

Pentwater Bible Church

Zechariah Message 39 Egypt is Singled Out February 9, 2014



The Crossing of the Red Sea by Gosimo Rosselli Cir 1481-82

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Zechariah Message 39 Egypt & Feast of Tabernacles

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THE FIFTH PLAGUE OF EGYPT BY J.M.W. TURNER CIR 1800

EGYPT IS SINGLED OUT FOR PUNISHMENT

Zechariah 14:18-19

¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, neither shall it be upon them; there shall be the plague wherewith Jehovah will smite the nations that go not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations that go not up to keep the feast of tabernacles (ASV 1901).

Egypt has been guilty of mistreating Israel for many years. As punishment they will receive a forty-year period of desolation at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. They will be scattered throughout the world and then regathered. They will be brought back to their land but will never enjoy the political power they once had. They will make peace with Israel after they are destroyed and then converted to become a part of the Millennial Kingdom of believers. One of the requirements for Israel during the Kingdom will be to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This passage is essentially their warning to obey and accept the Jews leadership during the Kingdom.

THE LORD GAVE ISAIAH A COMPLETE STORY OF THEIR FUTURE.

Isaiah 19:1-22

¹ The burden of Egypt. Behold, Jehovah rideth upon a swift cloud, and cometh

unto Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall tremble at his presence; and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. ²And I will stir up the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbor; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. ³And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst of it; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek unto the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. ⁴And I will give over the Egyptians into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, Jehovah of hosts. ⁵And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and become dry. ⁶And the rivers shall become foul; the streams of Egypt shall be diminished and dried up; the reeds and flags shall wither away. ⁷The meadows by the Nile, by the brink of the Nile, and all the sown fields of the Nile, shall become dry, be driven away, and be no more. ⁸And the fishers shall lament, and all they that cast angle into the Nile shall mourn, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish. ⁹Moreover they that work in combed flax, and they that weave white cloth, shall be confounded. ¹⁰And the pillars of Egypt shall be broken in pieces; all they that work for hire shall be grieved in soul. ¹¹The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish; the counsel of the wisest counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? ¹²Where then are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now; and let them know what Jehovah of hosts hath purposed concerning Egypt. ¹³The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Memphis are deceived; they have caused Egypt to go astray, that are the corner-stone of her tribes. ¹⁴Jehovah hath mingled a spirit of perverseness in the midst of her; and they have caused Egypt to go astray in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. ¹⁵Neither shall there be for Egypt any work, which head or tail, palm-branch or rush, may do. ¹⁶In that day shall the Egyptians be like unto women; and they shall tremble and fear because of the shaking of the hand of Jehovah of hosts, which he shaketh over them. ¹⁷And the land of Judah shall become a terror unto Egypt; every one to whom mention is made thereof shall be afraid, because of the purpose of Jehovah of hosts, which he purposeth against it. ¹⁸In that day there shall be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan, and swear to Jehovah of hosts; one shall be called The city of destruction. ¹⁹In that day shall there be an altar to Jehovah in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to Jehovah. ²⁰And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto Jehovah of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they shall cry unto Jehovah because of oppressors, and he will send them a saviour, and a defender, and he will deliver them. ²¹And Jehovah shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know Jehovah in that day; yea, they shall worship with sacrifice and oblation, and shall vow a vow unto Jehovah, and shall perform it. ²²And Jehovah will smite Egypt, smiting and healing; and they shall return unto Jehovah, and he will be entreated of them, and will heal them (ASV 1901).

1. In verses 1–10, the Prophet Isaiah described the punishment of Egypt because of her sins. Egypt will be characterized by civil war, desolation, and famine.
2. In verses 11–15, the prophet stated that the root cause of Egypt’s devastation is her leaders who have led Egypt astray. Under the dictatorships of Farouk, Nasser and Sadat, Egypt went to war against Israel on four occasions, resulting in heavy losses

for Egypt and wrecking its economy. Out of all this, they became very fearful of Israel.

3. In verses 16-17 this was Prophecied

⁷And the land of Judah shall become a terror unto Egypt; every one to whom mention is made thereof shall be afraid, because of the purpose of Jehovah of hosts, which he purposeth against it (ASV 1901).

This did not happen in ancient times. Egyptian forces passed through the Land of Israel freely, even during the reign of Solomon. Only since 1948, and especially since the Six Day War, have the Egyptian forces shown the fear stated in this passage. There has been a fear and dread in Egypt of Israel ever since that time. With Egypt's having lost four wars against Israel with heavy casualties, the fear is deeply rooted. They now have this fear.

But someday there will be peace between Israel and Egypt. Initially, the peace is a political one, when the Hebrew language will be spoken in Egypt by five cities, according to Isaiah 19:18:

¹⁸In that day there shall be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan, and swear to Jehovah of hosts; one shall be called The city of destruction (ASV 1901).

During the time that Isaiah wrote (cir. 8th century B.C.), the *language of Canaan* was the Hebrew language. It is not clear how this will be accomplished. Other texts speak of one language being again spoken all over the earth. This will be in the Millennial Kingdom.

