

Pentwater Bible Church

Ezekiel Message 68

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Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel
Message Sixty-Seven

THE PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT PT. VII

January 22, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 32:17-32

¹⁷It came to pass also in the twelfth year, in the fifteenth day of the month, that the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹⁸Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit. ¹⁹Whom dost thou pass in beauty? go down, and be thou laid with the uncircumcised. ²⁰They shall fall in the midst of them that are slain by the sword: she is delivered to the sword; draw her away and all her multitudes. ²¹The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of Sheol with them that help him: they are gone down, they lie still, even the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.

²²Asshur is there and all her company; her graves are round about her; all of them slain, fallen by the sword; ²³whose graves are set in the uttermost parts of the pit, and her company is round about her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who caused terror in the land of the living.

²⁴There is Elam and all her multitude round about her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who are gone down uncircumcised into the nether parts of the earth, who caused their terror in the land of the living, and have borne their shame with them that go down to the pit. ²⁵They have set her a bed in the midst of the slain with all her multitude; her graves are round about her; all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for their terror was caused in the land of the living, and they have borne their shame with them that go down to the pit: he is put in the midst of them that are slain.

²⁶There is Meshech, Tubal, and all their multitude; their graves are round about them; all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for they caused their terror in the land of the living. ²⁷And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, that are gone down to Sheol with their weapons of war, and have laid their swords under their heads, and their iniquities are upon their bones; for they were the terror of the mighty in the land of the living. ²⁸But thou shalt be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, and shalt lie with them that are slain by the sword.

²⁹There is Edom, her kings and all her princes, who in their might are laid with them that are slain by the sword: they shall lie with the uncircumcised, and with them that go down to the pit. ³⁰There are the princes of the north, all of them, and all the Sidonians, who are gone down with the slain; in the terror which they caused by their might they are put to shame; and they lie uncircumcised with them that are slain by the sword, and bear their shame

with them that go down to the pit.

³¹Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army, slain by the sword, saith the Lord Jehovah. ³²For I have put his terror in the land of the living; and he shall be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised, with them that are slain by the sword, even Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901)

THE FIXED CERTAINTY OF THE AFTERLIFE

Ezekiel 32:17-21

¹⁷It came to pass also in the twelfth year, in the fifteenth day of the month, that the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹⁸Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit. ¹⁹Whom dost thou pass in beauty? go down, and be thou laid with the uncircumcised. ²⁰They shall fall in the midst of them that are slain by the sword: she is delivered to the sword; draw her away and all her multitudes. ²¹The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of Sheol with them that help him: they are gone down, they lie still, even the uncircumcised, slain by the sword (ASV, 1901).

The last of the seven prophecies given to Ezekiel regarding Egypt came on March 17, 585 B.C. It was exactly two weeks after the last message or the sixth prophecy against Egypt. This last message in this long series was the capstone of all of them. This one has the general theme of the consignment of souls to Sheol and reveals the fact that once entering Sheol a person has no opportunity to reverse their destiny. Pharaoh and all his followers lesser as well as greater would be cast into the Pit (Sheol).

Ezekiel is commanded to *wail for the multitude of Egypt*. This is because the end location of Pharaoh and all those nations he was connected with will have a horrible final destination. Ezekiel is not actually going to do the casting of them into the Pit. He would only carry God's Word out to the world and because of its authority it would be as though Ezekiel consigned Pharaoh's destiny to the bad side of Sheol himself. The rhetorical question directed at Pharaoh is *Whom dost thou pass in beauty?* God is essentially asking Pharaoh if he thinks that he is any better than any of these other nations? This is because he is not and he is going down to be along side them. They are referred to as the uncircumcised and Egypt's being equal to them in death would humiliate and shatter her pride. This phrase, used 10 times in chapter 32 (vv. 19, 21, 24–30, 32), described a death of shame and defeat. God is always referencing a death by the sword of one's enemies when this phrase of death is used by Him. The king of Egypt is seen as descending to Sheol where the other nations see him, speak to him, taunt him, and show him that he is just like them. Regardless of the pride he embraced he was now equal to the worst of the worst with no hope of reversing this fate. This is one of many passages that clearly shows us that there is conscious existence beyond the life here and not annihilation. The helpers are those auxiliary nations who were aligned to Egypt but suffer the same fate and are unable to assist Pharaoh now that they are all in Sheol.

