

Ezekiel 32:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed.

Analysis

By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed. God specifies the agents: **the mighty** (gibborim, גִּבְּרִים)—elite warriors—and **the terrible of the nations** (aritsim goyim, עֲרִיצִים גּוֹיִם)—ruthless, violent peoples. The Babylonian military machine was legendary for brutality and efficiency. The phrase **all of them** emphasizes comprehensive deployment: Babylon's full military might against Egypt.

They shall spoil the pomp of Egypt (ve-shadedu et-geon Mitsrayim) targets Egypt's pride. The Hebrew ga'on (גָּאֹן, "pomp" or "pride") refers to arrogant glory, ostentatious splendor. Egypt's pyramids, temples, wealth, and cultural achievements—all expressions of human pride—would be plundered. **All the multitude thereof shall be destroyed** indicates total devastation: military, population, economy—nothing spared.

This passage reveals God's opposition to human pride (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5). Egypt represents the epitome of human achievement apart from God: magnificent architecture, advanced civilization, imperial power. Yet all such glory is temporary, subject to divine judgment. Only what's built on God's foundation endures. The NT

warns against storing treasures on earth where thieves break in and steal (Matthew 6:19-20). **Human pomp is fragile; divine glory is eternal.**

Historical Context

Egypt's "pomp" was world-renowned. The pyramids, temples of Karnak and Luxor, the Sphinx, elaborate burial practices, hieroglyphic literature, advanced mathematics and medicine—Egyptian civilization represented humanity's highest cultural achievements. Pharaohs claimed divinity; Egypt's stability across millennia seemed proof of their gods' superiority.

Babylon's invasion shattered this illusion. Though Egypt wasn't permanently conquered, its wealth was plundered, its military defeated, its reputation ruined. The psychological blow exceeded the material loss. Egypt never regained superpower status, eventually falling to Persia (525 BC), Greece (332 BC), and Rome (30 BC). Ezekiel's prophecy proved accurate: the mighty and terrible of the nations destroyed Egypt's pomp and multitude.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What forms of human 'pomp'—cultural achievements, intellectual pride, material success—might you be trusting instead of God?
2. How does the certainty that all earthly glory will be destroyed affect what you invest your life building?

Interlinear Text

עריץ יְהוָה
the terrible
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
גְּבוֹרִים
of the mighty
אֶפְיָל
to fall
אֶפְיָל
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
By the swords
H2719

H1368

אֶפְיָל
to fall
and all the multitude
and all the multitude
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
the terrible
H5307

H1995

עריץ יְהוָה
the terrible
the terrible
H6184

מִצְבֵּה
of Egypt
גָּאֵל
all of them and they shall spoil
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
the pomp
H1347

H4714

וְנִשְׁתַּמֵּת
thereof shall be destroyed
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
and all the multitude
בְּמֹרֶב וְתַּ
H3605

H8045

H1995

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 28:7 (Word): Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness.

Ezekiel 29:19 (References Egypt): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall take her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army.

Ezekiel 31:11 (Parallel theme): 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.