

## Message #32

## Ezekiel 29:1-21

God has a prophetic program concerning everyone. That program is directly associated with how that nation or individual relates to Him, His Word and His program. For example, God has said that Israel is His nation and He has promised that He will give Israel her land. Now depending on how nations respond to this determines what God will do to them.

God's prophetic program will not be thwarted and it will be completely implemented. Israel is His nation and He will give her every inch of her Promised Land and if nations oppose this, they are going to be totally and completely destroyed.

In the previous chapter we saw what God was going to do to Tyre and Sidon. They arrogantly defied God. They were a world dominant power who saw themselves as equal to God. They became proud of themselves and God says I have a prophetic plan for you in that I will destroy you. Now things turn to Egypt.

Egypt was known as a nation who persecuted and dominated Israel and made life miserable for the people of God. Egypt has been Israel's enemy ever since the days of Exodus (1440 B.C.). She enslaved the people of God and she tried to exterminate Israel.

She has always been a thorn in Israel's side. In more recent history, when Israel was declared a nation in 1948, the conflict immediately began between the Arabs and Israelis. The war culminated in the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and was followed by the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty that began when US President Jimmy Carter mediated the Camp David Accords. Out of that meeting, Egypt ended up with an embassy in Tel Aviv and Israel ended up with an embassy in Cairo. It looked like Israel and Egypt had finally become friends.

In January 2011, a former Israeli defense minister said, "Egypt is not only our closest friend in the region, the cooperation between us goes beyond the strategic" (*Egypt-Israel Relations*, p. 2). But as one observer said, the relationship between Egypt and Israel is a "cold peace." There is an undermining of Israel by the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2011 the Israeli Embassy in Egypt was attacked. Also, in 2011 border attacks killed Israeli security forces. There is always an underlying animosity between the Egyptians and the Israelis.

God says I know it, I see it and I have not forgotten about that and Egypt will pay. God says Ezekiel, you go tell the Egyptians this very message.

**BECAUSE OF WHAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NEGATIVELY DONE TO ISRAEL, GOD WILL JUDGE THE EGYPTIANS WITH A FEROCIOUS JUDGMENT.**

Now notice **verse 1**, again it is not Ezekiel giving these predictions, these predictions are coming directly from God. The specific date is given which was the 10<sup>th</sup> year, in the 10<sup>th</sup> month on day twelve. So this date was January 5, 587 B.C.. This places this prophecy about one year after the siege of Jerusalem had begun (Ex. 24:1-2), but before the total collapse.

The Egyptians had learned about the fact that Jerusalem was being destroyed and they were probably thinking this is great. God says, "I have specific news for Egypt that is not so great." God says I am against you and I will judge you. **He says in verse 2, don't just tell the Egyptian leadership that I am against it; you tell all the Egyptians I am against all of them.** I am against all Egyptians.

**Verse 3** begins by God restating the point for emphasis, informing Egypt that He is against her. Whenever God says that about some nation or individual, it means very serious judgment is coming.

Now the prophecy specifically names the Pharaoh, who was king of Egypt. The Pharaoh who was actually the king was Hophra (Jer. 44:30), who reigned from 589 to 570 B.C.. He was the Pharaoh who made promises to Israel that he would protect Judah and got her to break away from Babylon.

Remember Babylon was God's agent specifically chosen by God to be used as a judgment against His people. But Judah decided to turn to Egypt for help and God says I am holding you accountable Egypt for what you did.

Now in **verse 3**, God calls Pharaoh a great monster. That is an interesting Hebrew word. It is the word *tannim* which describes reptiles like large snakes (Ex. 7:9-10) and sea monsters, like crocodiles (Gen. 1:21). This word lends itself to the idea that this Pharaoh was satanic. This Pharaoh was so arrogant that he said he made the Nile River and it was his river. This is truly a satanic arrogance.

Moshe Greenberg says the thing that stands about this boast in **verse 3** is the first person pronoun attached to the first person verb. This is a "colossal boast" that he, himself, made the Nile for his own benefit or glory (*Ezekiel 21-37*, p. 602).

Well the Nile River was made by God and He intends to give land to Israel that will start with the Nile River and end at the Euphrates River (Gen. 15:18).

So God says I will tell you what will ultimately happen to Egypt:

**Reality #1** - God says I will ultimately drag you out of Egypt. **29:4**

God says you will be dragged out of the land by hooks. Literally the Babylonians would run hooks through people and take them captive. The point of this is God would cause them to be hauled out of their land by hooks, just like fish are hauled out of the water and taken away.

**Reality #2** - God says I will bring you to a barren wilderness place. **29:5a**

God says I will lead you to the desert to die. In other words, you will not die at home in your normal habitat. Fish normally live in water, but I will take you out from your place of normal existence.

**Reality #3** - God will cause beasts to literally destroy you and eat you. **29:5b**

It is clear that God is not taking Egypt out of her land to take her to some tropical paradise; he is taking her into the wilderness to be destroyed. The corpses of dead bodies will become food for the beasts and the birds. This proud Pharaoh and all of his people would perish in a very dishonorable way. They would fall in an open field and not be buried, but eaten.

**Reality #4** - God will cause all Egyptians to know He did this and they are nothing to Israel.  
**29:6-7**

Notice again in **verse 6**, the emphasis on “all” of the Egyptians. They will all know God is for Israel and they will all know that God is the One pouring out this judgment on the Egyptians.

