Psalms 78:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

Analysis

How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan. ʾÔt (אות, "signs") are authenticating miracles demonstrating divine authority and power. Môpēt (מוֹפֵת, "wonders") emphasizes the supernatural, extraordinary nature. Together they form a standard pair describing the plagues as both evidential (proving God's supremacy) and awesome (displaying His terrible might).

"Zoan" (Ṣōʿan, צֹעַן) was Tanis, the Egyptian delta capital where Pharaoh's court resided—modern San el-Hagar. By naming the specific location, Asaph grounds the plagues in historical geography, not mythology. These weren't legends but witnessed events in a real place and time.

The plagues weren't merely punitive but theological warfare: each targeted an Egyptian deity, demonstrating Yahweh's supremacy over Ra (sun-god), Hapi (Nile-god), Heqet (frog-goddess), etc. Israel was to remember these signs as proof that "the LORD is God; there is none else" (Deuteronomy 4:35).

Historical Context

Zoan/Tanis served as Egypt's capital during the 21st-24th dynasties. The plagues occurred in the Nile Delta region where Israel lived in Goshen. Archaeological evidence confirms Zoan's prominence in the second millennium BC, lending historical credibility to the biblical account.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do God's "signs and wonders" in Scripture strengthen your faith in His present-day power?
2. What modern "gods" (cultural idols) does God's supremacy challenge in your life?
3. Why is it important that biblical miracles occurred in real historical places at real times?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	שָׂ ם	מִצְרַיִם בְּ	אְֹתוֹתָ יו	ו מוֹפְתָ יו	בִּשְׂדֵה
H834	**How he had wrought**	**in Egypt**	**his signs**	**and his wonders**	**in the field**
	H7760	H4714	H226	H4159	H7704

צֹעַן:
of Zoan
H6814