

# Joel 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

## Analysis

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**Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness** (Mitsrayim li-shmamamah tihyeh ve-Edom le-midbar shmamamah tihyeh)—Judgment on Israel's historical enemies contrasts with Israel's restoration. Egypt enslaved Israel (Exodus 1-12); Edom refused passage (Numbers 20:14-21) and rejoiced at Jerusalem's fall (Obadiah 10-14, Psalm 137:7).

**For the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land** (me-chamas benei Yehudah asher shafkhu dam naqi be-artsam)—'Violence' (chamas) and 'innocent blood' (dam naqi) indict Egypt and Edom for atrocities against God's people. Ezekiel 35 pronounces detailed judgment on Edom for bloodguilt. The principle: 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord' (Romans 12:19).

## Historical Context

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Egypt: After periods of Israelite dominance (Solomon, Josiah), Egypt allied with Babylon against Judah, then was itself conquered by Persia (525 BC). Edom: Nabataeans displaced Edomites (c. 312 BC); by Roman times, Idumea (Edom's remnant) was absorbed into Judea. Both nations ceased to exist as prophesied, while Israel survived exile and persecution.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment on Egypt and Edom demonstrate that He settles accounts with those who harm His people?
2. What is 'innocent blood,' and why does its shedding invoke divine vengeance?
3. How should believers respond to enemies—with personal vengeance or trust in God's justice (Romans 12:19)?

## Interlinear Text

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מִצְרַיִם	שְׁמָמָה ה	תְּהִי ה	וְאֶדֹם	לְמִדְבָּר	שְׁמָמָה ה
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>shall be a desolate</b>	<b>H1961</b>	<b>and Edom</b>	<b>wilderness</b>	<b>shall be a desolate</b>
H4714	H8077		H123	H4057	H8077

תְּהִי ה	מִחַמַּס	בְּנֵי י	יְהוּדָה ה	אֲשֶׁר
<b>H1961</b>	<b>for the violence</b>	<b>against the children</b>	<b>of Judah</b>	<b>H834</b>
	H2555	H1121	H3063	

שָׁפְכוּ ו	דָּם	נָקִי יָא	בְּאַרְצָם:
<b>because they have shed</b>	<b>blood</b>	<b>innocent</b>	<b>in their land</b>
H8210	H1818	H5355	H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 51:35** (Blood): The violence done to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say.