

Zechariah 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.

Analysis

And he shall pass through the sea with affliction (וְעָבַר בַּיָּם עֲצָרָה)—new Exodus typology, recalling Israel's Red Sea crossing (Exodus 14). Tsarah (affliction/trouble) acknowledges that return involves hardship, not effortless deliverance. **And shall smite the waves in the sea**—God strikes the waters as He did at the Red Sea, demonstrating continued sovereign power over chaos/obstacles.

And all the deeps of the river shall dry up (וְהַבְּיֹשֻׁבִּים כָּל-מְצוּלוֹת יֵאָר) —y^eor typically means Nile, connecting to Exodus liberation from Egypt. **And the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart**—both oppressor nations will lose power. This is political prophecy: empires that enslaved Israel will fall. Historically fulfilled through Persian defeat of both Egypt and Mesopotamian powers; eschatologically points to all anti-God kingdoms falling before Messiah's return.

Historical Context

Persian conquest (539 BC) effectively ended Assyrian (already fallen to Babylon, 612 BC) and Egyptian imperial power, allowing Jewish return. This verse interprets geopolitics theologically: God orchestrates empire-collapse to facilitate His

people's restoration. It foreshadows Christ's victory over all spiritual 'principalities and powers' (Colossians 2:15).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'seas' and 'rivers' (obstacles) stand between your current state and God's promised destination for you?
2. How does knowing that deliverance may involve 'passing through affliction' prepare you for the journey?
3. What modern 'Egypt and Assyria' (oppressive powers) need to fall for God's kingdom purposes to advance?

Interlinear Text

וְעָבַר	בַּיָּם	עִצָּה	וְהָכָה	בַּיָּם	
And he shall pass through	in the sea	with affliction	and shall smite	in the sea	
H5674	H3220	H6869	H5221	H3220	
גַּל יָם	וְהֵבֵשׁוּ	כָּל ל	מְצוֹל וְתֵ	יָאֵר	וְהוֹרֵד
the waves	shall dry up	H3605	and all the deeps	of the river	shall be brought down
H1530	H3001		H4688	H2975	H3381
וְגֵא	אֲשׁוּר	וְשֵׁבֶט	מִצְרַיִם	יִסּוּר:	
and the pride	of Assyria	and the sceptre	of Egypt	shall depart away	
H1347	H804	H7626	H4714	H5493	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 30:13 (References Egypt): Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Revelation 16:12 (Parallel theme): And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Isaiah 51:10 (Parallel theme): Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

Zephaniah 2:13 (Parallel theme): And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness.