

EZEKIEL Lesson 30

Ezekiel Chapter 30

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Introduction: Last week we saw Ezekiel foretelling the destruction of Egypt and a promise of mercy for Israel at end of the chapter. Chapter 30 is a continuation of the prophecy of the previous chapter. Further detail of the judgment of Egypt is provided in verses 1-19. We close the chapter with the prophecy of Jehovah's personal judgment against Pharaoh.

I. Prophecy Continues Against Egypt

Eze 30:1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

Eze 30:2 Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Howl ye, Woe worth the day!

Eze 30:3 For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen.

God continues to speak to and through Ezekiel against Egypt. The prophet was ordered to announce a direct message from God to witness outwardly by wailing and lamenting. Throughout the Scriptures, the day of the Lord usually is eschatological in its implications—that is, it refers to end time events. The prophecy here seems to be the time of God's judgment against Egypt in Ezekiel's day.

Eze 30:4 And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down.

Eze 30:5 Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

When Babylon swept through Egypt, great anxiety swept over neighboring Ethiopia. As news reached Ethiopia of the collapse of Egypt, there was great consternation therein. Though Egypt had recently fought a war with its regional African neighbors, now they all joined in an alliance against the threat of Babylon. That confederation would most certainly fall before the forces of Nebuchadnezzar.

Eze 30:6 Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of

her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD.

Eze 30:7 And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted.

Eze 30:8 And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and when all her helpers shall be destroyed.

The tower of Syene was in northern Egypt in the Suez region. The armed forces of which they were proud would fall. Egypt and her allies would not stand before Nebuchadnezzar's army. As Babylon had conquered and destroyed numerous nations of the region, so Egypt would be made desolate like the others.

Some ancient historians estimate that there were over 18,000 towns and villages in Egypt. The text indicates they all were laid waste. The greater thought is how that from the north and southward, Egypt would fall. When God set Egypt and her allies ablaze, Egypt would learn the hard way that Jehovah was God.

II. Judgement Coming via King Nebuchadnezzar

Eze 30:9 In that day shall messengers go forth from me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid, and great pain shall come upon them, as in the day of Egypt: for, lo, it cometh.

Eze 30:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

Eze 30:11 He and his people with him, the terrible of the nations, shall be brought to destroy the land: and they shall draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with the slain.

Eze 30:12 And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it.

When Babylon destroyed Egypt, messengers were sent by water craft (either down the Nile or perhaps via the Red Sea) to over-confident Ethiopia, warning them to surrender to Babylon or face the consequences. Ethiopia had initially thought they were beyond the reach of Babylon. But now they were frightened.

In verse 10, God spoke through the prophet that the vast population of Egypt would cease to exist—either by death or dispersion. Nebuchadnezzar would be God's agent accomplishing this. Nebuchadnezzar and his fierce, cruel armies would attack Egypt and fill the land with dead bodies.

The Egyptians had dug numerous canals from the Nile for irrigation purposes to extend the fertility of the region. When Babylon was done, those canals would be filled or stopped, diminishing the agricultural ability of the land. The ownership of the land of wicked Egyptians would be relinquished and then sold. The nation would be made desolate by foreign invaders. God had pronounced it. It would come to pass.

Eze 30:13 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt.

Eze 30:14 And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No.

Eze 30:15 And I will pour my fury upon Sin, the strength of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No.

Eze 30:16 And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily.

Verses One major reason for God's judgment upon Egypt was its flagrant idolatry. In destroying Egypt, its multitudes of idols would be destroyed as well. The ruling house of Pharaoh Hophra would be destroyed and there would be no native ruler left in Egypt. Panic would sweep across Egypt as Babylon invaded.

Pathros represented northern Egypt. Zoan was in southern Egypt. No was the same as Thebes and was capital of Egypt. The greater point is that from one end of Egypt to the other would be the destruction of war. Sin likely refers to the entry to the Sinai region which was thought of as a great natural barrier protecting Egypt from invasion from the north and east. The multitude of No (i.e., Thebes) likely refers to its standing army.

Babylon would overrun both. An additional city is mentioned—Noph which was Memphis. The entire nation would be set afire by Babylonian forces, including the Sinai region, No (Thebes the capital) and Noph. Thebes (i.e., No) would be broken down and Noph would face hostilities daily.

Eze 30:17 The young men of Aven and of Pibeseth shall fall by the sword: and these cities shall go into captivity.

Eze 30:18 At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity.

Eze 30:19 Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Tehaphnehes was a royal seat of the kings of Egypt. The lights there were about to go out. The power and pomp of Egypt would soon cease. Clouds of judgment would hang over her. The young women and girls of the land would be carried off as spoils of war by Babylonian soldiers either to be sold into slavery or kept for servants. They, like others, would learn the hard way that Jehovah was God Almighty and God alone.

John Gill had this to say about verse 19.

Ezekiel 30:19

Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt,.... In the several provinces, and in the several cities of it before mentioned, and in all other places; even the judgments of fire, famine, sword, and captivity:

and they shall know that I am the Lord; God omniscient and omnipotent, by the, judgments executed; and own the same: this more especially they did, when the Gospel was preached among them, and many were converted by it in the times of the apostles.

Eze 30:20 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 30:21 Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and, lo, it shall not be bound up to be healed, to put a roller to bind it, to make it strong to hold the sword.

In the eleventh year of Jehoiachin's captivity, the first month and the seventh day, the next prophecy from God came to the prophet. It should be noted that this was several

months after the prophecy of chapter 29. God informed Ezekiel how he had broken the arm (i.e., the military strength) of Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt.

This may refer to the defeat of Egypt at Carchemish by Babylon and/or also to the defeat of Egypt at the hand of Amasis and the Cyrenians. The arm (i.e., military strength) of Egypt would not be splinted or put into a cast to heal. It never again would be strong militarily.

Eze 30:22 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand.

Eze 30:23 And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

Using the analogy of a broken arm, God goes on to foretell how He would break both arms of Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt. The military strength of Egypt would be utterly broken, never again to be reckoned with. According to Ezekiel 29:11-13, that dispersion would be for forty years.

Eze 29:11 No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

Eze 29:12 And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

Eze 29:13 Yet thus saith the Lord GOD; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered:

Eze 30:24 And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded man.

Eze 30:25 But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt.

Eze 30:26 And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

God promised to strengthen the arms (i.e., the military power) of Babylon and completely defeat Pharaoh Hophra. Pharaoh would groan as a mortally wounded man before Nebuchadnezzar. As God strengthened the military power of Babylon and utterly defeated Egypt, Egypt would learn the hard way that Jehovah was God alone.

Sadly, ungodly men often must learn the hard way to submit to God. As noted in verse 23, God promised to disperse Egypt amongst other nations, forcing them to acknowledge that Jehovah is God Almighty.

Matthew Henry said this about these last verses of Chapter 30

Ezekiel 30:20-26

Egypt shall grow weaker and weaker. If lesser judgments do not prevail to humble and reform sinners, God will send greater. God justly breaks that power which is abused, either to put wrongs upon people, or to put cheats upon them. Babylon shall grow stronger. In vain do men endeavour to bind up the arm the Lord is pleased to break, and to strengthen those whom he will bring down. Those who disregard the discoveries of his truth and mercy, shall know his power and justice, in the punishment for their sins.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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