Zephaniah 3:9

⁹For then will I turn to the peoples of a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of Jehovah, to serve him with one consent (ASV 1901).

4. In verses 19-22 Egypt will be finally converted to believe in Jehovah.

¹⁹In that day shall there be an altar to Jehovah in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to Jehovah. ²⁰And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto Jehovah of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they shall cry unto Jehovah because of oppressors, and he will send them a saviour, and a defender, and he will deliver them. ²¹And Jehovah shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know Jehovah in that day; yea, they shall worship with sacrifice and oblation, and shall vow a vow unto Jehovah, and shall perform it. ²²And Jehovah will smite Egypt, smiting and healing; and they shall return unto Jehovah, and he will be entreated of them, and will heal them (ASV 1901).

5. An altar to the God of Israel will be built as a sign and a witness of the power of the God of Israel to save the land of Egypt (vv. 19–20a).
6. Egypt will be greatly oppressed by the forces of the Antichrist and his cohorts.

Daniel 11:42–43

⁴²He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps (ASV 1901).

7. God will save Egypt from the domination of those oppressors (v. 20b). The Egyptians will realize that Allah, the Moslem god, cannot save them, but only Jehovah, the God of Israel. This will lead to a national conversion of Egypt.
8. Egypt will know the Lord and will worship the God of Israel with oblations, sacrifices, and vows (v. 21).
9. The same God Who brought about their destruction will also bring about their regeneration and their healing when they turn in faith to Him (v. 22).

In conjunction with the latter days of the Tribulation and the Campaign of Armageddon, there will be the national conversion of Egypt. As a result of this they will become some of the sheep Gentiles. During the Campaign Egypt will be one of the nations that will turn against the Antichrist.

Daniel 11:40

⁴⁰And at the time of the end shall the king of the south contend with him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass through (ASV 1901).

The Abrahamic Covenant clearly states that those who curse Israel shall be cursed (Genesis 12:3) so, Egypt will suffer a desolation that will be similar to that of another Arab nation Edom (modern Jordan).

Joel 3:19

¹⁹Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land (ASV 1901).

The violation of God's Law with Egypt is same as that of Edom, which is mistreatment of the Jews. Therefore God will extract His vengeance. With Edom, it will be total and permanent (desolation and wilderness). But with Egypt, it will be total yet temporary (desolation but not a wilderness). In fact, the desolation of Egypt is to last only for the first forty years of the Kingdom.

Ezekiel 29:1–16

In the tenth year, in the tenth month, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ²Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt; ³speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great monster that lieth in the midst of his rivers, that hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself. ⁴And I will put hooks in thy

jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales; and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, with all the fish of thy rivers which stick unto thy scales. ⁵And I will cast thee forth into the wilderness, thee and all the fish of thy rivers: thou shalt fall upon the open field; thou shalt not be brought together, nor gathered; I have given thee for food to the beasts of the earth and to the birds of the heavens. ⁶And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am Jehovah, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. ⁷When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and didst rend all their shoulders; and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand. ⁸Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and will cut off from thee man and beast. ⁹And the land of Egypt shall be a desolation and a waste; and they shall know that I am Jehovah. Because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it; ¹⁰therefore, behold, I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt an utter waste and desolation, from the tower of Seveh even unto the border of Ethiopia. ¹¹No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years. ¹²And I will make the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of the countries that are desolate; and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be a desolation forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. 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 (ASV 1901).

1. Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy against Egypt (vv. 1–2)
2. He is also to predict the coming dispersion of the Egyptians from their land (vv. 3–5)
3. This will be because of their history of mistreatment of Israel (vv. 6–7).
4. The land of Egypt will suffer a period of total desolation (vv. 8–10)
5. It will last for forty years (vv. 11–12a).
6. Then the Egyptians will be scattered all over the world like Israel was in the Diaspora (v. 12b).
7. But after the end of the period of forty years, the Egyptians will be regathered (v. 13).
8. Then they will be brought back into their land (v. 14).
9. Though Egypt will become a kingdom again, it will never be a powerful one (v. 15).
10. Israel will never again be guilty of placing her confidence in Egypt (v. 16), but will trust in the Lord their God.
11. As for the lowly kingdom of Egypt, it will also be required to observe the Feast of Tabernacles with all the other Gentile nations (Zechariah 14:16–19).

Egypt and Israel will finally be at peace in the Millennial Kingdom. It will be after all these events happen to them and when they finally worship the same God as Israel, This will be through Jesus the Messiah who will be the ruler of the world. For the first forty years of the Kingdom, the land of Egypt will be desolate and the Egyptians will be dispersed all over the world. But afterwards, the Egyptians will be regathered, becoming a kingdom again.



MAP FROM [HTTP://SEANLINNANE.BLOGSPOT.COM/2011/02/BIRDS.HTML](http://seanlinnane.blogspot.com/2011/02/birds.html)

NEXT WEEK: MILLENNIAL BLESSINGS AND THE CONCLUSION OF ZECHARIAH

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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