

Isaiah 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

Analysis

'So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.' The prophecy's fulfillment explained: Assyria will deport Egyptians and Ethiopians exactly as Isaiah depicted—naked, barefoot, buttocks exposed (ultimate humiliation in honor/shame culture). 'Young and old' indicates comprehensive judgment—all ages affected, none spared. This would be 'the shame of Egypt'—proud civilization experiencing total humiliation. The vivid imagery emphasizes judgment's horror—not abstract theological pronouncement but concrete physical suffering. God's warnings are serious; His judgments are real. This should drive hearers to repentance and trust in God rather than false securities. Reformed theology emphasizes both God's love and His wrath—minimizing either produces distorted gospel.

Historical Context

Assyrian records confirm such deportations occurred. Esarhaddon's annals (7th century BCE) describe conquering Egypt: 'I tore up the root of Kush...I brought back to Assyria, the people, young and old, male and female.' Ashurbanipal's records describe similar campaigns with graphic details matching prophetic descriptions. Palace reliefs show exactly what Isaiah depicted—naked bound

captives being led away. This archaeological confirmation validates the prophecy's accuracy. The comprehensive nature (young and old) was fulfilled—entire populations deported, not just soldiers. This demonstrated that alliances with Egypt provided no security; only trusting God protected Judah. The historical validation served multiple purposes: warning future generations, demonstrating prophetic reliability, and revealing God's sovereign control over history.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does comprehensive deportation (young and old) teach about judgment affecting entire societies?
2. How does archaeological confirmation of prophetic details validate Scripture's divine origin?
3. Why do God's warnings include vivid descriptions of judgment's horror?

Interlinear Text

וְיָנִיחָם H3651	וְיָנִיחָם H5090	וְיָנִיחָם H4428	וְיָנִיחָם H804	וְיָנִיחָם H853	וְיָנִיחָם H7628	וְיָנִיחָם H4714	וְיָנִיחָם H853
lead away	So shall the king	of Assyria	prisoners	of Egypt			
וְיָנִיחָם H1546	וְיָנִיחָם H3568	וְיָנִיחָם H5288	וְיָנִיחָם H2205	וְיָנִיחָם H6174	וְיָנִיחָם H3182		
captives	and the Ethiopians	young	and old	naked	and barefoot		
וְיָנִיחָם H2834	וְיָנִיחָם H8357	וְיָנִיחָם H6172	וְיָנִיחָם H4714				
uncovered	even with their buttocks	to the shame	of Egypt				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 19:4 (Kingdom): And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.

Jeremiah 13:26 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I discover thy skirts upon thy face, that thy shame may appear.

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