

# Psalms 78:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

## Analysis

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**Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan**—Zoan (Hebrew Šō'an, Egyptian Tanis) was the Ramesside capital where Moses confronted Pharaoh with the ten plagues (Exodus 7-12). The phrase 'pele' (marvellous things) denotes supernatural intervention impossible to natural explanation.

Isaiah 19:11-13 later mocks Zoan's 'wise counselors' who could not prevent Egypt's humiliation. The site of Pharaoh's humbling became a perpetual testimony to YHWH's supremacy over all earthly powers—a theme Jesus invokes when declaring 'all authority in heaven and earth' has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18).

## Historical Context

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Zoan/Tanis was Egypt's capital during the 19th-20th dynasties (1295-1069 BC). Archaeological evidence confirms significant Ramesside construction there, making it the likely setting for Moses's confrontation with the Pharaoh of the Exodus.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do God's public displays of power in history strengthen your confidence in His present-day sovereignty?
2. What modern 'Zoans' (seats of worldly power) need to witness God's supremacy through your testimony?

## Interlinear Text

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הַגֵּד	אֶבֹתָם	עָשָׂה	פְּלֵא	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם
he in the sight	of their fathers	did	Marvellous things	in the land	of Egypt
H5048	H1	H6213	H6382	H776	H4714
שָׂדֶה	צֹאֵן:				
in the field	of Zoan				
H7704	H6814				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 13:22** (References Egypt): And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

**Isaiah 19:11** (Parallel theme): Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

**Ezekiel 30:14** (Parallel theme): And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No.

**Isaiah 19:13** (References Egypt): The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof.

