

EZEKIEL 24:1-32:32 | THE BABYLONIAN WAR – A PARABLE

EZEKIEL 29:1-32:32 | EGYPT

EZEKIEL 29:1-30:26 | THE DESTRUCTION OF EGYPT

- Ezekiel 29:1-21 – see session 20
- Ezekiel 30:1-4 - The Day of the Lord is Near
 - Ezekiel is told to **howl**, and his message was short and simple: **Woe worth the day!** (v. 2).
 - The Hebrew word הָהּ (hah) is an interjection that is untranslatable, like its English equivalent, Ha!. The KJV goes with **Woe**. The Young’s Literal transliterates as “ha!” The Darby Version translates as “Alas.”
 - The word **worth** is an obsolete verb. Oxford English Dictionary (online) says, “(a) **woe worth (a person or thing)**: may evil or misfortune beset (a person); may a curse be on (a person or thing). Frequently in **woe worth the day (also time, etc.)**. Now *archaic* and *rare*.” [emphasis theirs].¹
 - The day in question is **near** and is **the day of the Lord**. It is a **cloudy day** and **the time of the heathen** (v. 3).
 - The day of the Lord is seen dozens of times in scripture and is described with ominous warnings throughout.
 - This day **shall be a time of the heathen** (v. 3). That is, it is the day in which the nations are brought to judgment (alas!).
 - How can this day be **near** (v. 3, twice) when even the first coming of Messiah was 500 years into the future? Probably the best explanation is that this is from the perspective of the Lord (vv. 1-2) (compare 2 Peter 3:8).
 - Again, we find in these verses, specifically verse 4, information about the last days which we would not know otherwise, as they are not found in other passages. A full and complete eschatology requires the use of all prophetic scriptures.
- Ezekiel 30:5-9 - Egypt’s Allies
 - The allies of Egypt, including **Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia** along with **Chub** are mentioned by name. Broader allies are **the men of the land that is in league** with Egypt. All shall **fall with them by the sword**.
 - These places are partially unknown by modern names (Young’s Literal uses Hebrew names), but are mostly, it appears, in north Africa and perhaps Arabia.
 - In any account, the allies of Egypt will fall with Egypt.
 - One thing that seems evident is that the world can expect the rise of north Africa, under an Egyptian hegemony, as the days approach the end.
- Ezekiel 30:10-19 - And Also...
 - The warning of the Lord now goes back to a more immediate prophecy **by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar** (see note on name in Ezek. 26:7). The judgments of these verses

¹ <https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/230381?redirectedFrom=weorthan#eid1216259200> – accessed 12/17/2020

appear to be more of a reference to the immediate judgment, which would serve as a shadow of the ultimate judgment.

- For such judgments as described, it would seem that history would remember this disaster. However, historians almost exclusively deny it. This could be largely due to the fact that historians and archaeologists have made several critical mistakes that completely skew their final analysis.
- Jim Reilly, in defending the accuracy of the Biblical account, writes:

In 564 B.C. a foreign army invaded Egypt, laying waste the country. Tens of thousands died. Thousands more, primarily the skilled and educated elite, priests and artisans alike, were taken captive and deported. A minority escaped into the surrounding desert, among them the ruling pharaoh. Only a small remnant survived. The physical structures of the country were also decimated. Temples and tombs were destroyed and looted. Cities were burned. From Migdol in the eastern Delta to Syene near Elephantine south of Thebes, 500 miles upriver on the Nile, the country was ravaged. It was, quite literally, a holocaust. Twenty years passed as the land languished, raped of its treasure by garrisons left behind by the foreigners. No pharaoh ruled to restore order. Another twenty years saw limited rebuilding and the gradual renewal of religious and political life. Temples were repaired. Training began for a new generation of priests and artisans. The few traumatized survivors of the exile, now old, had only a vague recollection of the days when the priests were taken away and the population vanished. They told tales about the š, “the devastation”. The name of the invader, familiar to even the most casual student of ancient history, was Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, at the time the dominant power in the ancient Near East. Only one problem surfaces in connection with this unprecedented act of genocide and material destruction. Without exception, historians categorically deny it ever happened.²

- Ezekiel 30:20-26 - The beginning of the end
 - In these verses, the Lord comes back to the present time and lets Ezekiel know what is happening “now” in Egypt. This is late in the **eleventh year** of the captivity of Jehoiachin (Ezek. 1:2) which is about 588 B.C., just months before the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - The Lord lets Ezekiel know that the arms of the Pharaoh have been broken (v. 22), metaphorically speaking. The Egyptians will be scattered **among the nations** (v. 23) by the **king of Babylon** (v. 24). The defeat of Egypt in these verses appears to be most directly related to Nebuchadnezzar's later war on Egypt, as described in the section above, but could have a double meaning with eschatological insights also.

EZEKIEL 31:1-18 | PERDITION

- Ezekiel 31:1-9 - The Assyrian in his greatness
 - This vision takes place four months prior to the previous verses (compare Ezek. 30:20). The prophecy will be spoken to the **Pharaoh king of Egypt** (v. 2) as a warning, but they are about **the Assyrian...a cedar in Lebanon** (v. 3).

² http://www.displaceddynasties.com/uploads/6/2/6/5/6265423/displaced_dynasties_chapter__1_-_nebuchadnezzars_wars.pdf - Accessed 12/17/2020

- Characteristics of the Assyrian:
 - Compared to a mighty tree (v. 3).
 - Nourished by a unique supply from the earth (v. 4).
 - One who was **exalted above all** (v. 5).
 - He became a resting place for **All the fowls of heaven** and **the beasts of the field** (v. 6).
 - **All great nations** dwelt **under his shadow** (v. 6).
 - This figurative tree exceeded beauty so that in the Garden of Eden there was no tree **like unto him in his beauty** (v. 8). He was envied by **all the trees of Eden...the garden of God** (v. 9).
 - It was the Lord that **made him fair** (v.9).
 - It becomes a stretch of the wildest imagination to attribute this to something other than a reference either to Satan or to the Antichrist. Nebuchadnezzar was perhaps a *type* of this tree, by comparing Daniel 4:20-22.
 - **The Assyrian** is referenced 12 times in Scripture: seven times in Isaiah, one in Ezekiel, two in Hosea, and one in Micah. In almost all cases an argument can be made that these passages reference the Antichrist.
- ...to be continued!