

Jeremiah 46:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah.

Analysis

Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho—Chapters 46-51 contain oracles against foreign nations, asserting Yahweh's sovereignty over all kingdoms. Pharaoh-necho (פַּרְעֹה נְכוֹ) was Necho II (610-595 BC), who killed godly King Josiah at Megiddo (2 Kings 23:29) and briefly controlled Judah.

By the river Euphrates in Carchemish (עַל-נְהַר-פָּרַת בְּכַרְכֶּמֶשׁ)—This locates the decisive Battle of Carchemish (605 BC), where Nebuchadnezzar crushed Egyptian forces, ending Egypt's Neo-Assyrian imperial ambitions. **Which Nebuchadrezzar...smote** fulfills 25:9's prophecy that Babylon would dominate the ancient Near East. The specific dating—**fourth year of Jehoiakim**—provides chronological precision: this was the same year Baruch first wrote Jeremiah's prophecies (36:1).

Historical Context

The Battle of Carchemish (605 BC) decisively shifted ancient Near Eastern power from Egypt to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar, then crown prince, pursued fleeing Egyptians to Hamath, establishing Babylonian hegemony for the next 70 years. This battle fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies about Egypt's weakness (Isaiah 30-31) and Babylon's dominance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's prophecy about specific battles demonstrate His sovereignty over international affairs?
2. What does Egypt's defeat teach about trusting human military might over divine protection?
3. Why does Scripture provide such precise historical details (year, location, rulers) for this judgment oracle?

Interlinear Text

מִצָּרַיִם	עַל	חַיֵּי	פָּרַע הַ	נְכוֹ	מֶלֶךְ	
Against Egypt	H5921	against the army	H0	of Pharaohnecho	king	
H4714		H2428		H6549	H4428	
מִצָּרַיִם	אֲשֶׁר	הָיָה	עַל	נְהַר	פְּרַת	
Against Egypt	H834	H1961	H5921	which was by the river	Euphrates	
H4714				H5104	H6578	
בְּכַרְכֶּמֶשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	הָכָה	נְבוּכַדְרֶזְצַר	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	
in Carchemish	H834	smote	which Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon	
H3751		H5221	H5019	H4428	H894	
בְּשָׁנָה	הָרְבִיעִית	לִיהוֹיָקִים	בֶּן	יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה
year	in the fourth	of Jehoiakim	the son	of Josiah	king	of Judah
H8141	H7243	H3079	H1121	H2977	H4428	H3063

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 23:29 (Kingdom): In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

Isaiah 10:9 (Parallel theme): Is not Calno as Carchemish? is not Hamath as Arpad? is not Samaria as Damascus?

Jeremiah 25:19 (Kingdom): Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people;

Jeremiah 45:1 (Kingdom): The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

Jeremiah 46:14 (References Egypt): Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

Jeremiah 36:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jeremiah 25:1 (Kingdom): The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon;