

Ezekiel 31:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness.

Analysis

I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen—After comparing Pharaoh to Assyria as a great cedar (31:3-10), God declares Assyria's fate, foreshadowing Egypt's. אֱלֵי גוֹיִם ('êl gôyim, 'mighty one of nations')—likely Babylon, who conquered Assyria (612 BC).

He shall surely deal with him—עָשׂוֹ יַעֲשֶׂה לוֹ ('āsô ya'āseh lô, 'doing he shall do to him')—emphatic construction guaranteeing thorough judgment. **I have driven him out for his wickedness**—גָּרַשְׁתִּיָּהוּ (gērashtîhû, 'I have driven/expelled him') בְּרִשְׁעוֹ (bērish'ô, 'for his wickedness'). The verb גָּרַשׁ (gārash) often describes expulsion/exile—Adam from Eden (Genesis 3:24), Israel from the land (Leviticus 18:24). Assyria, like the great cedar cut down, was expelled for pride and wickedness. Egypt's parallel fate is inevitable.

Historical Context

Assyria dominated the ancient Near East (745-612 BC) through brutal military campaigns, mass deportations, and cultural destruction. At its peak, Assyria seemed invincible—the 'great cedar.' Yet Babylon destroyed Nineveh (612 BC), and Assyrian identity vanished. Ezekiel uses this recent historical event (within living memory for exiles) as an object lesson: Egypt, similarly proud, will fall similarly hard.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does comparing Egypt to fallen Assyria function as a prophetic warning?
2. What does expulsion 'for wickedness' teach about the moral dimension of judgment?
3. How should the fate of seemingly invincible empires inform our view of current powers?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶתְּנֶהוּ	בְּיַד	אֵל יָלִים	גּוֹיִם
I have therefore delivered	him into the hand	of the mighty one	of the heathen
H5414	H3027	H410	H1471
יַעֲשֶׂה	לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה	כְּרָשָׁעוֹ	גִּבְשָׁתָהּ:
deal	deal	for his wickedness	with him I have driven him out
H6213	H6213 H0	H7562	H1644

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 3:18 (Parallel theme): Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

Deuteronomy 18:12 (Parallel theme): For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.