

Jeremiah 32:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

Analysis

And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders—Jeremiah continues his Exodus remembrance, emphasizing that Israel's deliverance was accomplished **with signs** (be-otot, בְּאוֹתוֹת, miraculous indicators of divine intervention) **and with wonders** (u-ve-mofetim, וּבְמִפְתִּיּוֹת, extraordinary marvels). These terms describe the plagues and miraculous events that compelled Pharaoh to release Israel. **And with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm**—Be-yad chazaqah u-vi-zeroa netuyah (בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבִזְרוֹעַ נְטוּיָה) became the standard formulaic description of the Exodus (Deuteronomy 4:34, 5:15, 26:8). The 'strong hand' emphasizes God's might and power to save; the 'stretched out arm' depicts God actively intervening, reaching down to rescue His people. These anthropomorphic expressions communicate that God personally and powerfully acted on Israel's behalf.

And with great terror—U-ve-mora gadol (וּבְמֶרָא גָדוֹל) refers to the fear and dread that fell upon Egypt and the surrounding nations when they witnessed God's judgments. The word mora (מֶרָא) indicates awesome, terrifying reverence—the proper response to encountering divine holiness and power. Deuteronomy 4:34 asks rhetorically whether any god had ever attempted such deliverance, concluding that Israel alone had witnessed such divine intervention. This catalog of divine power—signs, wonders, strong hand, outstretched arm, great terror—assures Jeremiah that the same God can and will deliver from Babylon.

Historical Context

The Exodus deliverance occurred when Israel was enslaved in Egypt for approximately 400 years (Genesis 15:13-14). God's intervention through Moses included ten plagues climaxing in the death of Egypt's firstborn, followed by the miraculous Red Sea crossing that destroyed Pharaoh's pursuing army. This deliverance established Israel as God's covenant people and demonstrated His sovereignty over the greatest world power of that era. The 'great terror' (mora gadol) that fell on nations is documented in Exodus 15:14-16—when peoples heard of God's mighty acts, dread and fear seized them. This reputation preceded Israel's conquest of Canaan (Joshua 2:9-11, 9:9-10). For Jeremiah's generation, remembering the Exodus was crucial. If God could deliver powerless slaves from mighty Egypt, He could deliver exiled Judeans from Babylon. The prophesied 'new exodus' from Babylon (Isaiah 40-55, Jeremiah 16:14-15, 23:7-8) would demonstrate that God's 'strong hand' and 'outstretched arm' remained powerful to save. This theme reaches ultimate fulfillment in Christ, who delivers from slavery to sin through His death and resurrection—the greatest exodus (Luke 9:31 uses the Greek word 'exodus' for Jesus's departure/death).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed description of God's power in the Exodus ('signs, wonders, strong hand, outstretched arm, great terror') provide assurance in present difficulties?
2. What 'impossible' situation in your life needs God's 'strong hand' and 'outstretched arm' to intervene?

3. How does the ultimate 'exodus' accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection fulfill and surpass the original Exodus from Egypt?

Interlinear Text

וַתֵּצֵא אֶת עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן הָאָרֶץ					
And hast brought forth	H853	thy people	H853	Israel	out of the land
H3318		H5971		H3478	H776
וּבְאֵזֶר וָחֵזֶק	וְיָד ד	וּבְמוֹפְתֵי יָם	בְּאֵת וְ	מִצְרַיִם	
and with a strong	hand	and with wonders	with signs	of Egypt	
arm	H3027	H4159	H226	H4714	
H248					
וְגִדּוֹל:	וּבְמוֹחַ א	נְטוּיָה			
and with great	terror	and with a stretched out			
H1419	H4172	H5186			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:6 (References Israel): Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

Deuteronomy 26:8 (References Egypt): And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: