

Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel

Message 63

December 4, 2016



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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Sixty Two

THE PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT PT. II

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Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 29: 13-21

¹³For thus saith the Lord Jehovah: At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the peoples whither they were scattered; ¹⁴and I will bring back the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their birth; and they shall be there a base kingdom. ¹⁵It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it any more lift itself up above the nations: and I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations. ¹⁶And it shall be no more the confidence of the house of Israel, bringing iniquity to remembrance, when they turn to look after them: and they shall know that I am the Lord Jehovah.

¹⁷And it came to pass in the seven and twentieth year, in the first month, in the first day of the month, the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹⁸Son of man, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service against Tyre: every head was made bald, and every shoulder was worn; yet had he no wages, nor his army, from Tyre, for the service that he had served against it. ¹⁹Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall carry off her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army. ²⁰I have given him the land of Egypt as his recompense for which he served, because they wrought for me, saith the Lord Jehovah.

²¹In that day will I cause a horn to bud forth unto the house of Israel, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

EGYPT WILL RETURN AFTER FORTY YEARS

Ezekiel 29: 13-14

¹³For thus saith the Lord Jehovah: At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the peoples whither they were scattered; ¹⁴and I will bring back the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their birth; and they shall be there a base kingdom (ASV, 1901).

God now tells Ezekiel that he is to write that *At the end of forty years* the Egyptian's dispersion would end. God says that He will bring them to the land of Pathros which is the land of their birth. Pathros is the Hebrew form of the Egyptian name for Upper Egypt. Which is in the south. Lower Egypt is the area of the Nile Delta which flows into the

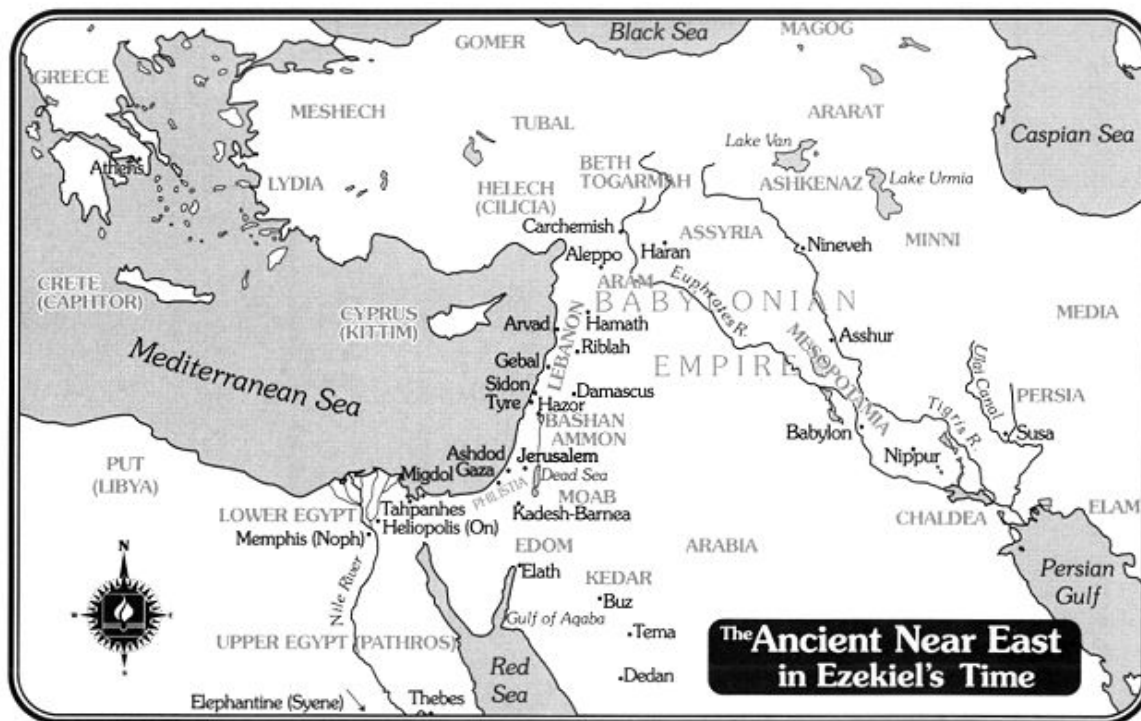
Mediterranean Sea. from just S of Memphis to the first cataract at Syene, to which some of the exiled Israelites fled (Isaiah 11:11; Jeremiah 44:1, 15; Ezekiel 30:14). According to our passage here “the land of Pathros” was the original home (*the land of their birth*) of the Egyptians (Genesis 10:14; 1 Chronicles 1:12, “Pathrusim”). So on their return after the forty year scattering they will again assemble but will be a nation of no importance to the world. They will be like a third world nation with no influence.

