

# 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

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'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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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וְיִגְּנַב גָּבֵג	מֶלֶג	אֲשֹׁור	אֶת	שָׁבֵי	מִצְרַיִם:	וְאֶת מִצְרַיִם:
H3651 lead away	H5090	H4428 So shall the king	H804 of Assyria	H853	H7628 prisoners	H4714 of Egypt
כְּבָשָׂנְתָה וְכָל וְתָ	נָעָר יִם	זְקָנָתִים	עָרָר וּמָ	נָשָׁר וּמָ	וְאֶת פְּנֵי	
captives and the Ethiopians	H3568	H5288 young	H2205 and old	H6174 naked	H3182 and barefoot	
וְעַל שׁוֹפֵת	שְׁתִּים	עָרְנוֹת	מִצְרַיִם:			
uncovered even with their buttocks	H8357	H6172 to the shame	H4714 of Egypt			
H2834		H6172		H4714		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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