

Message #33**Ezekiel 30:1-26**

We are in an amazing section of Scripture that clearly teaches that God keeps an incredible record of those who do negative things against His people and in the future He gives total payback. People who do negative things against God's people may think they are just getting away with it unscathed. But that is not the case. God has everything on file and eventually He gives full pay back. Never is that point more evident than when you come to this text in Ezekiel.

This is a prophecy aimed straight at Egypt and it is not positive. It also cannot be viewed as having been ever completely fulfilled. It is true that the Babylonians did conquer much of this world, but there is nowhere in history that we may find everything fulfilled that is mentioned here. What this tells us is that it is yet to be fulfilled.

IN THE FUTURE GOD WILL DESTROY EGYPT AND HER FALSE RELIGION ALONG WITH HER ARAB ALLIES, AND THE ONLY EGYPTIANS THAT WILL SURVIVE WILL BE THE ONES SCATTERED AMONG OTHER NATIONS.

There are five parts to the prophecy that all begin with "Thus says" the Sovereign God. Now we may observe from **verse 1** that the Word of the LORD came to Ezekiel and specifically tells him to prophesy and state exactly what God wants stated to Egypt. This is important to see. God is the One saying this. Ezekiel is not making up these messages. Now you may not like the message or you may not believe the message, but it is God who gave the message. There are five warnings that God gives:

WARNING #1 – The first warning against Egypt. **39:2-5**

There are three specific messages Ezekiel is to communicate to Egypt:

Message #1 - Wail because the day of the LORD is near. **30:2-3a**

Now this day of the LORD is judgment day, when God will pour out His wrath and deal in righteousness with Israel and the nations of the earth. This phrase the "Day of the LORD" typically refers to the future judgment time that will come on the earth, during the Great Tribulation. This is an eschatological day. It is a time when God pours out His judgment on the nations and Israel, just prior to restoring Israel.

Now the Great Tribulation will be a worldwide time of wailing. It is not going to be a time of God's grace blessings; it will be a time of God's judgment cursings.

Message #2 - It will be a day of clouds and doom for the nations. **30:3b**

Rarely do you have a cloudy day in Egypt. Egypt gets very little rain and doesn't have many clouds. One day she will. Clouds often picture a time of doom and destruction and when the Tribulation hits, that is exactly what it will be. This will be a time of doom for the nations.

So the complete fulfillment is when nations are experiencing the wrath of God. One of the most graphic descriptions of this is in Zephaniah 1:15-16. This will be a time of wrath, trouble, distress, destruction, desolation, darkness, gloom, clouds and thick darkness. God says He will bring total distress on men. In Joel 2:1-3, Joel describes this as a time of darkness and gloom that will cause “all inhabitants” to tremble and that there has never been nor will there ever be anything like it.

That is exactly what Ezekiel is predicting here.

Message #3 - God will bring His sword against Egypt and the entire Arab world. **30:4-5**

The entire Arab world has made life miserable for Israel and God has taken notice of that. Ethiopia refers to land that includes southern Egypt, Sudan and northern Ethiopia. Put is modern day Libya and Lydia was on the west coast. People will be “slain.”

God makes it clear that any who align themselves with the Arab world when this judgment goes down “will fall with them.” It is possible from **verse 5** to conclude that “the people of the land” refers to some Israelis who unite with the Arabs. During the Tribulation, some Jews will probably try to escape the Antichrist by aligning themselves with Arabs. It won’t work. They, too, will go down.

That Arab world thinks it is just a light thing to hate Israel and keep her from her land. The fact is God has kept these records. The Arabs need to think about this. Israel is not in her Promised Land now and they are the ones who are preventing her from being in the land. What do they think God is going to do? He will not let them off the hook.

WARNING #2 – The second warning concerning Egypt. **30:6-9**

The second warning is a sweeping warning against any who would align themselves with Egypt and who support Egypt. There is real irony here, there will be those who support Egypt and God will support their demise.

God warns that all who do this will be destroyed and their cities will be destroyed as well. He lists places from Migdol to Syene, which refers to the northern and southern regions of the Egyptian territory. The entire area will come under the judgment of God.

Now **verse 8** says that when God does this, they will all know that He is the LORD, which means He is the covenant, Sovereign God of Israel. The noun LORD is Jehovah, the covenant God of Israel.

In **verse 9**, God makes it clear that when this happens, God will actually send ships of war right to Ethiopia and it will bring fear and anguish to that part of the world.

What amazing sovereignty is revealed here? God sends destructive forces to places He wants them to go and then He permits them to carry out His judgment purposes.

WARNING #3 – The third warning concerning Egypt. **30:10-12**

In these verses God warns that He would use Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, not only to punish Israel, but also Egypt.

