

Ezekiel 32:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, thou shalt be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, and shalt lie with them that are slain with the sword.

Analysis

Yea, thou shalt be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, and shalt lie with them that are slain with the sword—Egypt's fate restated: תִּשְׁבַּר (tishshābēr, 'you shall be broken/shattered') בְּתוֹךְ עָרֵלִים (bēthôkh 'ärēlîm, 'in the midst of uncircumcised'). For circumcised Egyptians, this is ultimate degradation—mingling with barbarous peoples they despised.

The verb שָׁבַר (shābar, 'to break/shatter') has appeared throughout these oracles (30:21-22, 24—Pharaoh's broken arms). Now it culminates: Egypt herself is 'broken,' shattered beyond repair, consigned to Sheol among peoples she considered beneath her. The irony is profound: Egypt, who prided herself on civilization and religious sophistication, joins crude barbarians in death. All human distinctions vanish in judgment; only relationship with God matters (Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11).

Historical Context

Egyptian circumcision (practiced from ancient times) created cultural superiority complex—Herodotus noted Egyptians viewed uncircumcised peoples as unclean. To be told they'd lie forever among uncircumcised would horrify Egyptians. Yet this is exactly what happened: Egypt lost distinct identity, absorbed into multicultural empires, her ancient religion and culture extinct. The 'breaking' proved permanent.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does lying among 'uncircumcised' teach about the emptiness of cultural pride?
2. How does God's disregard for human distinctions in judgment reveal His impartiality?
3. What cultural or religious superiority complexes might God similarly judge?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה בְּתֵךְ יְמֵינֶךָ עַרְלֵל יְמֵינֶךָ רַבְשָׁבָב בְּתֵךְ וְאַתָּה הַ
H859 in the midst of the uncircumcised Yea thou shalt be broken and shalt lie
H8432 H6189 H7665 H7901

אַתָּה מְלֵלִי כְּרָבָב
H854 with them that are slain with the sword
H2491 H2719

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