Now at the end of **verse 6** we learn something very important about Egypt; she has been a friend to Israel in a very shallow way. The Egyptians have never been a strong friend of Israel upon which Israel could trust and lean. Egypt has never been Israel’s closest friend; God has been Israel’s closet friend. Israel has never been able to rely on Egypt. As **verse 7** says, Israel thought she could rely on the Egyptians for help but when they did that friendship snapped like a reed. You cannot put any weight on a papyrus reed; it will collapse.

Just this past April 3, President Trump welcomed the Prime Minister of Egypt, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, to the White House. This was something that had not been done in over a decade. Part of the reason was to discuss peace between Egypt and Israel. It appears as though the Egyptians truly want to become a friend of Israel. Do not be fooled. It is a reed friendship and it will collapse.

That is the way it has always been with the relationship between Egypt and Israel. It appears friendly, but it isn’t. The Egyptians are not friends of Israel; they have never been friends of Israel and they will never be friends of Israel. If they truly were friends, they would give Israel her Promised Land, but they are not about to do that. So what God basically says is I will snap Egypt like a reed.

**Reality #5** - God says He will bring military force against her. **29:8a**

God says I will bring a military against you and they will destroy you.

**Reality #6** - God says He will totally isolate and judge Egypt. **29:8b**

God says no one will be able to help you; I will cut off any help from you.

**Reality #7** - God says the land of Egypt will become a total desolate waste place. **29:9-10**

When God does this, all Egyptians will know that He is the God of Israel.

Again God informs this arrogant Pharaoh that his claim that he owned the Nile River would be his demise. **Now the connection between the Nile and Israel is this, the Egyptians are arrogantly saying I own the Nile and Israel is not getting this land.**

**(Waste Prediction #1)** - God will turn against Egypt's rivers. **29:10a**

This describes a major drought. During the Tribulation, God literally is going to dry up rivers and springs of water (i.e. Rev. 16:4). The people will literally be scorched by the fierce heat and by not being able to get water (Rev. 16:8-9). All will realize God is the one doing this.

**(Waste Prediction #2)** - God will make the land totally desolate. **29:10b**

Migdol was in the north and Syene was in the south and God's judgment would extend down to Ethiopia. Migdol takes us back to the Exodus story where the Israelites were to camp just before crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 14:2). Syene was known as a southern boundary of Egypt.

God says I have not forgotten about what was done to My people Israel and the Egyptians will pay in full in the entirety of their land.

**Reality #8** - God will not permit Egypt to be inhabited for forty years. **29:11**

This is a temporary time frame of national punishment. Just as Israel wandered for 40 years, so also will the Egyptians have their 40 year time of misery.

**Reality #9** - God will totally destroy the cities and scatter the Egyptians for forty years. **29:12**

God says that He will make the Egyptians a desolation of desolations. In other words, when God is pouring out His wrath on other parts of the world, Egypt will be the ultimate target of judgment among all judgments.

**Reality #10** - God will gather the scattered Egyptians and put them in southern Egypt where they will be a lowly kingdom. **29:13-15**

Egypt will eventually be the lowest kingdom in existence.

**Reality #11** - God will see to it that Israel will never again turn to Egypt or trust Egypt for anything. **29:16**

Israel has put her trust for peace and prosperity in just about every nation; but she has not put her trust in her God. Well God will change that. She will never again place any confidence in Egypt. Now we know this has not happened yet, because she is still looking to Egypt for friendship. God says one day, she won't look to Egypt for anything. Just as Psalm 40:4 says, "How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust." Israel's trust and our trust need to be in the LORD and not some proud nation or person.

According to **verse 16**, when God does this all will know that He is the LORD God. The God of Israel and the God of the Bible is the only God.

In **verse 17**, God gave Ezekiel another prophecy. It occurred 17 years later in year 27, month 1 and day 1. This is about a year or two after Nebuchadnezzar had attacked Tyre.

According to **verse 18**, God led Nebuchadnezzar to send his army against Tyre and they didn't get any spoils. They were not compensated after the victory. They were not able to get the level of spoils they had expected.

So in **verses 19-20**, God led Nebuchadnezzar to go down to Egypt and attack her and take her wealth. Notice God did it.

God gave Babylon to Egypt because He was using them for judgment purposes.

But **verse 21** says in that day "they will know that I am the Lord."

Now Nebuchadnezzar did attack Egypt (Ezek. 29:17-21; Jer. 43:8-13; 46:1-25). However, there is no record of everything that is described in these verses ever happening. For example, it is true that Nebuchadnezzar did attack 17 years later and he did enslave Egypt for 40 years.

But there is no record of the whole world standing in awe of the God of the Bible and there is certainly no record that Israel refuses to negotiate with Egypt. Also we know that Israel does not have the land from the Nile River to the Euphrates River. Israel has not yet sprouted into becoming the esteemed nation of God. It has not happened yet. But it will happen.

God is not done with Egypt and He is not done with Israel. During the Tribulation, Egypt will come under tremendous judgment and when Jesus Christ returns, Israel will have her land.

J. Vernon McGee says that you cannot go to Cairo today without seeing the poverty and low levels of existence that is in Egypt. This was once the dominant power of the world but it is not a dominant power today.

When Egypt turned against Israel, she slit her own throat. God has been gracious to the Egyptians. He has allowed her to survive ever since the time of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph in the book of Genesis. But the Egyptians and the whole world need to realize this, God keeps the records of how nations treat Israel and He will bless those who bless her and curse those who curse her. But when she turned against Israel, she slit her own throat.

This is a big problem with most people today. They just drift along thinking there is nothing to worry about or fear. But wise are those who realize we need to have a good relationship with the Jewish God/man Jesus Christ.