

Psalms 68:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

Analysis

Princes from Egypt and Ethiopia (Cush) 'stretching out hands unto God' depicts willing submission to Israel's God by historically proud nations. Egypt enslaved Israel; Ethiopia represented distant, foreign peoples. Their voluntary worship fulfills prophecies that all nations will honor Yahweh (Isaiah 19:19-25). This anticipates the gospel's spread to Africa and worldwide, as seen in Philip's Ethiopian eunuch convert (Acts 8:26-39).

Historical Context

Egypt and Cush were ancient superpowers with their own religions and gods. Their eventual worship of Yahweh demonstrated His supremacy over all false deities and His power to save peoples of every race and nation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the inclusion of formerly hostile nations encourage evangelism to seemingly unreachable peoples?

2. What does 'stretching out hands to God' signify—desperation, worship, submission, or all three?
3. In what ways has God already fulfilled this vision through the gospel's global spread?

Interlinear Text

יֹאֲתָ יוֹ	הַ שְׂמַנִּים	מִנִּי י	מִצְרַיִם	כּ וְשׁ	תִּרְיַץ
shall come out	Princes	H4480	of Egypt	Ethiopia	shall soon stretch out
H857	H2831		H4714	H3568	H7323
יָדָהּ יוֹ	לֵאלֹהִים:				
her hands	unto God				
H3027	H430				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 45:14 (References God): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

Zephaniah 3:10 (Parallel theme): From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

Psalms 44:20 (References God): If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god;

Psalms 143:6 (Parallel theme): I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.