

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Book of Ezekiel*

*Message 64*

*December 11, 2016*



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The Book of Ezekiel

Message Sixty-Four

THE PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT PT. III

December 11, 2016

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Ezekiel 30: 1-19

*The word of Jehovah came again unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Wail ye, Alas for the day! <sup>3</sup>For the day is near, even the day of Jehovah is near; it shall be a day of clouds, a time of the nations. <sup>4</sup>And a sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish 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. <sup>5</sup>Ethiopia, and Put, and Lud, and all the mingled people, and Cub, and the children of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.*

*<sup>6</sup>Thus saith Jehovah: They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Seveneh shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord Jehovah. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>And they shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and all her helpers are destroyed. <sup>9</sup>In that day shall messengers go forth from before me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid; and there shall be anguish upon them, as in the day of Egypt; for, lo, it cometh.*

*<sup>10</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease, by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon. <sup>11</sup>He and his people with him, the terrible of the nations, shall be brought in to destroy the land; and they shall draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with the slain. <sup>12</sup>And I will make the rivers dry, and will sell the land into the hand of evil men; and I will make the land desolate, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I, Jehovah, have spoken it.*

*<sup>13</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause the images to cease from Memphis; and there shall be no more a prince from the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set a fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments upon No. <sup>15</sup>And I will pour my wrath upon Sin, the stronghold of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No. <sup>16</sup>And I will set a fire in Egypt: Sin shall be in great anguish, and No shall be broken up; and Memphis shall have adversaries in the day-time. <sup>17</sup>The young men of Aven and of Pi-beseth shall fall by the sword; and these cities shall go into captivity. <sup>18</sup>At Tehaphnehes also the day shall withdraw itself, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt, and the pride of her power shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity. <sup>19</sup>Thus will I execute judgments upon Egypt; and they shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

### Ezekiel 30: 1-5

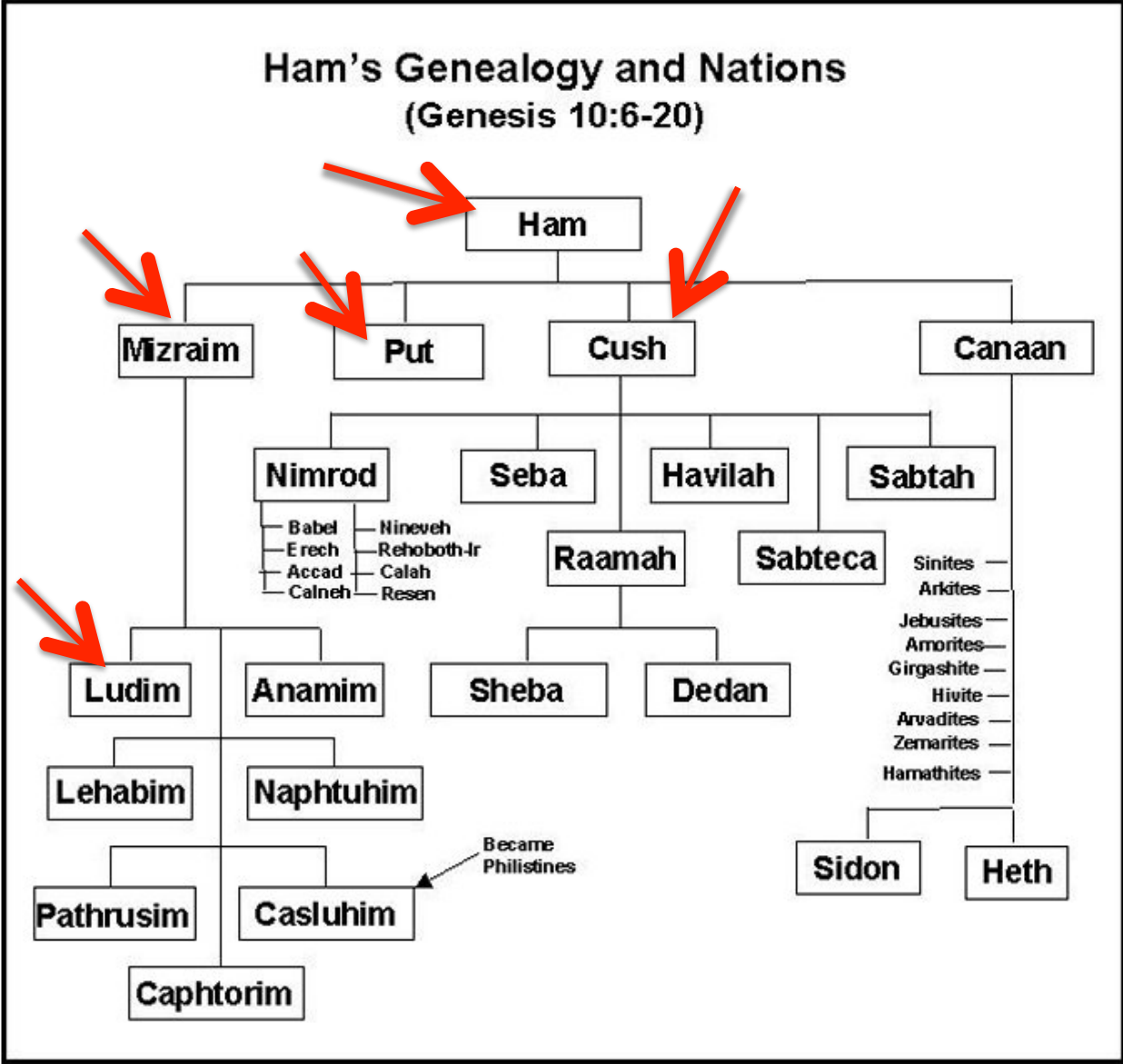
*The word of Jehovah came again unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Wail ye, Alas for the day! <sup>3</sup>For the day is near, even the day of Jehovah is near; it shall be a day of clouds, a time of the nations. <sup>4</sup>And a sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish 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. <sup>5</sup>Ethiopia, and Put, and Lud, and all the mingled people, and Cub, and the children of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword (ASV, 1901).*