ASSHUR IN SHEOL

Ezekiel 32:22-23

²²Asshur is there and all her company; her graves are round about her; all of them slain, fallen by the sword; ²³whose graves are set in the uttermost parts of the pit, and her company is round about her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who caused terror in the land of the living (ASV, 1901).

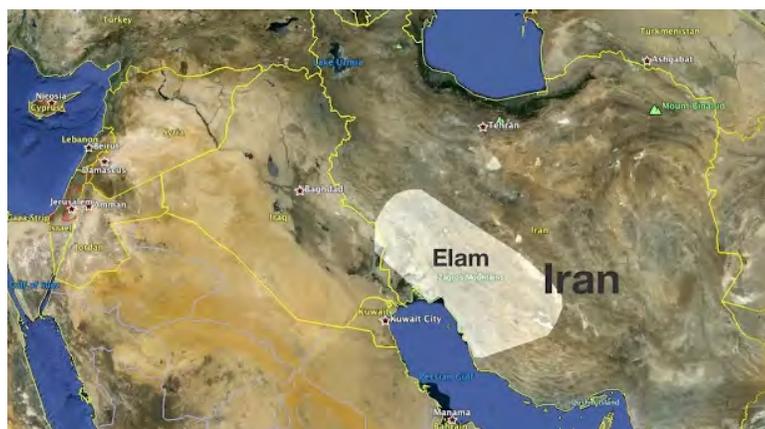
Assyria is the first of the nations to be discussed in the remainder of this chapter. Also call Asshur is was discussed at length in chapter thirty-one and at the time of this prophecy given to Ezekiel it was not long before that Assyria met her fate. She was conquered by the Babylonians. These two short verses state that Assyria was already in Sheol when Pharaoh entered. The Assyrians are called those “*who caused terror in the land of the living.*” They governed their lives by the sword and as a result were described as having undergone a violent death, slaying by the sword, which shows us that this was God’s righteous judgment. Those who cause widespread terror will become the objects of horror and dread on the other side when they meet their final destiny

ELAM IN SHEOL

Ezekiel 32:24-25

²⁴There is Elam and all her multitude round about her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who are gone down uncircumcised into the nether parts of the earth, who caused their terror in the land of the living, and have borne their shame with them that go down to the pit. ²⁵They have set her a bed in the midst of the slain with all her multitude; her graves are round about her; all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for their terror was caused in the land of the living, and they have borne their shame with them that go down to the pit: he is put in the midst of them that are slain (ASV, 1901).

Elam, also called Susiana of ancient geography and history, was a province of the Babylonian Empire as late as the third year of Belshazzar: (Daniel 8:1, 2) but on the rise of the Persian power, it threw off the yoke of Babylon, joined itself to Persia, became the chief province of the Persian kingdom, and its capital, Susa (the Shushan of Scripture), became finally one of the capitals of the whole Medo-Persian Empire.



Elam was one of Shem's sons, a grandson of Noah therefore a Semite (Genesis 10:22).

Elam, was a formidable state, associated in Israelite minds with constant warfare; (Genesis 14:1, 9, Isaiah 21:2, 22:6, Jeremiah 25:25, Daniel 8:2). The Elamites inhabited the great plain east of the lower Tigris and north of the Persian Gulf. Isaiah 22:6 mentions Elam as providing some soldiers to the Assyrian army which was marching against Jerusalem. About 650 B.C. Ashurbanipal the Assyrian subdued the country, and celebrated his conquest on a stone monument now in the British Museum. They like the others *caused their terror in the land of the living*. On the earth their just retribution for their lawless *pride* was to be conquered by Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 49:34–38). Elam regained power and later became a major part of the Persian Empire. God is referring to all of the Elamites who lived by the sword and as a result entered the bad side of Sheol.

MESHECH AND TUBAL IN SHEOL

Ezekiel 32:26-28

²⁶There is Meshech, Tubal, and all their multitude; their graves are round about them; all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for they caused their terror in the land of the living. ²⁷And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, that are gone down to Sheol with their weapons of war, and have laid their swords under their heads, and their iniquities are upon their bones; for they were the terror of the mighty in the land of the living. ²⁸But thou shalt be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, and shalt lie with them that are slain by the sword (ASV, 1901).

