

Ezekiel 29 – Judgment Upon the Nations – Egypt

By Holly Effiom

VV1-3

When is this vision taking place? Eze 26:1

Is this significant?

Who is the target nation of this prophecy? Ps 74; Isa 27:1; 51:9

Is this a prophecy of good things to come? How do you know?

How does God describe Egypt? Isa 27:1; 37:28-29 Assyria raging against God; Job 41; 3:8; Rev 12

What did the Pharaoh say in his heart? How is this related to Eze 27:3 and Dan 4:30?

LESSON: Something interesting occurs in Eze 29, God gives Ezekiel a prophecy against Egypt, but it was given prior to the prophecy against Tyre. Why; and why are these chapters in Ezekiel laid out as they are? I do not think that it is coincidental – just as the fact that, chronologically, Daniel occurs prior to Ezekiel, yet, the books are laid out with Daniel coming after Ezekiel. It raises, in my mind, the question of when these things are taking (or *will* take) place? Perhaps this is the question it is meant to provoke.

Here, too, in this section of scripture, God is telling us about where another world power went wrong and will go wrong; “...My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.” This nation, Egypt, set itself up as a god among people, just as Tyrus did – who said he was of “perfect” beauty in Ezekiel 27:3. Just as Babylon will say “...Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” Dan 4:30

Why did God, in the case of Babylon, band the stump in the ground with iron and brass (Dan 4:15)? Why did He not allow the kingdom to be destroyed like Egypt and Tyre? Is it because Noah had spoken over the Gentiles, that they would be enlarged (Gen 9:27), and Babylon was only at the beginning of its reign (Dan 2:38)? Was it because Nebuchadnezzar had Daniel there to intercede on his behalf (Dan 4:37)? And, is this what is meant, in Gen 9:27, by Japheth *dwelling in the tents of Shem*?

VV4-9

What does God intend to do to Egypt?

What will happen to the fish that inhabit Egypt’s river?

What do the fish signify?

Why will God bring this destruction upon Egypt?

What is a staff?

In what way was Egypt a staff for Israel?

In what way was the staff of Egypt a reed? What did this mean for the house of Israel?

Why would Egypt have this undue influence upon the house of Israel?

What will all of Egypt know when their destruction is accomplished?

LESSON: My mother had a saying, “You’re leaning on a broken stick...” meaning, you are relying on something, or someone, that has enough trouble carrying itself. Here in this section of scripture, this is what God says to the house Israel about Egypt – it is a *staff* made of *reeds* to you. The house of Israel relied upon Egypt to stand and suffered injury when Egypt failed under its weight.

Egypt had come to believe in his *own* greatness to the point that he convinced himself that he had *made* and could *control* the very river upon which *he* relied for his sustenance and wealth. In fact, other nations (the fishes) had come to indulge Egypt in this delusion because they, too, were benefiting and relying, in some way, upon Egypt’s wealth and general “almighty-ness”. Identify the “reeds” in this *staff* of understanding.

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God says he will remove Egypt from the midst of the river, along with all the fish that cling to its scales, and leave it gasping for water in the desert, while the beasts of the field and fowls of the heaven pick at it for food. God didn't need to touch the river, He would just removed the irritant from the water. This thought reminds me that, at one time, Egypt used to be a lush, verdant land, not the very dry desert we see today, in which *tourism* revenue makes up 12% of its GDP – people fly in from all over world to go there and pick over its old bones. *Fowl of a different sort!*

VV10-16

- What does Egypt's bad influence upon the house of Israel do for its standing before God?
- Where is the tower of Syene?
- In what way will Egypt be made desolate?
- For how long will Egypt remain desolate?
- In what way is the Egyptians' punishment similar to that of Judah?
- In what way is it different?
- From where did the Egyptians originate?
- When God brings an end to the "...captivity of Egypt...", will the nation return to its pre-captivity status, like Babylon in Dan 4:36?
- Will it ever again be a world power?
- Will Egypt be the confidence of the house of Israel?

