

Isaiah 19:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.

Analysis

'And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.' Knowledge of Yahweh becomes Egypt's possession—'the LORD shall be known' indicates revelation, and 'Egyptians shall know' indicates response. This isn't mere intellectual awareness but covenant relationship knowledge (Hebrew *yada*—intimate experiential knowledge). They'll offer legitimate worship: sacrifice (*zebach*—animal offerings) and oblation (*minchah*—grain offerings), make vows and fulfill them. This depicts full covenant participation—Gentiles worshipping as covenant members. Reformed covenant theology sees this fulfilled in New Covenant where Gentiles are grafted into Israel (Romans 11:17-24), sharing full covenant privileges without ethnic distinction (Galatians 3:28-29). The prophecy anticipates the multi-ethnic Church.

Historical Context

Historical fulfillment came through Egyptian Jewish communities and especially Egyptian Christianity. Christian worship replaced animal sacrifices with Christ's sufficient sacrifice remembered in Communion, and grain offerings with spiritual offerings of praise and service. Egyptian Christians did 'know the LORD'—experientially through faith in Christ, not merely intellectually. They made vows

(baptismal vows, monastic vows) and performed them. The prophecy's fulfillment demonstrates Old Testament ceremonial particulars giving way to New Covenant spiritual realities, while the underlying principle (Gentile nations coming to genuine knowledge and worship of the true God) finds complete fulfillment. Egyptian Christianity's historical depth validated this prophecy's accuracy.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Egyptians 'knowing the LORD' teach about covenant relationship extending beyond ethnic Israel?
2. How does worship through sacrifice and vows illustrate full covenant participation?
3. In what ways did Egyptian Christianity fulfill this through New Covenant worship?

Interlinear Text

וְיָדָע וְ	לִיהוָה ה	מִצְרַיִם ים	וְיָדָע וְ	מִצְרַיִם ים		
shall be known	And the LORD	and the Egyptians	shall be known	and the Egyptians		
H3045	H3068	H4714	H3045	H4714		
אֶת	לִיהוָה ה	בֵּי יוֹם	וְעָבְדוּ	זָבַח ה	וּמִנְחָה ה	
H853	And the LORD	in that day	H1931	and shall do	sacrifice	and oblation
	H3068	H3117	H5647	H2077	H4503	
וְנָדְרוּ	נִדָּר	לִיהוָה ה	וְשָׁלְמוּ:			
yea they shall vow	a vow	And the LORD	and perform			
H5087	H5088	H3068	H7999			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:9 (References Lord): They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14 (References Lord): For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Malachi 1:11 (Sacrifice): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org