

Ezekiel 30:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No.

Analysis

And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No—Three Egyptian regions: פָּתְרֹס (Patrōs, Upper Egypt/southern region), זֹעַן (Sō'an, Zoan/Tanis in the Delta), and נֹּה (Nō', No/Thebes, the great southern capital). God's judgment spans all Egypt, north to south.

נָתַתִּי אֵשׁ (nātattî 'ēsh, 'set fire') indicates complete destruction. Thebes (No-Amon) was Egypt's religious heart, home to the Karnak temple complex. Its destruction demonstrated YHWH's superiority over Amun-Ra, Egypt's chief deity. Nahum 3:8-10 describes Thebes' earlier fall to Assyria (663 BC) as a warning to Nineveh; here, its destruction by Babylon continues Egypt's humiliation. No Egyptian region would escape God's judgment.

Historical Context

Archaeological and historical records confirm widespread destruction in Egypt during Babylon's invasion. Thebes, though previously sacked by Assyria (663 BC), suffered further in this period and never regained preeminence. Zoan (biblical Rameses) declined. The comprehensive geographical scope of Ezekiel's oracle—from southern Pathros to northern Zoan—matched the comprehensive nature of Babylon's campaign.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does judgment spanning all Egyptian regions teach about the thoroughness of God's decrees?
2. How does Thebes' fate demonstrate God's superiority over Egypt's chief gods?
3. Why does God name specific cities rather than just saying 'Egypt' generally?

Interlinear Text

בָּצָע אֵשׁ יְמִינָתְךָ פָּתַר וָסֵדֶת תַּחַת כָּלְמַדְתִּי

desolate H853 And I will make Pathros and will set fire in Zoan

H8074 H6624 H5414 H784 H6814

בְּנֵא: שְׁפָט יְמִינָתְךָ וְעַשְׂתִּי

and will execute judgments in No

H6213 H8201 H4996

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:25 (Parallel theme): The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish the multitude of No, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, with their gods, and their kings; even Pharaoh, and all them that trust in him:

Ezekiel 29:14 (Parallel theme): And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom.

Psalms 78:43 (Parallel theme): How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

Psalms 78:12 (Parallel theme): Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

Isaiah 19:11 (Parallel theme): Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

Nahum 3:8 (Parallel theme): Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea?

Numbers 13:22 (Parallel theme): And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

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