

Ezekiel 32:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known.

Analysis

I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known. God announces that Egypt's downfall will disturb distant nations. The Hebrew *akis* (אָכַס, "vex" or "provoke") literally means to grieve, irritate, or trouble—Egypt's catastrophic judgment will send shockwaves of fear through the international community. **When I shall bring thy destruction** emphasizes divine agency: Yahweh orchestrates even pagan Babylon's conquest of pagan Egypt to demonstrate His sovereignty.

The phrase **among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known** indicates Egypt's fame and fall will reach beyond its sphere of influence. Ancient Egypt was a global superpower; news of its collapse would travel to distant lands never touched by Egyptian diplomacy or trade. The psychological impact—"vexing hearts"—reveals how Egypt's seeming invincibility created false security for surrounding nations. When the mighty fall, the vulnerable tremble.

This principle applies to all human powers: political systems, economic empires, cultural hegemonies—all are subject to God's sovereign judgment. The NT echoes this in Revelation 18, where Babylon's fall causes worldwide mourning and terror. **Those who trust in human strength rather than divine providence will be shaken when their false securities collapse.**

Historical Context

This is part of a seven-oracle series against Egypt (Ezekiel 29-32), delivered 587-585 BC during Jerusalem's siege and fall. Egypt had encouraged Judah's rebellion against Babylon, promising military support that never materialized (Jeremiah 37:5-7). Pharaoh Hophra (589-570 BC) made a brief, ineffective attempt to relieve Jerusalem, then retreated, sealing Judah's doom.

Historically, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt circa 568-567 BC (Ezekiel 29:17-20), fulfilling these prophecies. Though not permanently conquered, Egypt never regained its former glory. The psychological impact on surrounding nations was precisely as predicted: if mighty Egypt could fall to Babylon, no nation was safe. This validated Ezekiel's message that Babylon was God's instrument of judgment, not merely a military power.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What modern 'Egypt's'—seemingly invincible institutions or powers—do people trust instead of God?
2. How should the certainty of every human empire's eventual fall affect where we place our ultimate security?

Interlinear Text

וְהָ כָעֵסֶתִּי י	לֵב	עַם יָם	רַב יָם	בְּהִבִּיאִי	שִׁבְרֶךָ
I will also vex	the hearts	people	of many	when I shall bring	thy destruction
H3707	H3820	H5971	H7227	H935	H7667
בְּגוֹיִם	עַל	אֶרֶץ וְת	אֶשֶׁר	לֹא	
among the nations		into the countries			
H1471	H5921	H776	H834	H3808	
יִדְעָתָם:					
which thou hast not known					
H3045					

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