It is entirely fitting to consider the attitude of the prophets of God. They are charged with bringing some very sober news in the form of judgments from God to the people of Israel. The prophet still had to administer their judgmental messages with compassion and concern for those upon whom the calamities were about to fall.

Because of the context of this chapter falling in with other passage that focus on events that happened to Egypt in the sixth century B.C. some seem to think it is tied to those and set it in the same time period. However as we have seen with other passages (Ezekiel 29:11, 13) that Egypt is the principal subject and not a particular time of judgment. For example Nebuchadnezzar is given Egypt as a prize for not gaining any spoils in Tyre after a siege that lasted for thirteen years. Then other passages state that Egypt will be desolate for forty years. That has never happened and it is most appropriately placed in the Millennial Kingdom. So when this passage (Ezekiel 30:1-9) states in verse three *the day of Jehovah is near*, it clearly is referencing the Tribulation. The Day of Jehovah is a familiar reference in the Old Testament and New Testament as well (Isaiah 13:6, 9; Joel 1:15; 2:1,11; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Zechariah 14:1; I Thessalonians 5:2; II Thessalonians 2:2; II Peter 3:10). Since that term is only used as a reference to a very particular event in all of human history it is appropriate to place the events in the first nine verses of this chapter as falling in the period of the Tribulation.

The judgment of Egypt is the beginning of the judgment of all Gentile nations. The beginning of these was Nebuchadnezzar's victory's over Egypt and beginning with 586 B.C. the inauguration of the Times of The Gentiles. What is essential to realize with these judgments is the futile efforts of mankind to stop the judgment of God once it has commenced. That judgment will be so violent that it will overwhelm Egypt's neighbors, some of whom were Egypt's political, economic, and military allies (v. 30:5) Ethiopia adjoining Egypt on the south also known as Cush, will be fearful that she would be attacked next as Egypt's people will be killed and her treasures looted. For them Egypt is essentially a buffer between the Babylonians and themselves.

Both Cush and Egypt (Hebrew Mizraim) were sons of Ham, Noah's son. Put is also one of Ham's sons. Lud who is one of Mizraim's sons is presently Libya. Since Cub is a hapax legomenon it is difficult to match it with a particular country. It is probably near to Egypt in North Africa. All the nations listed are closely located to Egypt and also known along with Israel as countries that had pacts with Egypt to come to their aid when attacked. All will fall by the sword when Jehovah begins His judgment upon them.



