

# 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** (וְשִׁבַּר אֶת־מִצְבּוֹת בֵּית שֶׁמֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם)—Beth-shemesh (House of the Sun, בֵּית־שֶׁמֶשׁ) is Heliopolis (Greek, 'City of the Sun'), center of Ra worship, Egypt's chief solar deity. The matzevot (מִצְבּוֹת, 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־בָּתֵּי וְאֶת־בָּתֵּי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצְרַיִם אֶלֶּהִי)—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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וְשָׁבַר	אֶת	מִצֵּבֹת	בֵּית	שֵׁן מֶשֶׁשׁ	אֶשְׁרָא
He shall break	H853	also the images	H0	of Bethshemesh	H834
H7665		H4676		H1053	
בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	וְאֶת	בֵּתֵי	אֱלֹהֵי	מִצְרַיִם
that is in the land	of Egypt	H853	and the houses	of the gods	of Egypt
H776	H4714		H1004	H430	H4714
וְשָׂרַף	בְּאֵשׁ:				
shall he burn	with fire				
H8313	H784				