

Ezekiel 30:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt.

Analysis

And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries—Exact repetition of verse 23, forming an inclusio (literary bookend) around verses 23-25. This repetition underscores the certainty and completeness of Egypt's judgment.

Hebrew poetry and prophecy use repetition for emphasis. Stating Egypt's scattering twice within three verses stresses its inevitability. The placement frames the contrast: Babylon strengthened (v. 24) is surrounded by Egypt's scattering (vv. 23, 25). The structure itself reinforces the message: Egypt's power will be broken and her people scattered—certain, complete, irreversible.

Historical Context

Egypt's population dispersal occurred in stages: Babylonian deportations (568/567 BC), Persian rule encouraging emigration, Greek Ptolemaic period saw Greeks settling Egypt and Egyptians spreading to Greek cities, Roman era saw further dispersion. By Islamic conquest (640 AD), Egypt's population was thoroughly mixed. Ancient Egyptian genetic and cultural continuity was disrupted—fulfilling the 'scattering among nations.'

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the literary and theological purpose of exact repetition in verse 25?
2. How does the structure (scatter/strengthen/scatter) reinforce the message?
3. What does certainty of prophetic judgment teach about God's character?

Interlinear Text

וְזַרְעַו וְתַּחֲזִיקָתִי	אֵת	וְזַרְעַו וְתַּחֲזִיקָתִי	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבָבִלְוָן	וְזַרְעַו וְתַּחֲזִיקָתִי
But I will strengthen	H853	and the arms	H4428	of the king	H894
	H2388				H2220
יְהִי הָאֵת כִּי יֵדַע וְ					
of Pharaoh shall fall down	H5307	and they shall know	H3045	H3588	that I am the LORD
	H6547			H589	H3068
בְּתַתְתִּי	סְרָבִי	בְּ יַד	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבָבִלְוָן	
when I shall put	my sword	into the hand	of the king	of Babylon	
H5414	H2719	H3027	H4428	H894	
וְנִטֶּה הַ	אֵל אֹתֶת הַ	אֵל אֹתֶת הַ	מִצְרַיִם:		
and he shall stretch it out	H853	H413	upon the land	of Egypt	
H5186			H776	H4714	

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