

Isaiah 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.

Analysis

God will enable return from exile using imagery from the Exodus. 'Utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea' and 'shake his hand over the river' recall Red Sea parting and Jordan River crossing. The 'seven streams' suggests making the Euphrates (barrier to return from Babylon) easily crossable. This promises a new exodus—God will remove barriers enabling His people's return. The new exodus ultimately refers to Christ's deliverance from sin and death, greater than physical exile.

Historical Context

Partially fulfilled when Persia allowed Jews to return from Babylon (538 BC onward). More fully fulfilled in Christ's deliverance from sin's slavery—the ultimate exodus. Jesus's death and resurrection accomplished the new exodus (Luke 9:31, where 'decease' is literally 'exodus' in Greek). The barriers sin erected between humanity and God were removed, enabling return to fellowship. The new covenant surpasses the old as the new exodus surpasses the original.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the new exodus in Christ exceed the original exodus from Egypt?
2. What barriers has Christ removed to enable our return to God?
3. How does remembering God's past deliverances strengthen faith for present challenges?

Interlinear Text

מִצְבֵּחַ יְמִינָה	לְשָׁוֹן יָם	יָם	יָם	מִצְבֵּחַ יְמִינָה
shall utterly destroy	And the LORD	the tongue	sea	of the Egyptian
H2763	H3068	H853	H3956	H4714
shall he shake	his hand	over the river	and with his mighty	wind
H5130	H3027	H5921	H5104	H7307
and shall smite	it in the seven	streams	and make men go over	dryshod
H5221	H7651	H5158	H1869	H5275

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 10:11 (References Egypt): And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.

Revelation 16:12 (Parallel theme): And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Isaiah 19:16 (References Lord): In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.

Isaiah 7:20 (References Lord): In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard.

Ezekiel 30:12 (References Lord): And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it.

Ezekiel 29:10 (References Egypt): Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia.