

Ezekiel 32:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit.

Analysis

Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt introduces a lament for Egypt's population. And cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth predicts descent into Sheol (the realm of the dead). With them that go down into the pit places Egypt among defeated nations in the afterlife. This is prophetic certainty—speak of future judgment as already accomplished. The famous nations' daughters suggests even allied/related peoples share Egypt's fate. Judgment affects not just the primary target but all connected to them.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern conceptions of the afterlife pictured Sheol/the pit as a shadowy underworld where the dead exist in weakened state. Ezekiel uses this imagery to depict Egypt joining other fallen empires in the realm of the dead—no longer powerful but defeated, no longer proud but humbled. Death is the great equalizer.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does descent into the pit teach about death as the great equalizer?
2. How does afterlife imagery serve prophetic purposes?
3. What does shared judgment teach about corporate accountability?

Interlinear Text

בָּן	מִן	בָּנָה	הַאֲדָמָה	עַל	בְּמִזְרָחָה	בְּמִזְרָחָה	מִצְבֵּחַ	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְרֹדֵךְ	וְרֹדֵךְ
Son	of man	wail	H5921	for the multitude	H1995		of Egypt	and cast them down		
H1121	H120	H5091			H4714		H3381			
אַתָּה	וְתַתָּה	וּבְנָה	וְתַתָּה	גּוֹיִם	אַדְמָה	אַדְמָה	אַל	אַרְץ		
H853			H1323	nations	H1471	of the famous	H413	of the earth		H776
						H117				
בְּרֹךְ	וְרֹדֵךְ	אַתָּה	וְרֹדֵךְ							
unto the nether parts	H854	and cast them down	H3381	into the pit	H953					
H8482										

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 31:14 (Parallel theme): To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

Jeremiah 1:10 (Parallel theme): See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Ezekiel 32:16 (References Egypt): 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.

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.

Micah 1:8 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked: I will make a wailing like the dragons, and mourning as the owls.

Isaiah 16:9 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will bewail with the weeping of Jazer the vine of Sibmah: I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for the shouting for thy summer fruits and for thy harvest is fallen.

Ezekiel 31:16 (Parallel theme): I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

Ezekiel 26:20 (Parallel theme): When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

Ezekiel 43:3 (Parallel theme): And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face.

Hosea 6:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.