

# Jeremiah 46:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.

## Analysis

**Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers—** Jeremiah employs vivid flood imagery using *ye'or* (יאָר), specifically the Nile River whose annual inundations both sustained and threatened Egypt. The verb *ga'ah* (גָּאַח, "riseth up") conveys pride, arrogance, and overwhelming force—the same word used for the Red Sea's waves in Exodus 15:1. Egypt's boast **I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city** uses *alah* (עָלָה, ascend/attack) and *kasah* (קָשָׁה, cover/engulf), echoing the prideful language of imperial conquest.

Yet the oracle ironically foreshadows Egypt's defeat—just as Pharaoh's armies were swallowed by flood waters at the Red Sea, so Egypt's military ambitions would be drowned at Carchemish. The dual imagery of Nile and rivers (*neharot*, נְהָרוֹת) points to Egypt's confederation with other nations, all rising together in apparent strength. This passage illustrates the prophetic principle that pride precedes destruction (Proverbs 16:18)—Egypt's self-exalting confidence made them ripe for divine judgment through Babylon.

## Historical Context

This oracle references Pharaoh Necho II's ambitious northern campaign (609-605 BC), culminating in the catastrophic defeat at Carchemish in 605 BC where Nebuchadnezzar crushed the Egyptian-Assyrian coalition. Egypt's imperial aspirations to control Syria-Palestine and restore its ancient glory were

dramatically reversed. The 'city' likely refers to Carchemish or represents Egyptian-controlled cities throughout the Levant that would fall to Babylon.

## Related Passages

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How does Egypt's flood imagery contrast with God as the true controller of waters and nations?
2. What does Egypt's boastful language reveal about the spiritual danger of national or personal pride?
3. How does this prophecy demonstrate God's sovereignty over empires that seem invincible?

## Interlinear Text

ע יר אָבִ יְהָה אָעַלָה אָכַסָה אָרָץ וְאָמַר  
and he saith I will go up and will cover the earth I will destroy the city  
H559 H5927 H3680 H776 H6 H5892

בָּהִ **וְשָׁבֵי** **and the inhabitants** **H3427**

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