

Isaiah 19:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.

Analysis

'Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.' The textile industry fails next. 'Fine flax' (Egyptian linen) was a luxury export. 'Networks' likely refers to fine woven fabrics. 'Confounded' (bosh) means ashamed, disappointed—skilled craftsmen unable to practice their trade experience shame and economic loss. Egypt's famous linen industry depended on flax cultivation requiring irrigation. With water failure, flax crops fail, textile workers lose employment. This demonstrates how agricultural collapse cascades through manufacturing sectors—primary industry failure triggers secondary industry failure. The comprehensive economic devastation illustrates that God's judgments don't merely punish rulers but affect entire societies, teaching the principle that nations' sins produce corporate suffering affecting all strata.

Historical Context

Egyptian linen was renowned throughout the ancient world—fine, white, durable fabric exported regionally. Joseph wore fine linen as vizier (Genesis 41:42); Egyptian mummies were wrapped in linen; priestly garments used Egyptian linen (Exodus 39). The industry employed thousands from farming through weaving. When flax agriculture failed during crisis periods, the entire production chain collapsed—farmers, processors, weavers, merchants all affected. This validated the prophecy's economic domino effect. The luxury nature of fine linen meant its failure particularly affected upper classes and export economy—reducing Egypt's

wealth and international prestige. Divine judgment humbled proud Egypt systematically.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do primary industry failures cascade through dependent secondary industries?
2. What does comprehensive economic collapse teach about the corporate nature of national sin and judgment?
3. Why do luxury industries' failures particularly affect national prestige and international standing?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁוֹם	עֲבָדִים	פְּשָׁתִים	שְׁרִיקָה
shall be confounded	Moreover they that work	flax	in fine
H954	H5647	H6593	H8305
וְאֶרְגִּים	חֹצֶבִים		
and they that weave	networks		
H707	H2355		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 27:7 (Parallel theme): Fine linen with broidered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee.

Proverbs 7:16 (Parallel theme): I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