God selected a ruthless nation and power to attack Egypt and destroy her. After God would use Babylon to attack Judah, He would direct her to attack Egypt. Carefully observe that three times in these verses God says, “I will” do this.

Now **verse 12** has not completely happened yet. Some of the tributaries of the Nile have been dried up to the point where there are marsh lands and various pools of water. But as near as we may determine, a complete destruction has not yet occurred. Revelation 16:4-10 clearly predicts that God will cause rivers to dry.

WARNING #4 – The fourth warning concerning Egypt. **30:13-19**

God makes a series of fifteen judgment predictions:

Prediction #1 - God will destroy the idols and images of Memphis. **30:13a**

Memphis was the first capital of Egypt. It was a great city. As time went on, Memphis was not the capital but became an important religious center that featured many idolatrous temples. God says I will bring the city down.

Prediction #2 - God will remove a political prince from Egypt. **30:13b**

No longer will Egypt have a leader. During the Tribulation, all proud, arrogant political leaders will come under the judgment of God and will be hiding in caves (Rev. 6:15). When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, political leaders will be put out of business.

Prediction #3 - God will put total fear in the land of Egypt. **30:13c**

There will be a true fear of God in the land of the Egyptians and in the world.

Prediction #4 - God will destroy Pathros. **30:14a**

Pathros is an area located between Cairo and Aswan in Upper Egypt. Big political cities will be destroyed.

Prediction #5 - God will burn down Zoan. **30:14b**

Zoan was a royal residence in the Delta region. Later the Greeks changed the name to Tanis.

Prediction #6 - God will execute judgments on Thebes. **30:14c**

Thebes is mentioned three times in this passage (v. 14, 15, 16). It is located about 400 miles south of Cairo in southern Egypt. Its modern day name is Karnak and Luxor. For a long time this was Egypt's capital.

Prediction #7 - God will pour out His wrath on Sin. **30:15a**

Sin or Pelusium is located about a mile from the Mediterranean Sea.

Prediction #8 - God will cut off the hordes of Thebes. **30:15b**

Not only will God destroy cities, but the people in them. J. Vernon McGee said you can see the ruins of some of these cities today, but the greatness is gone (*Ezekiel*, p. 496). There is coming a day when the ruins will be gone.

Prediction #9 - God will set fire to Egypt. **30:16a**

Prediction #10 - Sin will writhe in anguish. **30:16b**

Prediction #11 - Thebes will be breached. **30:16c**

Prediction #12 - Memphis will have daily distress. **30:16d**

Prediction #13 - Young men of On and Pibeseth will be killed. **30:17a**

On (Heliopolis) was located on the northern lower region of Egypt. It was a major religious center. Pibeseth (Bubastis) is located northeast of modern day Cairo. This city briefly was the capital of Egypt.

Prediction #14 - Young women of On and Pibeseth will be taken captive. **30:17b**

Any woman who survives this will be taken captive. Keep in mind God is the One authorizing every bit of this. He is predicting that this is what He is going to do.

Prediction #15 - Tehaphnehes will become very dark. **30:18**

Tehaphnehes is located near the Suez Canal. It was a proud city that featured a palace of Pharaoh (Jer. 43:9). Her daughters would be taken captive as slaves.

God names the major cities of Egypt and He promises to destroy every single one of them. These cities were once the great cities of human ingenuity, strength and progress. God will bring them all down.

Now what is very obvious from these verses is that God not only knows what is going on in nations, but also what is going on in cities and in people's lives. God fully intends to judge these things.

I cannot help but think of what God promises to do in Revelation during the Tribulation. He will topple every major city in the world (Revelation 16:19).

WARNING #5 – The fifth warning concerning Egypt. **30:20-26**

Now **verse 20** dates this prophecy. It was given in the eleventh year in the first month on the seventh day. So what this means is that it was April 29, 587 B.C.. This prophecy was just about four months after the first prophecy (Ezek. 29:1).

The first prophecy was about Egypt going to rescue Israel from Babylon (Jer. 37:4-5). This prophecy is about Egypt being destroyed by Babylon as a direct result of a judgment of God.

Now in **verse 21**, God says I have broken the arm of Pharaoh. The Pharaoh was Hophra, who ruled Egypt from 589 to 570 B.C.. During this time, Nebuchadnezzar broke the arm of the Egyptians; however, God says eventually I will break both arms (**v. 22**).

God would scatter the Egyptians among the nations and when He does this, all will know He is God and He did this.

Now we know that some of these things have not happened yet and the reason we know this is because of Revelation 17-18. Here again Babylon is front and center. So even though some of the things have occurred, not all has occurred yet.

We believe that the vast majority of things will occur in the Tribulation, when the Antichrist sweeps down into Egypt (Daniel 11:41-43).

Now one cannot possibly read this chapter without realizing God does keep track of who does what in regard to Him, His Word and His people.