LESSON: With the 40-year desolation of Egypt, God finally puts to rest the irritant Egypt had been over the house of Israel's continual lust for Egypt and all things Egyptian! On the *world's* stage, with the conquest by Babylon, God had only begun the assault on the power center of the world, satan's 7 heads – Egypt was the first, the *oldest*. Rev 12; 17

Understand, when speaking of these powers, whether here in Ezekiel, or in Daniel 2 or 7, besides being provided the names among the children of Noah that will be world powers, we are also being provided a *timeline*. The order of Nebuchadnezzar's conquests telegraphs the order of the judgments on the world powers, but the reason for the judgment will always be the same – that one with power will seek to set himself superior to his brothers, and the only way to do that is to *destroy your equals*, as exemplified in the story of Cain and Abel.

Suppose each of Noah's sons was given his time of preeminence – Ham (Egypt), Shem (Tyre), Japheth, whose time was "enlarged" – expanded in strength and prolonged (Gentiles, comprised of Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, British, American – the 8th head, according to Rev 17). Then the associated timeline to the day of the Lord is as follows (all date ranges are approximations):

Egypt	Tyre	Time of the Gentiles (nations or heathens)					
		Babylon	Persia	Greece	Rome	Britain	America
4300 – 525 BC	2750 – 539 BC	1894–1595 BC	3000 – 63 BC	1600 – 146 BC	31 BC–1453 AD	1485–1945 AD	1776 AD – current (246 years)

Daniel 9:27 tells us what we will see, how we will know that we are 1260 days to the day of the Lord!

Notice something, the year, 539 BC, in which Tyre was besieged by Nebuchadnezzar is 14 year before Egypt is assaulted by Nebuchadnezzar. Historian say that the siege of Tyre took 13 years. Perhaps this section of scripture is telling us that the conquest of Egypt replenished Nebuchadnezzar's coffers from his 13 year fight with Tyre.

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VV17-21

How does this date correlate with that of Eze 29:1?

Did Ezekiel have this prophetic vision at the same time?

Would you say that this section of scripture is inserted later? How do you know?

Why did God allow Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon this victory over Egypt?

Did they receive payment (spoil) for their work in Tyre?

In what way did God repay Nebuchadnezzar?

What will happen to the horn of the house of Israel, upon Egypt's fall?

What will the house of Israel learn in that day?

LESSON: When God said that He was against Egypt in Eze 29:3, its decline had begun years before the full effect and its collapse occurred in judgment. Isaiah describes what happened in Isa 19:1-15: the strength of Egypt had been its *unity*. They stopped trusting in one another and began consulting mediums and idols, they became *superstitious*, Isaiah 20 describes Egypt's and Ethiopia's (Kush's) eventual enslavement.

I can't help but think that this lamentation is actually a warning to the Gentile world power that was coming into its own through its conquest of Egypt, and especially, to the final Gentile world power.

But here is the note of hope in this final section of the chapter: it is in the collapse of Israel's hope, Egypt – as cataclysmic as it was for the nation and the world – that Israel, itself, begins to bud. God says something interesting, that in that day, when the horn of the house of Israel begins to bud, that Ezekiel will no longer be dumb. What does this mean?

When Egypt lost its hold on Israel, the house of Israel stepped out into a wilderness. Once it got its bearings after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, it stepped out into God's promise and its own blessing – its own horn began to bud as they moved in God's word, and His prophecies begins to speak:

Just as God fulfilled His word in freeing the house of Israel from the bondage of Egypt and bringing it into His promised blessing, He is fulfilling His word to all of Adam in freeing him from bondage to satan and bringing *him* into His promised blessing, a *new* "promised land" – a *new* heaven and a *new* earth – with a *new* Jerusalem, where God will reside in the midst of all of Adam's children! *Hallelujah!!!*