

Isaiah 19:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

Analysis

'In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.' Remarkable peace vision—Egypt and Assyria (ancient enemies) connected by highway enabling free travel and joint worship. 'Serve' (avad) means worship/serve God together. Historical enmity (Assyria conquered Egypt, 671-656 BCE) gives way to spiritual unity. This transcends geopolitics through shared worship of Yahweh. No more warfare but mutual service of God. This prefigures Church unity transcending ethnic, national, and historical divisions (Ephesians 2:14-16). Former enemies become brothers through shared faith. The highway symbolizes unobstructed relationship and commerce—peace and prosperity replacing conflict.

Historical Context

Never literally fulfilled politically—Egypt and Assyria didn't establish peaceful highway relations. Assyria disappeared as nation after 612 BCE. Fulfillment is spiritual: Egyptian and Assyrian (symbolizing all Gentile nations) believers worship together in the Church, transcending historical enmities. Early Christianity included Egyptian and Mesopotamian (ancient Assyrian territory) Christians worshipping in unity despite ancestral conflicts. The highway represents gospel access—barriers removed, all nations equally able to come to God through Christ. Modern application: former enemies (Germans/French, Japanese/Americans,

Hutus/Tutsis) reconciled in Christ, demonstrating gospel's power to transcend deepest hostilities. This spiritual fulfillment surpasses political peace.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does highway between Egypt and Assyria teach about gospel transcending historical enmities?
2. How is this fulfilled spiritually in Church unity between formerly hostile peoples?
3. What modern examples demonstrate the gospel reconciling ancient enemies?

Interlinear Text

מִצְבֵּחַ	בְּ	יְמִינָה	מִצְבֵּחַ	בְּ	יְמִינָה
תְּהִלֵּה	הַ	בְּהָא	תְּהִלֵּה	הַ	בְּהָא
בְּ	וּמְ	מִסְלָה	בְּ	וּמְ	מִצְבֵּחַ
In that day	H1931	H1961	shall there be a highway	H4546	and the Egyptian
H3117				H4714	
אַשּׁוּרָה:	בְּאָ	אַשּׁוּרָה:	מִצְבֵּחַ	בְּ	יְמִינָה
and the Assyrian	shall come	and the Assyrian	and the Egyptian	and the Egyptian	and the Egyptian
H804	H935	H804	H4714	H4714	
אַשּׁוּרָה:	וְעַבְדֵּת	מִצְבֵּחַ	אַתָּה	אַשּׁוּרָה:	
and the Assyrian	shall serve	and the Egyptian	H853	and the Assyrian	
H804	H5647	H4714		H804	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:16 (References Egypt): And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

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