

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. אֵיל גּוּיִם (’ēl gôyim, 'mighty one of nations')—likely Babylon, who conquered Assyria (612 BC).

He shall surely deal with him—עָשָׂה יָשַׁעַת לְךָ (āsô ya’āsēh lô, 'doing he shall do to him')—emphatic construction guaranteeing thorough judgment. **I have driven him out for his wickedness**—גְּרַשְׁתִּיכָּה (gērashtîhû, 'I have driven/expelled him') בְּרִשְׁעָה (bērîsh’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

וְאֵת תִּתְּנֵה הָזֶה

תְּבִנָה

אֵל

גָּזָב

I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen

H5414

H3027

H410

H1471

יִשְׁעָה

יִשְׁעָה

לְזַעַם

כְּרָשָׁעִים

גְּרַשְׁתָּהָה

deal

deal

H0

for his wickedness

with him I have driven him out

H6213

H6213

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.