

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 41

October 20, 2019



Scenes from the Life of Moses by Botticelli Cir. 1481, Sistine Chapel

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Forty-One

JUDGMENT ON EGYPT PART III

October 20, 2019

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 19:16–25

¹⁶In that day shall the Egyptians be like unto women; and they shall tremble and fear because of the shaking of the hand of Jehovah of hosts, which he shaketh over them.

¹⁷And the land of Judah shall become a terror unto Egypt; every one to whom mention is made thereof shall be afraid, because of the purpose of Jehovah of hosts, which he purposeth against it.

¹⁸In that day there shall be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan, and swear to Jehovah of hosts; one shall be called The city of destruction.

¹⁹In that day shall there be an altar to Jehovah in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to Jehovah. ²⁰And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto Jehovah of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they shall cry unto Jehovah because of oppressors, and he will send them a saviour, and a defender, and he will deliver them. ²¹And Jehovah shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know Jehovah in that day; yea, they shall worship with sacrifice and oblation, and shall vow a vow unto Jehovah, and shall perform it. ²²And Jehovah will smite Egypt, smiting and healing; and they shall return unto Jehovah, and he will be entreated of them, and will heal them.

²³In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria; and the Egyptians shall worship with the Assyrians.

²⁴In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth; ²⁵for that Jehovah of hosts hath blessed them, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance (ASV, 1901).

ISRAEL & EGYPT

Isaiah 19:16–18

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The summary story of Egypt's future is given in Isaiah 19:1–22. In verses 1–10, the Prophet Isaiah described the punishment of Egypt because of her sins. Egypt will be characterized by civil war, desolation, and famine. In verses 11–15, the prophet stated that the root cause of Egypt's devastation is her leaders who have led Egypt astray. Under the dictatorships of Farouk, Nasser and Sadat, Egypt went to war against Israel on four occasions, resulting in heavy losses for Egypt and wrecking its economy. The first was the war of Independence.

WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

During the war for Israel's independence, many Jewish villages were destroyed, synagogues and cemeteries desecrated, and fields and buildings burned.



Egyptian troops overran the Gaza strip in the west as well as the southern outskirts of Jerusalem. Despite tremendous losses, the new Jewish state survived.

In 1949 Israel signed armistice agreements with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan, which in April 1949 changed its name to Jordan.

EGYPT VIOLATES THE AGREEMENT

In September 1955, in violation of international agreements and in what amounted to an act of war, Egypt sealed off access to the Israeli port of Eilat, effectively stopping Israel's sea trade with much of Africa and the Far East. Then, on July 26, 1956 Nasser announced Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal, most of whose shares were held by Britain and France. With diplomacy failing to reverse Nasser's decision, Britain and France embarked on preparations to

regain control of the Canal, and on October 29, 1956 together with Israel, launched a military operation in the Sinai Peninsula. Four and a half months later, on March 16, 1957, Israel withdrew her troops from the Sinai and Gaza strip after receiving international reassurances that Israel's vital waterways would remain open. Three thousand three hundred United Nations troops replaced them. Despite Israel's withdrawal, the Egyptians refused to open the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping.



During the early months of 1966, it became clear that Israel's neighbors were escalating activities against her.

On May 15, 1967, Egyptian forces moved into the Sinai (1).

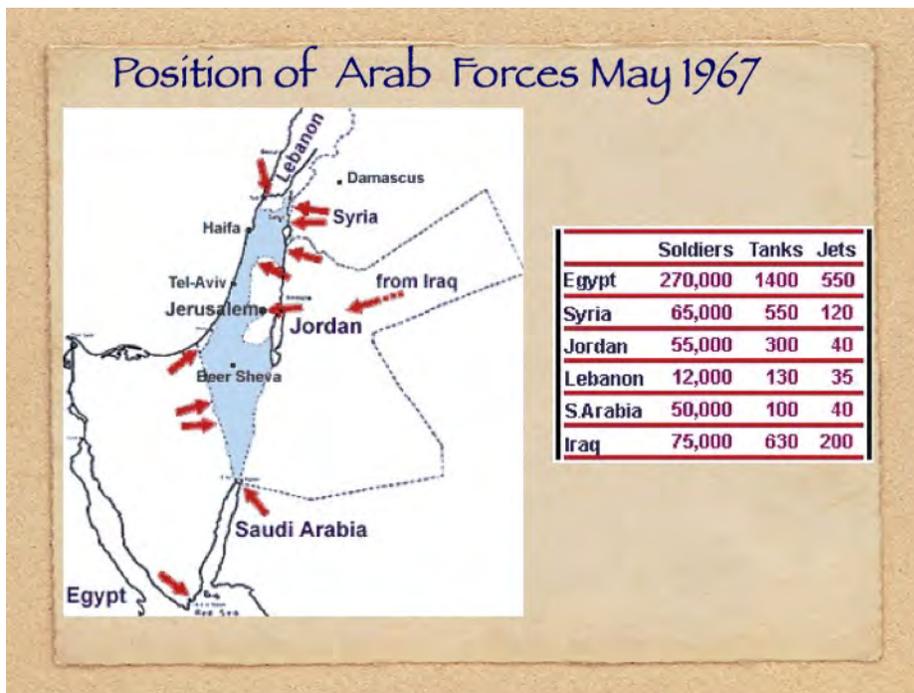
On May 18, Egypt expelled the U.N. Peacekeeping forces from Israel's borders.

