

God's People and the Future of Egypt

The Bible Details What Lies Ahead For Israel's Oldest Nemesis

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I will not soon forget that hot afternoon in Egypt on Aug. 5, 1952, when I climbed 450 feet to the top of the Great Pyramid of Cheops at Giza. How did this wonder of the ancient world get there?

Two-and-a-half millennia before Christ, tens of thousands of workers spent more than 20 years gathering 2.3 million blocks of stone – some weighing up to 15 tons – on a base covering 13.1 acres to prepare an eternal home for their Pharaoh-god.

What brilliance this took! What dedication! Remember, this was not long after the

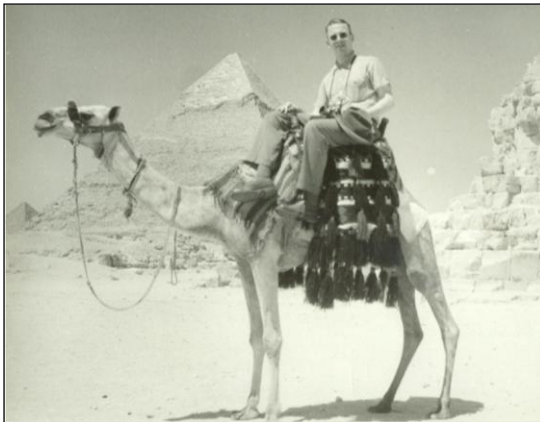


Photo courtesy Whitcomb Ministries, Inc.

**Dr. John Whitcomb sits atop a camel
in front of the Great Pyramid at Giza,
Egypt, on Aug. 5, 1952.**

dispersion of mankind from the Tower of Babel when the Egyptians demonstrated their amazing building skills along the Nile River.

Intertwined with Israel

Two hundred years after Abraham visited Egypt* (cf. Gen. 12:10-20), Jacob and his sons – especially Joseph – must have marveled at the things they saw there (c. 1875 BC; cf. Gen. 37:28-50:26).

But the day came (in 1445 BC) when Egypt was in shambles because of her enslavement and mistreatment of God's people Israel (cf. Ex. 7-11).

* Amazingly, there are 659 references to Egypt in the NKJV. Of these, 187 are found in the books of the Old Testament prophets.

In spite of the fact that “Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh’s daughter” (1 Kings 3:1), Egypt remained a threat to the people of Israel through the centuries.

The great prophet Isaiah cried out:

“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,
And rely on horses,
Who trust in chariots because *they are* many,
And in horsemen because they are very strong,
But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel,
Nor seek the LORD!” (Isa. 31:1).

Destined for Destruction

At the time of this writing, the land of Egypt is in turmoil. The people of Israel are afraid that radical forces will take control of that nation, and then attack Israel.

This could happen at any time; but the book of Daniel actually tells of a final attack that will occur during the Great Tribulation – which is the next significant time period of Bible prophecy.

About three years after the true church has been removed from the earth, “At the time of the end the king of the South (i.e., Egypt) shall attack him (i.e., the Antichrist in Jerusalem)” (Dan. 11:40).

However, at the same time, the King of the North (perhaps Russia) will attack the antichrist, kill him (cf. Rev. 13:14), and then move south.

“He (i.e., the king of the north) shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt” (Dan. 11:42-43).

Forty-two months later, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, will descend from heaven and take over all the kingdoms of the world – including Egypt (Rev. 19:11-21).

Ezekiel prophesied: “I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries *that are* desolate; and...her cities shall be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries.’ ‘Yet, thus says the Lord GOD: “At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered...to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom”” (Ezek. 29:12-14).

Spiritual Transformation Awaits

Finally, when the kingdom of Christ is established upon the earth, the people of Egypt will join the peoples of all the nations to worship the God of Israel.

“In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt...and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform *it*...In that day...the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed *is* Egypt My people...and Israel My inheritance” (Isa. 19:19-25; cf. Gen. 15:18; Zech. 14:18, 19).

How amazing are the judgments and mercies of God! In spite of all that Egypt has done and will do to hurt Israel, and in spite of all that Israel has done and will do to hurt their Lord, He remains faithful to His promises, and true to His Word.

Especially – and urgently – essential for both Israel and Egypt in the meantime today is this Word from heaven: “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Dr. John C. Whitcomb is an internationally-known Bible teacher and author. This year he is celebrating 60 years of public ministry and the 50th anniversary of The Genesis Flood (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing), the groundbreaking creationist book that he coauthored with Dr. Henry Morris. For complete information about Dr. Whitcomb's ministry, visit www.whitcombministries.org or www.sermonaudio.com/whitcomb.

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