

Isaiah 30:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.

Analysis

Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame (וְהִיא לְכֶם מִעֵז פְּרֻעה /vehayah lakhem ma'oz par'oh leboshet)—Ironic reversal: what they sought for strength (ma'oz, stronghold/refuge) becomes their shame (boshet, disgrace/humiliation). The very thing trusted for security produces embarrassment. Boshet also carried connotations of worthless idols (Jeremiah used it as substitute for Baal's name).

And the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion (וְהַקְסֹת בְּצֵל מִצְרָיִם לְכָלָמָה /vehachsut betsel mitsrayim likhlimah)—Khelimah means disgrace, dishonor, confusion—the shame of exposed folly. Their refuge becomes their ruin. This prophetic principle appears throughout Scripture: whatever we trust instead of God will ultimately fail and shame us (Psalm 20:7-8; Jeremiah 17:5-6). The shadow they sought for protection becomes the shadow of death.

Historical Context

This prophecy was fulfilled precisely. When Assyrian king Sennacherib invaded Judah in 701 BCE, Egypt sent a relief force under Tirhakah, but it was ineffective (2 Kings 18:21 records Sennacherib's taunt: Egypt is a "broken reed" that pierces the hand of anyone leaning on it). Judah's Egyptian alliance brought no deliverance—only shame when Egypt couldn't help. Ultimate deliverance came not through Egyptian chariots but through divine intervention (Isaiah 37:36—the angel of the

LORD struck down 185,000 Assyrians). Trusting God would have avoided the shame of failed human alliances.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced the shame of trusting something or someone other than God, only to have it fail you?
2. Why does trusting created things instead of the Creator always lead to 'confusion' and disappointment?
3. What does this verse teach about the consequences of seeking security in worldly power rather than divine protection?

Interlinear Text

לְכָמֵד וְבַיִת הַ
H1961 H0 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame
H4581 H6547 H1322

לְכַלְמָה: מִצְבֵּה אֶת בְּצֵל מִצְבֵּה וְ
and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion
H2622 H6738 H4714 H3639

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 20:5 (References Egypt): And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory.

Romans 5:5 (Parallel theme): And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 10:11 (Faith): For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

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