It is difficult to pinpoint with accuracy exactly who these ancient nations were. Some think they were remnants of the old Hittites or even the Scythians. We see them as allied with the Russians, Germans and the Islamic nations in the invasion of Israel in chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine. They were probably a northern nation in the Black Sea region of southern Russia. They are also listed among the names of Japheth's sons (Genesis 10:2; I Chronicles 1:5). They are charged with the same crimes as the others so far cited. One exception is the statement by the Lord, *"they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, that are gone down to Sheol."* This seems to indicate that they were less worthy to have any seemingly acknowledgement of any of their worldly efforts. We get a picture that there will be differing levels of punishment and status in Sheol.

The Great White Throne judgment will be a judgment of all unbelievers of all time. This judgment will determine the degree of punishment meted out. Scripture does teach there will be degrees of punishment based upon degrees of sinfulness or works for the unsaved. Jesus spoke of things being more tolerable for some than for others in the day of judgment and some would receive a few stripes and others many stripes (Matthew 11:20–24; Luke 12:47–48)

In John 19:11, Jesus spoke to Pilate of greater and lesser sins:

¹ Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin (KJV).

The degree of punishment will be on the basis of one's works. In determining the degrees of punishment, books are mentioned in addition to the Book of Life.

Revelation 20:11-14

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (KJV).

There is the Book of Life, the Lamb's Book of Life, and the other books which are mentioned in Revelation 20:12. The Book of Life contains the names of every person who was ever born. The unsaved have their names blotted out of the Book of Life (Psalm 69:28). At the Great White Throne Judgment, if their names are not found in the Book of Life, it means that they are unsaved. Then other books mentioned in verse 12, 13 and 14 are used to determine the degrees of punishment. These other books contain accounts of one's deeds and responses.

EDOM IN SHEOL

Ezekiel 32:29-30

²⁹ There is Edom, her kings and all her princes, who in their might are laid with them that are slain by the sword: they shall lie with the uncircumcised, and with them that go down to the pit. ³⁰ There are the princes of the north, all of them, and all the Sidonians, who are gone down with the slain; in the terror which they caused by their might they are put to shame; and they lie uncircumcised with them that are slain by the sword, and bear their shame with them that go down to the pit (ASV, 1901).

The Bible chronicles continual enmity between Israel and Edom which began with Jacob and Esau whose name meant Edom or red. It became worse at the time of the Exodus from Egypt. The Edomites refused the Israelites passage through their land. Edom was a constant threat to Judah's frontier and moreover blocked Judean access to the Gulf of Aqaba. Edom is modern day Southern Jordan. Both Saul and David engaged in warfare with the Edomites (II Samuel 14:47-48; II Samuel 8:13-14). Hadad of the Edomites returned from Egypt and attacked Solomon. They conducted attacks on Solomon's caravans that passed through traditionally Edomite territory from Ezion-Geber to Jerusalem (1 Kings 11:14-22).



Conflict between Judah and Edom continued (II Kings 14:22; 16:6; II Chronicles 26:1–2; 28:17) until the Edomites were absorbed by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians, finally the Persians and the Greeks. The entire short book of Obadiah relates the future total destruction of Edom. There will be no nation called Edom in the Messianic Kingdom. The Edomites will suffer shame in Sheol as with the other nations because of *the terror which they caused by their might*. The final group in verse thirty are the Sidonians and the princes of the north. They were essentially the Phoenician city-states. All of them will suffer disgrace.

PHARAOH’S PERVERSE COMFORT

Ezekiel 32:31-32

³¹Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army, slain by the sword, saith the Lord Jehovah. ³²For I have put his terror in the land of the living; and he shall be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised, with them that are slain by the sword, even Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Strangely Pharaoh will find some comfort in the fact that he will not be alone in his doom and misery. So ends the lengthy prophecy of Egypt. This section of Scripture has served to provide some insight as to the place of the dead and the fact there is no escape from the eternal punishment of which there are varying degrees. Interestingly Ezekiel is told that Pharaoh was used as the rod of God’s anger as He used the Assyrians (Isaiah 10:5); nevertheless, Pharaoh is responsible for the *terror* and will be punished.

NEXT MESSAGE: THE WATCHMAN IS RESPONSIBLE TO WARN

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

E-mail info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com Toll Free 877-706-2479