

Pentwater Bible Church

Ezekiel Message 67
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Dentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Sixty-Seven

THE PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT PT. VI

January 15, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 32:1-16

¹ And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ² Son of man, take up a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou wast likened unto a young lion of the nations: yet art thou as a monster in the seas; and thou didst break forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers. ³ Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will spread out my net upon thee with a company of many peoples; and they shall bring thee up in my net. ⁴ And I will leave thee upon the land, I will cast thee forth upon the open field, and will cause all the birds of the heavens to settle upon thee, and I will satisfy the beasts of the whole earth with thee. ⁵ And I will lay thy flesh upon the mountains, and fill the valleys with thy height. ⁶ I will also water with thy blood the land wherein thou swimmest, even to the mountains; and the watercourses shall be full of thee. ⁷ And when I shall extinguish thee, I will cover the heavens, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. ⁸ All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord Jehovah. ⁹ I will also vex the hearts of many peoples, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known. ¹⁰ Yea, I will make many peoples amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall.

¹¹ For thus saith the Lord Jehovah: The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee. ¹² By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall; the terrible of the nations are they all: and they shall bring to nought the pride of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed. ¹³ I will destroy also all the beasts thereof from beside many waters; neither shall the foot of man trouble them any more, nor the hoofs of beasts trouble them. ¹⁴ Then will I make their waters clear, and cause their rivers to run like oil, saith the Lord Jehovah. ¹⁵ When I shall make the land of Egypt desolate and waste, a land destitute of that whereof it was full, when I shall smite all them that dwell therein, then shall they know that I am Jehovah. ¹⁶ This is the lamentation wherewith they shall lament; the daughters of the nations shall lament therewith; over Egypt, and over all her multitude, shall they lament therewith, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

THE FINAL JUDGMENT ON PHARAOH

Ezekiel 32:1-16

¹ *And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ²Son of man, take up a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou wast likened unto a young lion of the nations: yet art thou as a monster in the seas; and thou didst break forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers (ASV, 1901).*

This prophecy was given to Ezekiel almost two years after the one in chapter thirty-one. This was then about eighteen months after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Therefore *in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month* is March 3, 585 B.C. on the Gregorian calendar. This would be about two months after news of the fall of Jerusalem had reached the prisoners of war in Babylon (Ezekiel 33:21). Ezekiel must have heard of Jerusalem's fall by a captive from Nebuchadnezzar's last assault on Jerusalem. Ezekiel is now required by God to again take up a lamentation or funeral dirge. This is the second to the last one *over Pharaoh king of Egypt*. The Lord tells Pharaoh Hophra he was likened to a lion on land but was really more like a crocodile in the water (Ezekiel 29:3). Because both of these animals represent strength and invincibility God is saying that he was feared. The crocodile is not usually out in the open to be seen. It hides and then attacks utilizing the advantage of surprise. The text continues with the action of the crocodile (sea monster) breaking forth out of its hiding place in the rivers. This characterization represents Pharaoh's moving outside the normal Egyptian boundaries with his armies. The troubling of *the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers* is indicative of nature of Egypt's conquests of the neighboring lands.

PHARAOH WILL BE TRAPPED IN THE LORD'S NET

Ezekiel 32:3-6

³ *Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will spread out my net upon thee with a company of many peoples; and they shall bring thee up in my net. ⁴And I will leave thee upon the land, I will cast thee forth upon the open field, and will cause all the birds of the heavens to settle upon thee, and I will satisfy the beasts of the whole earth with thee. ⁵And I will lay thy flesh upon the mountains, and fill the valleys with thy height. ⁶I will also water with thy blood the land wherein thou swimmest, even to the mountains; and the watercourses shall be full of thee. (ASV, 1901).*

Now God says through the prophet that Pharaoh who as the crocodile was hiding to surprise his prey would now be brought out in the open. He would be revealed. Once out of water on dry land without the cover of the water he would be vulnerable. As a "fish out of water" he would be powerless to attack other nations and would become prey. The *company of many peoples* is a reference to the Babylonians who would be led by the Lord to destroy them. The Hebrew word for net is *chaarehm*. With the same root and slightly different vowels the word changes to *charam* to mutilate or destroy. Within the Hebrew text the message amounts to a play on words using the word for net to bring destruction or mutilation upon Pharaoh and his army. It is much stronger than a simple trapping or

capturing of Pharaoh and his army. This is borne out as the text moves on to describe the results of the Babylonian victory over the Egyptian army. God says, “*I will cause all the birds of the heavens to settle upon thee, and I will satisfy the beasts of the whole earth with thee.*” The corpses of the Egyptians will lie out in the open, where the birds and wild animals will feed upon them.

Today nations are doing the same thing the Egyptians did in their inhuman God defying actions against Him and others on the earth. There is a special hatred of the Jews and the Christians that gets born out in the nations actions against these groups. Satan is the source of these efforts and this same result will happen at the end of the Tribulation just before Jesus returns. In fact He said that will be the case in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:28).

