

Zechariah 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Analysis

And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain—special mention of Egypt, representative of nations. Egypt's unique geography (dependent on Nile flooding, not rain) might suggest exemption from rain-based curse. The verse addresses this: **there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles**—even Egypt receives equivalent punishment (plague instead of drought), ensuring no nation escapes judgment for non-compliance.

Egypt symbolizes worldly power and historical oppressor of Israel (Exodus enslavement). That even Egypt must bow to Messiah demonstrates universal submission—no nation too powerful or distant to avoid accountability. Isaiah 19:18-25 prophesies Egypt's conversion: **"In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt."** Egypt transitions from enemy to worshiper, but still under obligation to annual pilgrimage like all nations.

Historical Context

Egypt represents Gentile nations who must acknowledge Christ's kingship. The specific mention indicates that familiar nations (not just unknown peoples) will participate in millennial worship. This fulfills prophecies like Isaiah 19 where

former enemies become worshipers. Egypt's unique agricultural system (Nile irrigation) doesn't exempt them—God will find appropriate means to enforce obedience.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Egypt's inclusion teach about God's desire for even former enemies to worship Him?
2. How does 'tailored judgment' (plague for Egypt vs. drought for others) demonstrate God's perfect justice?
3. In what way does Egypt's conversion symbolize the gospel's power to transform God's enemies into worshipers?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵל אָבָה וְאֵל אָמֵת מִשְׁפָּט חַת
H518 **And if the family** of Egypt H3808 **go not up** H3808 **and come** H3808
H4940 H4714 H5927 H935

אָשָׁר הַמִּגְּפָה הַתְּהִלָּה תְּהִלָּה עֲלֵיכֶם H5921 H1961 not that have no rain there shall be the plague H4046 H834

בְּאַת	יְהוָה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	הָגֹן	אֲשֶׁר	אַתָּה	לֹא	עַל
will smite	wherewith the LORD	H853	the heathen	H834		H3808	go not up	
H5062	H3068		H1471				H5927	

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