EGYPT WILL BECOME THE LOWEST NATION IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM

Ezekiel 29:15-16

¹⁵It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it any more lift itself up above the nations: and I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations. ¹⁶And it shall be no more the confidence of the house of Israel, bringing iniquity to remembrance, when they turn to look after them: and they shall know that I am the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Egyptians would return but only to the southern area and not the Nile Delta area which is the fertile and productive section of Egypt.



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As the text says it shall be the basest of kingdoms. No country in the Messianic Kingdom will be lower than them in any way of measure. They will not have the economic ability to lift itself up any more to control any other countries. God says and I will diminish them so that they shall no more rule over the nations, and shall be no more the confidence of the house of Israel.” Nor will Israel ever again be guilty of placing her confidence in Egypt (v. 16), but will trust in the Lord their God. As for the lowly kingdom of Egypt, it will also be required to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16–19).

The sin that Israel committed regarding Egypt was decreed in the Mosaic Covenant. This decree was issued when they were wandering in the wilderness for forty years and complaining about their condition. The Children of Israel even said that they were better off under the yoke of the Egyptians than they were now wandering.

Exodus 14:13

¹³And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which he will work for you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

¹⁴Jehovah will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace (ASV, 1901).

Israel would never have put any trust in Egypt if they had not turned away from God first. God will withhold His blessing to those who turn away from Him and especially those who follow after sin and other gods. When Egypt was a world power Israel was always tempted to look to Egypt for help against her enemies in Mesopotamia. With Egypt no longer powerful and even the lowest of nations the Israelites would not have any reason to look to her for help. Her trust will be completely in the Messiah and His Kingdom. God alone will be exalted in that day.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR INVADES EGYPT

Ezekiel 29:17-18

¹⁷And it came to pass in the seven and twentieth year, in the first month, in the first day of the month, the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹⁸Son of man, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service against Tyre: every head was made bald, and every shoulder was worn; yet had he no wages, nor his army, from Tyre, for the service that he had served against it (ASV, 1901).

This prophecy came about seventeen years after the first one that covers verses one to sixteen. It occurred on April 26, 571 B.C. It was given shortly after Ahmosis II forced Hophra to make him coregent and shortly after Tyre's surrender to Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar completed a thirteen-year siege of Tyre in 573 B.C. during which every head was made bald by carrying heavy loads and every shoulder was rubbed raw by the chafing of the weights (Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; Ezekiel 26:7-10). The discussion of heads rubbed bare were due to the prolonged wearing of helmets and of shoulders that were worn was from carrying wood and stone while they were building siege mounds. Tyre (on the land of Phoenicia) surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, but there were no vast spoils of war to distribute as booty to his army. Evidently Tyre shipped off her wealth before she surrendered.

THE BABYLONIANS WILL BE MADE WHOLE

Ezekiel 29:19-20

¹⁹Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall carry off her multitude,

*and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army.
20 I have given him the land of Egypt as his recompense for which he served,
because they wrought for me, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

Nebuchadnezzar is again named specifically as the one to carry out God's judgment. Nebuchadnezzar executed the work of judgment. Because there was no spoils of war in Tyrus, it seems the Lord, gave him Egypt. Here Nebuchadnezzar found great spoil and vast treasures, which, according to divine appointment, were the wages for his army. The way in which God arranged the Gentile nations in His government is shown here. This is one of the various ways in which God would speak to Nebuchadnezzar which is also manifest in the book of Daniel. As the head of the new Gentile power that God had raised up, Nebuchadnezzar as king of kings owed all to the God that raised him, and God would have him learn the lesson of this (Daniel 4).

Daniel 4:28-37

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking in the royal palace of Babylon. 30 The king spake and said, Is not this great Babylon, which I have built for the royal dwelling-place, by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? 31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: The kingdom is departed from thee: 32 and thou shalt be driven from men; and they dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; thou shalt be made to eat grass as oxen; and seven times shall pass over thee; until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hair was grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

34 And at the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored him that liveth for ever; for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom from generation to generation; 35 and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36 At the same time mine understanding returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent greatness was added unto me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven; for all his works are truth, and his ways justice; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase (ASV, 1901).

ISRAEL'S HORN WOULD BUD FORTH

Ezekiel 29:21

²¹In that day will I cause a horn to bud forth unto the house of Israel, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

The prophecy ends here, as far as Nebuchadnezzar is connected to it. In that day God would cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth. The budding of the horn speaks more or less about a slow revival for the people of Israel. This actually seems to reference the return of the people to the land under Cyrus. Thus the horn of Israel was indeed budding. In the prophets of that period, as Haggai and Zechariah, we have additional declarations of a further and more wondrous budding of the horn in the announcement of Messiah's coming. Israel's sins still held themselves back, as we know, and Messiah Himself came only to be rejected. Egypt will finally be a subservient nation to Israel in the Messianic Kingdom.

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

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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