

# Jeremiah 43:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall break also the images of Beth-shemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire.

## Analysis

**He shall break also the images of Beth-shemesh, that is in the land of Egypt** (וְשִׁבֵּר אֶת-מִצְבֹּות בֵּית שְׁמֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם)—Beth-shemesh (House of the Sun, שְׁמֶשׁ) is Heliopolis (Greek, 'City of the Sun'), center of Ra worship, Egypt's chief solar deity. The matzevot (מִצְבֹּות, pillars/obelisks) were massive stone monuments, including famous sun-pillars that survived into Hellenistic times (later called 'Cleopatra's Needles').

**And the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire** (וְאֶת-בָּתִים)—comprehensive destruction of Egypt's religious infrastructure. This judgment mirrors Exodus plagues (targeting Egyptian deities—Nile/Hapi, sun/Ra, Pharaoh/Horus), demonstrating YHWH's continued supremacy over Egypt's pantheon. Ironically, Jewish refugees fled to the nation whose gods God already humiliated at the Exodus—they exchange YHWH's protection for bankrupt deities about to face renewed judgment.

## Historical Context

Heliopolis (On in Hebrew, Genesis 41:45) was ancient Egypt's preeminent religious site, home to the Ennead (nine chief deities). Its obelisks symbolized sun-rays, through which Ra bestowed life. Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of these monuments would psychologically devastate Egyptian morale, proving their

supreme god powerless. Ezekiel 30:13-19 contains parallel prophecy targeting Egyptian idolatry and cities.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Why does God specifically target the 'House of the Sun' (Heliopolis)—what does this reveal about confronting a culture's chief spiritual stronghold?
2. How does this judgment on Egyptian gods parallel the Exodus plagues—what does this continuity teach about God's consistent character?
3. What modern 'Beth-shemesh' (centers of false worship) might God be confronting in our generation?

## Interlinear Text

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אָשָׁר יִשְׁבֶּרֶת אֶת מִצְבֹּות בְּיַתְשְׁבָּר אָשָׁר  
He shall break also the images of Bethshemesh H1053 H834  
H7665 H4676 H1053

מִצְבָּה אֲלֹהִים בְּאֶרֶץ אֲתָה מִצְבָּה יְמִינְךָ בְּתִים  
that is in the land of Egypt and the houses of the gods of Egypt H4714 H430 H4714  
H776 H4714 H1004 H430

בְּאָשָׁר יִשְׁרַּעַת  
shall he burn with fire H8313 H784