

# 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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מִצְבֵּחַ	בְּאֶרְצָה	בְּאֶרְצָה	מִצְבֵּחַ
he in the sight	of their fathers	did	Marvellous things
H5048	H1	H6213	H6382
שָׂדֶה	שְׁמֹן	לֹא	בְּאֶרְצָה
in the field	of Zoan		in the land
H7704	H6814		H776
			of Egypt
			H4714

שְׁמֹן : שָׂדֶה

## 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.

