

# Ezekiel 30:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The young men of Aven and of Pi-beseth shall fall by the sword: and these cities shall go into captivity.

## Analysis

**The young men of Aven and of Pi-beseth shall fall by the sword**—אָוֶן (ʿĀwen, On/Heliopolis, sun-worship center) and פִּי־בֶסֶת (Pî-beset, Bubastis, cat-goddess Bastet worship center). בַּחֲרֵי־בָנִים (baḥûrîm, 'young men/warriors') would fall בַּחֲרֵב (baḥereb, 'by the sword')—military-age men killed in battle.

**And these cities shall go into captivity**—וְהָיָה בַּשָּׁבִי תִלְכַּחנָּה (wěhēnnāh bashshěbî tēlakhēnāh, 'and they [feminine—the cities themselves] shall go into captivity'). Not just individuals but entire urban populations exiled. Heliopolis was Egypt's primary sun-worship center, home of Ra theology. Bubastis hosted annual festivals to Bastet. Both religious centers would be devastated—their young men killed, populations exiled, worship systems destroyed. God's judgment targeted Egypt's idolatrous worship, not just political power.

## Historical Context

Heliopolis (biblical On, where Joseph married the priest's daughter—Genesis 41:45) was ancient Egypt's theological center. Bubastis hosted one of Egypt's largest annual festivals (Herodotus describes 700,000 attendees). Both cities declined dramatically after Babylon's invasion. Their great temples fell into ruin; their religious significance vanished. Archaeological excavations show destruction layers from the 6th century BC.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. Why does God specifically target Egypt's religious centers?
2. What does killing 'young men' (future generation) signify about judgment's finality?
3. How does the fate of Egypt's worship centers testify to YHWH's uniqueness?

## Interlinear Text

---

בְּחַ וִירֵי	אֶן וְ	וּפִי	בְּ סֵת	בְּחָ רֶב	יִפֹּל	וְהָ נָה
The young men	of Aven	H0	and of Pibeseth	by the sword	shall fall	H2007
H970	H206		H6364	H2719	H5307	
בְּשָׁב י	תִּלְכְּנָה:					
into captivity	H1980					
H7628						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Genesis 41:45** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-paaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.