On the 22nd, the Egyptians closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping.

On the 25th, encouraged by Egypt - Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia moved their troops to Israel's borders.

Two days later, on the 26th of May, President Nasser of Egypt declared, *"Our basic goal is the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight.... The mining of Sharm El Sheik is a confrontation with Israel."*

Modeled after the November 1966 Egyptian-Syrian "defence" pact, other pacts were signed by Egypt with Jordan and Iraq on May 30th and June 4th, thereby completing the encirclement of Israel.



THE SIX-DAY WAR

With tensions mounting, the Straits of Tiran blocked, and Arab armies poised to strike, Israel decided (on June 5th 1967) to launch a pre-emptive attack on the massive Egyptian forces aimed at her. Within 190 minutes the backbone of the Egyptian air force was broken, and by the end of the first day of war 298 Egyptian airplanes were destroyed. Backed by complete air superiority, Israeli army divisions then thrust into the Sinai desert approaching the bank of the Suez Canal. At the same time, Israel issued an appeal to Jordan to stay out of the war. Jordan listened to the Egyptians lies of the situation. They refused and opened a heavy artillery barrage on both west Jerusalem and the Tel-Aviv area which forced Israel to counterattack. By June 8th the Israel Defence Forces defeated the Jordanian forces and captured the whole of Judea and Samaria. On the morning of June 9th, Israel attacked the Syrians and captured the Golan Heights. From these heights, Syria had shelled and destroyed 205 houses, 175 acres of orchards and 75 acres of grain.

The six days of fierce fighting ended in Israel's occupation of the Sinai desert and the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the West Bank, providing Israel's cities with a much needed buffer zone and dramatically reducing the danger of extinction by a surprise Arab attack. Furthermore, victory had a special religious meaning because of the unification of Jerusalem and the return of Jews to Judea and Samaria, which was part of biblical Israel.



EGYPT’S WAR OF ATTRITION

In March 1969, still humiliated by the 1967 defeat, Egypt launched a War of Attrition against Israeli forces in the Sinai with intense artillery fire against Israel’s ‘Bar-Lev Line’ on the east bank of the Suez Canal. After heightened losses in May, June and July 1969, Israel responded with air raids into Egypt. Nasser, in response, appealed to the Soviet Union for aid and on March 19, 1970 Soviet missile batteries were installed in Egypt near the Canal. Not only did Moscow supply weapon systems, but they also operated some of them and took a direct part in fighting Israel. Intense US pressure led to a cease-fire on August 7, 1970 (Rogers Plan B) with plans to put into effect a US plan for peace in the region (Rogers Plan A) based on land for peace. However, the cease fire, which called for a freeze on the situation in the Canal (no movement of either troops or military equipment) was breached by Egypt’s movement forward of forces on the same day it came into effect. Israel responded by suspending her participation in negotiations until the situation, which had prevailed on the eve of the signing of the ceasefire agreement, was restored. The peace plan was never implemented.

THE YOM KIPPOR WAR

The October War began shortly after midday on Saturday, October 6, 1973, when Egypt and Syria launched a concerted surprise military attack on Israel. They had chosen to attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, a day when most Israelis were in synagogues praying and fasting. Due to the advantage of surprise, Egypt succeeded in crossing the Suez Canal on October 7th and Syrian forces advanced on the Golan Heights. By October 10th, however, after heavy losses, Israeli forces succeeded in reversing the tide of battle in the North and during the next three days, Israeli forces advanced 10 km beyond the 1967 cease- fire lines into Syrian territory. On the Egyptian front, Israeli forces succeeded in crossing the Canal on the 14th and surrounded the Egyptian Third Army. Fighting continued despite a cease-fire agreement on 22 October, which almost brought the USSR and the US to confrontation. Finally, on Oct. 26th a US-Soviet sponsored Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire was accepted by all parties.