THE DESOLATION OF THE LAND

Ezekiel 30:6-9

*6Thus saith Jehovah: They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Seveneh shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord Jehovah. 7And 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. 8And they shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and all her helpers are destroyed. 9In that day shall messengers go forth from before me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid; and there shall be anguish upon them, as in the day of Egypt; for, lo, it cometh (ASV, 1901).*

God now says with respect to the judgment that will come about in the Tribulation that any ally of Egypt's will also suffer the sword. In pride of the Egyptians will be brought to

nought by the sword. They will not be able or willing to assist Egypt when the Lord brings His complete judgment against Egypt. The text states the geographic region that the desolation will fall. It refers to *the tower of Seveneh* as a reference to the complete northern and southern limit of Upper Egypt. All of this region in Southern Egypt would be completely destroyed as the text says *“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.”* Fire is a general warfare term in the Bible it because it describes the effects of war as all consuming and unable to be resisted in large measure. So too is God judgment. The time to prevent His judgment is long before it arrives. Because when it comes it will not be resisted nor stopped until it has run its course.

As the allies would be useless to Egypt in the time of God’s judgment and the mercenaries (*helpers*) will also be destroyed . Coming back to the Ethiopians God says that *“messengers go forth from before me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid;”* The messengers appear to be sent at His command with the express purpose of causing fear and anguish to come upon them as it they will also be judged.

#### THE LORD’S METHOD OF PUNISHMENT

Ezekiel 30:10-12

*<sup>10</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease, by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon. <sup>11</sup>He and his people with him, the terrible of the nations, shall be brought in to destroy the land; and they shall draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with the slain. <sup>12</sup>And I will make the rivers dry, and will sell the land into the hand of evil men; and I will make the land desolate, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I, Jehovah, have spoken it (ASV, 1901).*

The Lord here introduces a shift in time as he says, *“I will also make.”* This serves as a grammatical contrastive construction. The subject remains Egypt but the text breaks to discuss a different aspect of the judgment which is *Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon*. This is also true of the entire section of Ezekiel. The judgment of Egypt is discussing near term prophecies and as far away as the Tribulation. Nebuchadnezzar is the instrument of the Lord’s wrath which will come upon Egypt in the near term from the time the prophecy was first given in January 5, 585 B.C. The Babylonians were extremely cruel to those whom they conquered. It was not just the Babylonians though. It was God Himself who motivated Nebuchadnezzar to come against Egypt in judgment. Even more ruinous would be the disaster that was coming someday later to Egypt when the Nile would “dry up” (v. 30:12). The Nile, was Egypt’s lifeline. Without the Nile, there could be no Egypt. The rest of the country is essentially desert wilderness. When God speaks of the rivers of Egypt He was referring to the branches of the Nile, by which the land was watered, and on which the fertility and prosperity of Egypt depended.

#### JUDGMENT ON INDIVIDUAL EGYPTIAN CITIES

Ezekiel 30:13-19

*<sup>13</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause the images to cease from Memphis; and there shall be no more a prince from*

*the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set a fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments upon No. <sup>15</sup>And I will pour my wrath upon Sin, the stronghold of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No. <sup>16</sup>And I will set a fire in Egypt: Sin shall be in great anguish, and No shall be broken up; and Memphis shall have adversaries in the day-time. <sup>17</sup>The young men of Aven and of Pi-beseth shall fall by the sword; and these cities shall go into captivity. <sup>18</sup>At Tehaphnehes also the day shall withdraw itself, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt, and the pride of her power shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity. <sup>19</sup>Thus will I execute judgments upon Egypt; and they shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

One of the chief objects of His wrath will be the idols of Egypt. Idolatry was the chief sin of Egypt from the earliest times. It drew the Jews in to it during the four hundred year captivity. Fear would fill the land and there would be no more independent rulers in that country. The Lord first lists Memphis as the target to destroy its idols. He moves on to list Pathros, Zoan, No, Sin, Aven, Pi-beseth, Tehaphnehes. These are all cities of ancient Egypt covering the entire country. The fire of judgment will come upon them to break the yoke of Egypt which is destroying her pride and power. The citizens will go into captivity as God executes His judgment upon them. This list of cities serves to demonstrate the totality of the country's judgment. Darkness will fall upon the country (*day shall withdraw itself*) indicating divine judgment as in the plagues leading up to the Exodus. The Hebrew term for darkness (*chosheck*) refers to death and evil which is not conducive to life. Darkness is a symbol of divine judgment throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 10:15; 21-23; I Samuel 2: 9; Psalm 35: 6; 105: 28 etc.). In the New Testament darkness is also associated with Satan and his demons (Ephesians 6:12).

NEXT MESSAGE: THE PROPHECY AGAINST THE PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT CONT.

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**

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