

Ezekiel 32:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the lamentation wherewith they shall lament her: the daughters of the nations shall lament her: they shall lament for her, even for Egypt, and for all her multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

This is the lamentation wherewith they shall lament her: the daughters of the nations shall lament her: they shall lament for her, even for Egypt, and for all her multitude, saith the Lord GOD. God prescribes a formal **lamentation** (qinah, קִינָה)—a funeral dirge, mourning song for the dead. The term appears in laments over Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:17), Jerusalem (Lamentations), and Tyre (Ezekiel 27). **The daughters of the nations shall lament her** indicates international mourning—surrounding peoples performing funeral rites for fallen Egypt.

The threefold repetition **"they shall lament"** emphasizes the mourning's intensity and inevitability. This isn't optional but decreed by God: Egypt's fall will be so catastrophic that even distant nations will observe formal lamentation. The phrase **for Egypt, and for all her multitude** distinguishes the nation from its population—both the political entity and its people are objects of mourning.

Ironically, this lamentation is both sympathetic (recognizing tragedy) and condemnatory (acknowledging just judgment). The nations mourn not merely from pity but from fear (v. 10)—"if this happened to Egypt, we could be next." **This parallels Revelation 18:9-19, where kings and merchants lament Babylon's fall**, mourning the loss of their false security and commercial partner. Such

mourning reveals misplaced affections—grief over fallen human glory rather than repentance toward God.

Historical Context

In the ancient Near East, formal lamentation was a recognized literary genre with professional mourners (often women) hired to compose and perform dirges. These laments followed conventional patterns: recalling past glory, bewailing present devastation, invoking divine names, expressing hopelessness.

Ezekiel's prophecy that "daughters of the nations" would lament Egypt indicates the international shock her fall would produce. Historically, Egypt's decline after Babylonian invasion did produce widespread political recalculation among surrounding nations. While we don't have records of literal funeral songs, the geopolitical mourning was real: kingdoms that had relied on Egyptian alliances realized their vulnerability and either submitted to Babylon or faced similar judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What worldly powers, institutions, or securities do you mourn when they fall, revealing where your trust has been misplaced?
2. How should believers respond when God's judgment falls on nations or systems—with triumphalism, with grief, or with something else?

Interlinear Text

תִּקְוֹנָה	הִיא	זֶה וְהַ	בְּנוֹת		
her they shall lament	H1931	This is the lamentation	her the daughters		
H6969		H7015	H1323		
הַגּוֹיִם	תִּקְוֹנָה	עַל אוֹתָהּ	מִצְרַיִם	וְעַל	
of the nations	her they shall lament	H853	H5921	for her even for Egypt	
H1471	H6969			H4714	
כָּל	הַמִּוֹנָה	תִּקְוֹנָה	אוֹתָהּ	וְנָא מְ	אֲדֹנָי
H3605	and for all her multitude	her they shall lament	H853	saith	the Lord
	H1995	H6969		H5002	H136
יְהוָה:					
GOD					
H3069					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 26:17 (Parallel theme): And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

Ezekiel 32:2 (References Egypt): Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas: and thou camest forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers.

2 Chronicles 35:25 (Parallel theme): And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

2 Samuel 1:17 (Parallel theme): And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

Jeremiah 9:17 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come:

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