Talks between Egypt and Israel, with the active participation of US Secretary of State Kissinger, continued for two months and concentrated on Israeli withdrawal to post-Six Day War lines, the problem of the encircled Third Army, and the exchange of prisoners. Israel agreed to withdraw to 20 km from the Canal. The size of both armies was reduced, and a Disengagement Agreement was signed between Israel and Egypt on January 18, 1974. The negotiations with Syria took much longer and mutual fire continued throughout the spring of 1974. A UN buffer zone was established called the Israel-Egypt agreement, a US Memorandum of Understanding was given to Israel.



Never in any recorded history has this these prophecies been true; Egyptian forces passed through the Land of Israel freely, even in the days of Solomon. Only since 1948, and especially since the Six Day War, have the Egyptian forces becoming fearful of the Israelites in this passage. There has been a fear and dread in Egypt of Israel ever since that time. With Egypt's having lost four wars against Israel with heavy casualties, the fear is deeply rooted. Prophetically, today is still the period of Isaiah 19:16–17.

Isaiah 19:18

¹⁸In that day there shall be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan, and swear to Jehovah of hosts; one shall be called The city of destruction.

At the time this prophecy was written Hebrew was, the *language of Canaan*. This prophecy is yet future to us at this time. The Egyptians will speak Hebrew and become believers in the God of the Hebrews, namely the Jewish Messiah, Jesus.

Isaiah 19:19–22

¹⁹In that day shall there be an altar to Jehovah in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to Jehovah. ²⁰And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto Jehovah of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they shall cry unto Jehovah because of oppressors, and he will send them a saviour, and a defender, and he will deliver them. ²¹And Jehovah shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know Jehovah in that day; yea, they shall worship with sacrifice and oblation, and shall vow a vow unto Jehovah, and shall perform it. ²²And Jehovah will smite Egypt, smiting and healing; and they shall return unto Jehovah, and he will be entreated of them, and will heal them (ASV, 1901).

An altar to the God of Israel will be built as a sign and a witness of the power of the God of Israel to save the land of Egypt. Egypt will be greatly oppressed by the forces of the Antichrist and his cohorts (Daniel 11:42–43), but God will save Egypt from the domination of those oppressors.

The Egyptians will realize that Allah, the Islamic non-god, cannot save them, but only Jehovah, the God of Israel. This will lead to a national conversion of Egypt. Egypt will know the Lord and will worship the God of Israel with oblations, sacrifices, and vows. The same God Who brought about their destruction will also bring about their regeneration and their healing when they turn in faith to Him.

In conjunction with the latter days of the Tribulation and the Campaign of Armageddon, there will be the national conversion of Egypt. In this manner, they will take their place in the ranks of the sheep Gentiles who will be judged in the valley of Jehoshaphat by the Lord Jesus. It should be noted that Egypt will be one of the nations that will move against the Antichrist in Daniel 11:40.

Nevertheless, because of Egypt's longstanding hatred of Israel, in the outworking of the cursing principle of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:3), Egypt will suffer a desolation that will be similar to that of Edom, according to the prophet Joel.

Joel 3:19:

Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land (ASV, 1901).

THE BLESSING WILL INCLUDE ASSYRIA

Isaiah 19:23–25

²³In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria; and the Egyptians shall worship with the Assyrians.

²⁴In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth; ²⁵for that Jehovah of hosts hath blessed them, saying, Blessed be

Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance (ASV, 1901).

The situation described by Isaiah in verses 19–22 will not be limited to Egypt. Assyria and the rest of the earth will also be recipients of blessing in that day, the Millennium. People will travel on a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and people in those two nations-enemies in Isaiah’s day will worship together. Egypt and Assyria (present-day Iraq) will be “connected by a highway,” allowing both nations to freely travel to Jerusalem to worship God. In all of ancient times, Egypt and Assyria (earlier Mesopotamia) were natural enemies; their coming together will be equivalent to the wolf and the lamb living in harmony. In Isaiah’s day Judah was hoping that Egypt would save her from the Assyrians. But remarkably, in the Millennium these three powers, Assyria, Egypt, and Israel, will have a harmonious, peaceful relationship under God’s hand of blessing. All this, of course, will fulfill part of the promise to Abraham that “all peoples on earth will be blessed through” him (Genesis 12:3).

NEXT MESSAGE: THE WOE TO EGYPT PT. IV
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