

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

וְהִצַּקְתִּי י	אֶת	וְזֶרַע וְת	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבָל	וְזֶרַע וְת
But I will strengthen	H853	and the arms	of the king	of Babylon	and the arms
H2388		H2220	H4428	H894	H2220
פַּרְעֹה	תִּפֹּל לָנָה	וַיָּדְעוּ	כִּי	אֲנִי י	יְהוָה
of Pharaoh	shall fall down	and they shall know	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD
H6547	H5307	H3045			H3068
בְּתַתִּי י	חֶרְבִּי	בְּיָד	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבָל	
when I shall put	my sword	into the hand	of the king	of Babylon	
H5414	H2719	H3027	H4428	H894	
וְנָטָה	אֹתָהּ	עַל	עַל אֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם:	
and he shall stretch it out	H853	H413	upon the land	of Egypt	
H5186			H776	H4714	

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org