

Ezekiel 30:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity.

Analysis

At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened—תַּהְפְּנֵהֶס (Tahpanhēs, Tahpanhes/Daphne), a city in the eastern Delta where Jewish refugees fled after Jerusalem's fall (Jeremiah 43:7-9). מִשְׁׁךְ הַיּוֹם (hāsak hayyōm, 'the day shall be dark/restrained')—imagery of judgment (Amos 5:18-20, Joel 2:31).

When I shall break there the yokes of Egypt—God will שָׁבַר (shābar, 'break/shatter') מִשְׁׁרָיִם (mōtōt miṣrayim, 'the yoke-bars of Egypt'). Egypt enslaved others; now her own power-yoke is broken. **And the pomp of her strength shall cease in her**—עַזָּה (gē'ôn 'uzzāh, 'pride of her strength') will cease. Egypt's arrogant power, displayed in Pharaoh's boast 'The Nile is mine' (29:3), ends. **As for her, a cloud shall cover her**—עַנָּן ('ānān, 'cloud'), often symbolizing God's presence in judgment or glory. Here, gloom and doom. **And her daughters shall go into captivity**—Total population loss.

Historical Context

Tahpanhes had special significance: Jewish refugees fled there after Jeremiah warned against it (Jeremiah 43:7-9). Jeremiah prophesied Nebuchadnezzar would conquer Egypt even there (Jeremiah 43:10-13). Ezekiel's oracle, given to exiles in Babylon, confirmed Jeremiah's to refugees in Egypt. Both prophecies proved

accurate: Babylon invaded Egypt, Tahpanhes fell, and Egypt's 'yoke' (imperial power) was broken forever.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What is significant about God breaking 'the yokes of Egypt' after Egypt enslaved Israel?
2. How does judgment at Tahpanhes (where Jewish refugees fled) demonstrate inescapability?
3. What does the 'darkened day' metaphor teach about the experience of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

שם	בשְׁבָרֵי	בְּשִׁבְעָה	בְּשִׁבְעָה	בְּשִׁבְעָה	בְּשִׁבְעָה
At Tehaphnehes	shall be darkened	also the day	when I shall break		
H8471	H2821	H3117	H7665		
there the yokes	of Egypt	shall cease	הַ	גַּא וְ	עַזְּהַ
H4133	H4714	H7673	H0	H1347	H5797
in her	as for her a cloud	shall cover	וּבְנֹתֶת יְהִי	בְּשִׁבְעָה	בְּשִׁבְעָה
H1931	H6051	H3680	H1323	H7628	
תְּלִכְנָה:					
H1980					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 30:3 (Parallel theme): For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen.

Isaiah 10:27 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Jeremiah 2:16 (Parallel theme): Also the children of Noph and Tahapanes have broken the crown of thy head.

Ezekiel 29:15 (Parallel theme): It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations.