

# Isaiah 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.

## Analysis

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'And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.' The Nile's branches ('rivers'—distributaries in the Delta) turn away—changing course or drying up. 'Brooks of defence' (irrigation canals) empty—defensive moats and waterways fail. Reeds and flags (papyrus and marsh plants) wither. This comprehensive ecological collapse affects every level of Egyptian life: transportation (Nile boats), defense (water barriers), agriculture (irrigation), and industry (papyrus production for boats, writing materials, textiles). The totality demonstrates divine judgment affecting entire economic and social systems, not just isolated aspects. When God judges nations, consequences cascade through interconnected systems, producing comprehensive disruption. This illustrates that blessing and curse are systemic, affecting all of life's domains.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Egypt's complex irrigation system channeled Nile water throughout the Nile Valley and Delta. Canals served agricultural, defensive, and transportation purposes. Papyrus (ancient paper) was a major Egyptian product, growing in marshlands. The prophecy describes ecological disaster affecting all these interdependent systems. Historically, while not literal total collapse, Egypt did experience periods when irrigation systems failed due to political chaos, maintenance neglect during invasions, or extended low-flood periods. These

caused cascading economic failures. Modern ecological principles confirm how interconnected systems mean isolated failures can trigger comprehensive collapse—precisely what the prophecy describes as divine judgment's pattern.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does comprehensive ecological collapse illustrate the interconnectedness of divine blessings?
2. What does cascade failure (irrigation, defense, agriculture, industry) teach about judgment's systemic nature?
3. Why are human economic and social systems ultimately vulnerable without divine blessing?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָאֲזָנִי יָחוּ	נָהָר וְתֵּ	וְלֵלָה וְ	וְחָרַב וְ	יְאֵרֵי יְ
And they shall turn	the rivers	shall be emptied	and dried up	and the brooks
H2186	H5104	H1809	H2717	H2975

מִצַּח וְ	קֶנֶף הַ	וְסִי וְ	קִמְלוֹ:
of defence	the reeds	and flags	shall wither
H4693	H7070	H5488	H7060

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 37:25** (Parallel theme): I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places.

