

Ezekiel 32:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army slain by the sword, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude— When Egypt descends to Sheol, פָּרָעָה (Phar'ōh) will רָאָה (rā'āh, 'see') other fallen nations and be נִחְמָה (niḥam, 'comforted'). This grim 'comfort' is misery's company—seeing he's not alone in judgment.

Even Pharaoh and all his army slain by the sword, saith the Lord GOD— Even פָּלָלִי-חֶרֶב (hallē-ḥereb, 'slain of the sword') includes Egypt's entire military. The 'comfort' is hollow: yes, other great nations fell, but that doesn't diminish Egypt's doom—only confirms it's deserved. This dark comfort contrasts sharply with true comfort God offers the redeemed (Isaiah 40:1, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Egypt's comfort is shared doom; believers' comfort is shared salvation.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's Sheol vision (32:17-32) catalogs fallen nations: Assyria, Elam, Meshech-Tubal, Edom, northern princes, Sidon, and now Egypt. All were contemporary or recent powers. When Egypt fell to Babylon (568/567 BC), she indeed joined this grim company. Pharaoh's 'comfort'—seeing other empires fallen—proved prophetically accurate. Historical pattern demonstrates God's impartial judgment of prideful powers.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What is the emptiness of being 'comforted' by others sharing your doom?
2. How does false comfort (shared judgment) contrast with true comfort (shared salvation)?
3. What does the catalog of fallen nations teach about the certainty of pride's consequences?

Interlinear Text

אָוֶת	הִרְאָה	הַפָּרָעָה	וְיִנְחַם	כָּל	עַל
H853	H7200	H6547	H5162	H5921	H3605

כָּל	מִלְוָא	וְיִכְלֶל	הַפָּרָעָה	וְצִיל	
and	all	shall be comforted	Pharaoh	all his army	
over	all	his	multitude	his	multitude
H1995	H2491	H2719	H6547	H3605	H2428

אָדָנִי	תְּאַמְּרֵה	יְהֹוָה
saith	the Lord	GOD
H5002	H136	H3069

Additional Cross-References

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 14:22 (Parallel theme): Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it.

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