I will make the land
H5414 H2975 H2724 H4376 H853 H776

אָנָּה בַּיִדְכִּי בַּעַיִם תְּבַשְּׂמָתִי
and I will make the land by the hand of the wicked waste and I will make the land
H776 H3027 H7451 H8074

דְּבָרָתִי יְהִי הָאָנָה בַּיִדְכִּי בַּעַיִם וְמִלְאָה
I the LORD have spoken and all that is therein by the hand of strangers
H1696 H3068 H589 H2114 H3027 H4393

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.

