

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

Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness (Mitsrayim li-shmamah tihyeh ve-Edom le-midbar shmamah 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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

שָׁמֵת הַמִּצְבָּר וְיְהוּדָה
shall be a desolate wilderness and Edom

Egypt shall be a desolate wilderness and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness

H4714 H8077 H1961 H123 H4057 H8077

בְּבִן יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר
of Judah for the violence against the children of

H1961 H2555 H1121 H3063 H834

בְּאֶרְצָם יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר
in their land because they have shed blood innocent

H8210 H1818 H5355 H776

Additional Cross-References

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.