

## An Oracle Concerning Egypt

19 An oracle concerning Egypt.

Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud  
and comes to Egypt;  
and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence,  
and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within  
them. (all hope is gone from them)

- 2 And I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians,  
and they will fight, each against another  
and each against his neighbor,  
city against city, kingdom against kingdom;
- 3 and the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be  
emptied out,  
and I will confound their counsel;  
and they will inquire of the idols and the sorcerers,  
and the mediums and the necromancers;
- 4 and I will give over the Egyptians  
into the hand of a hard master,  
and a fierce king will rule over them,  
declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

- 5 And the waters of the sea will be dried up,  
and the river will be dry and parched,  
6 and its canals will become foul, (stagnant water)  
and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish  
and dry up,  
reeds and rushes will rot away.
- 7 There will be bare places by the Nile,  
on the brink of the Nile,

1) Egypt has long been intertwined with the nations of Israel and Judah. Here Joseph found safety for his family, and here Moses was called to deliver them from slavery. It was a significant world power which had angered God with its idol worship.

Riding shows he is above earthly boundaries. The coming of God can be found throughout the O.T. Judges 5.4 in the Song of Deborah. 2 Sam. 5.24, Psalm 96.13. Yonah (NII P14) points out clouds are represented as being vehicles of God. (Ps 18.1ff; 104.3) In Daniel the Son of Man is associated w/ the clouds of heaven (Dan 7.13, see also Mt. 24.30, 26.64, Acts 1.7, 14.14ff). The opening focus is on God then Egypt is clearly his focus as it is named four times in this 1st verse. The idols are mentioned showing the false gods and their inability to protect. Even the stone idols tremble before the living God, (Lk 19.40)

- 2) God speaks to them in the 1st Person. He will cause a total disunity in the nation. God is one and unity. Without Him there is no hope. When He is against you fear reigns supreme. God divides and sifts families. (Mt 10.21a)
- 3) In desperation they will call on their false gods, God will not allow them to agree on a plan of action.
- 4) Jones P.67 see the Assyrian conquest of the lower Egypt in 671 B.C. as a fulfillment of this prophecy. The Assyrians destroyed Thebes in Upper Egypt in 663 B.C. This prophecy was given in 714-711 B.C. or over 40 years before the events.
- 5) SEA is in reference to the Nile which at flood stage is as a great sea. Here a period of Global warming/ climate change cause the waters not to flow and the life of Egypt is stopped.
- Food, transportation, All life in Egypt depends upon the sea.
- 6) THE WATERS STOP FLOWING AND EGYPT DIES QUICKLY.
- 7) No crops will grow even right by the edge of the waterless river.
- Bare Places no stubble, no roots, only dry desolate cracked ground will remain

- and all that is sown by the Nile will be parched,  
will be driven away, and will be no more.
- 8 The fishermen will mourn and lament,  
all who cast a hook in the Nile;  
and they will languish  
who spread nets on the water.
- 9 The workers in combed flax will be in despair,  
and the weavers of white cotton.
- 10 Those who are the pillars of the land will be  
crushed,  
and all who work for pay will be grieved.
- 11 The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish;  
the wisest counselors of Pharaoh give stupid  
counsel.  
How can you say to Pharaoh,  
"I am a son of the wise,  
a son of ancient kings"?
- 12 Where then are your wise men?  
Let them tell you  
that they might know what the LORD of hosts  
has purposed against Egypt.
- 13 The princes of Zoan have become fools,  
and the princes of Memphis are deluded;  
those who are the cornerstones of her tribes  
have made Egypt stagger.
- 14 The LORD has mingled within her a spirit of  
confusion,  
and they will make Egypt stagger in all its deeds,  
as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

- ⑦ This picture is of complete and total death of all things that grow.
- ⑧ As the waters recede the fish die from lack of water and the heating up by the sun. FISHING IS ABOUT HOPE. Here there is no hope. they no longer fish because there is nothing to catch.
- ⑨ the Nile delta is known for some of the finest cotton in the world, but here nothing grows but despair.
- ⑩ PILLARS is most likely referring to those who employ others leaving everyone unemployed with no hope of income.
- ⑪ Isaiah returns to the thought of verse 3. Even the educated have no answers and give foolish advice. In crisis and under pressure they give "stupid counsel." These counselors show the nepotism that has brought them to their positions of advising the king.
- ⑫ This is both a taunt and a condemnation of the king's advisors. Are there any 'really' wise men advising him. If there was they would be speaking for God and telling him what was coming and why. If they were wise then they would tell the king God's will, will be done nothing that they do will stop God.
- ⑬ Those who are advising the king are described as deluded, fools, causing the whole nation to suffer and crash. Everyone suffers under bad leadership.
- ⑭ God is so displeased w/ Egypt He personally has interviewed and not allowed them to find answers. It is not just the foolishness of man but the will of God that this happens. The description of a drunken man show they are now controlled by the events and will surely suffer, and fall.

15 And there will be nothing for Egypt that head or tail, palm branch or reed, may do.

Egypt, Assyria, Israel Blessed

16 In that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the LORD of hosts shakes over them. 17 And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians. Everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the purpose that the LORD of hosts has purposed against them.

18 In that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD of hosts. One of these will be called the City of Destruction. city of the sun

19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. 20 It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them. 21 And the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the LORD and perform them. 22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the LORD, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them.

23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

24 In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, 25 whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

\* This may be "city of the sun" or "city of light." This due to more recent discoveries of ancient manuscripts. (Young p.49) The two Hebrew words are extremely similar in form.

15 A total breakdown of society will follow. From top to bottom (head or tail) everything will fail. From the top of the trees (palm branches) to the river (reeds) everything will show the disaster that has come upon Egypt. This coming judgment is totally out of your hands. It will happen!!!

IN THAT DAY IS USED TO TRANSITION AS THINGS CHANGE FROM PUNISHMENT TO PROMISE & RESTORATION.

see Note Below For this section

- 16 There will be no fight left in them after all that is prophesied has come upon them.
- 17 Those they used to terrorize now bring fear to them when mentioned. They see that it is God of Judah who brought them down.
- 18 Here in Egypt some things have changed. Now there are 5 cities in Egypt that serve the God of Judah, and speak the language of Canaan. A conquest is done one city at a time, thus w/5 cities, it is in full swing.
- 19 The altar shows worship to God has begun. The pillar is a marker showing the remembrance of God's grace and the people's victory. The true God will be worshipped in Egypt.
- 20 God will see the altar and pillar and answer their prayers. These stones remind them of God's presence in their lives. Now the Egyptians can call on God for his help. God is the savior of any people who serve Him. (Isa 43:11; 45:15, 21)
- 21 God reaches out to people who are seeking Him, even the Egyptians. They have heard the Lord and his messengers and responded in faith believing, obeying Him in all they do.
- 22 The striking is about discipline and not punishment. The purpose to restore and strengthen them. Their repenting will cause God to hear and answer their prayers. 1 Peter 3:12
- 23 A highway used as a figurative connection showing that which once divided them is gone. The worship is of the one true God.
- 24-25 Here is the unity of those worshipping the true God. Together they are blessed of God.

Note: This is a spiritual prophecy and shows the spiritual kingdom that stretches across borders, nationalities, languages, cultures, etc.