Revelation 19:17-18

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great (KJV).

The mountains are mentioned as a destination of the carcasses of the Egyptian soldiers. They will either flee there for protection or the birds of prey will carry the flesh there after feeding on their corpses. The Nile, its tributaries as well as the delta will be filled with the Blood of the corpses bringing a similar judgment on Pharaoh Hophra as Pharaoh Thutmose II experienced just prior to the Exodus when the Jews were led out of Egypt under Moses (Exodus 7:19).

THE GREAT LUMINARY IN THE HEAVENS

Ezekiel 32:7-10

⁷ And when I shall extinguish thee, I will cover the heavens, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. ⁸ All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord Jehovah. ⁹ I will also vex the hearts of many peoples, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known. ¹⁰ Yea, I will make many peoples amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall (ASV, 1901).

God is now speaking of the extinguishing the light or life of Pharaoh which will bring about a blackout over the land of Egypt. This will lead to the fear and trembling of the people of Egypt. It will also have a profound effect on the other nearby nations including their kings. The other nation's kings will *tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall*. Darkness which accompanies God's destruction which He has decreed in Divine Judgment is a consistent figure in Scripture coupled with His destruction of governmental powers. Darkness in which one cannot find one's way is a fitting manner to bring consternation upon all beholders. This makes all the nations around

to tremble for their own lives. This is not the first time it happened and it will not be the last. God uses these blackouts to bring riveting attention to His judgments. He did it during the exodus.

Exodus 10:21–23:

And Jehovah said unto Moses, Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days; they saw not one another, neither rose any one from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings (ASV, 1901).

He did it at the time of Jesus crucifixion.

Matthew 27:45:

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour (KJV).

In the last days of the Church Age, as well as the Tribulation, the Bible says of five more blackouts will occur (Isaiah 13:10; Amos 8:9; Joel 3:15; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 8:12). A blackout means that the light of the sun, moon, and stars is suddenly blacked out so that the earth is not receiving any light from these sources and is in total darkness. That day prophecied in these Scriptures is rapidly approaching and will bring the complete overthrow of the despotic world-powers led by the god of this age, who controls them. He does this to preserve order. His reasonings He clearly explains through the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 13:11

And I will punish the world for their evil And the wicked for their iniquity; And I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. (KJV).

THE SWORD OF BABYLON TO COME

Ezekiel 32:11-16

¹¹For thus saith the Lord Jehovah: The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee. ¹²By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall; the terrible of the nations are they all: and they shall bring to nought the pride of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed. ¹³I will destroy also all the beasts thereof from beside many waters; neither shall the foot of man trouble them any more, nor the hoofs of beasts trouble them. ¹⁴Then will I make their waters clear, and cause their rivers to run like oil, saith the Lord Jehovah. ¹⁵When I shall make the land of Egypt desolate and waste, a land destitute of that whereof it was full, when I shall smite all them that dwell therein, then shall they know that I am Jehovah. ¹⁶This is the lamentation wherewith they shall lament; the daughters of the nations shall lament therewith; over Egypt, and over all her multitude, shall they lament therewith, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

The Babylonians are the means by which the Lord will cause the mighty Pharaoh Hophra and the Egyptians to fall. The Lord used both Jeremiah (Jeremiah 46:26) and Ezekiel (21:19; 29:19) to describe the fact that it would be the king of Babylon who would bring the mighty nation of Egypt down and it is repeated here. The majority of this set of passages describe the desolation which will come about within Egypt's own borders. The waterways will become quiet and will be unused at the time of their forty year exile at the beginning of the Messianic Kingdom. To further drive the Egyptians out of their land the Lord says he will, "*destroy also all the beasts thereof from beside many waters; neither shall the foot of man trouble them any more, nor the hoofs of beasts trouble them.*" This desolation will last until the people return. After which the Lord says, "*Then will I make their waters clear, and cause their rivers to run like oil, saith the Lord Jehovah.*" This demonstrates a return of God's favor upon Egypt.

The same clear awareness of God as in all His judgments is stated here. His goal in these judgments is to get the world to see Him and His power then turn to Him in belief and obedience. As this section opened with describing a lamentation also known as a funeral dirge, so does it also close. Lamentations are chanted by *princes of the sea* (Ezekiel 26:16–17), the *prophet Ezekiel* (Ezekiel 27:2; 28:12), *mariners* and *pilots of the sea* (Ezekiel 27:29–32), and by *women of the nations* (32:16). The lament is an international one, befitting the fall of a great empire. The subject of *they shall lament* is also a reference to the ancient practice wherein women were hired to act as mourners (Jeremiah 9:16). What is clear from this section of Scripture is God will bring about the judgment on Egypt, there will be mourning, it will end and He will restore them in the Messianic Kingdom.

NEXT MESSAGE: THE PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT CONCLUDED.

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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