

Isaiah 19 - Judgment of Egypt; Future Repentance

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

(2) Condemnation of the nations (Is 13:1–23:18)

(G) Egypt (Is 19:1–20:6)

(a) Conquest by Assyria (19:1-4)

(b) Drought (19:5-10)

(c) Failing wisdom (19:11-15)

(d) Regeneration of both Egypt and Assyria (19:16-25)

Isaiah 19

(G) Egypt (Is 19:1–20:6)

(a) Conquest by Assyria (19:1-4)

1 The pronouncement concerning Egypt: Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift **cloud** and is about to come to Egypt; The idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, And the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

1 The oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt; The idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, And the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

1 A message about Egypt: "Watch out! The LORD rides on a swift cloud, and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them.

1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

- "...cloud" - Ps 18:10; Nahum 1:3; Dan 7:13

2 "So I will incite Egyptians against Egyptians; And they will fight, each against his brother and each against his neighbor, City against city *and* kingdom against kingdom.

2 "So I will incite Egyptians against Egyptians; And they will each fight against his brother and each against his neighbor, City against city *and* kingdom against kingdom.

2 I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians, and everyone will fight against his brother, everyone against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.

2 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.

- They actually had Satanic powers in the days of Moses (Ex 7:11ff)

3 "Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be demoralized within them; And I will confuse their strategy, So that they will resort to idols and ghosts of the dead, And to mediums and spiritists.

3 "Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be demoralized within them; And I will confound their strategy, So that they will resort to idols and ghosts of the dead And to mediums and spiritists.

3 The spirits of the Egyptians within them will be drained of courage, and I will bring their plans to nothing. They will consult idols and spirits of the dead, and mediums and spiritists.

3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

4 "Furthermore, I will hand the Egyptians over to a cruel master, And a mighty king will rule over them," declares the Lord GOD of armies.

4 "Moreover, I will deliver the Egyptians into the hand of a cruel master, And a mighty king will rule over them," declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

4 I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them," declares the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies.

4 And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts.

(b) Drought (19:5-10)

5 The waters from the sea will dry up, And the river will be parched and dry.

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5 "The water sources of the Nile will be dried up, and the river will become dry and parched.

5 And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.

6 The canals will emit a stench, The streams of Egypt will thin out and dry up; The reeds and rushes will rot away.

6 The canals will emit a stench, The streams of Egypt will thin out and dry up; The reeds and rushes will rot away.

6 The canals will stink, and the tributaries of Egypt will dwindle and dry up. Reeds and rushes will wither away.

6 And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.

7 The bulrushes by the Nile, by the edge of the Nile And all the sown fields by the Nile Will become dry, be driven away, and be no more.

7 The bulrushes by the Nile, by the edge of the Nile And all the sown fields by the Nile Will become dry, be driven away, and be no more.

7 And the bulrushes along the Nile, along the mouth of the Nile, will wither away. All the sown fields of the Nile will become parched, and they will be blown away; there will be nothing left.

7 The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.

8 And the fishermen will grieve, And all those who cast a line into the Nile will mourn, And those who spread nets on the waters will dwindle away.

8 And the fishermen will lament, And all those who cast a line into the Nile will mourn, And those who spread nets on the waters will pine away.

8 The fishermen will groan, and all who cast hooks into the Nile will lament; those who spread nets upon the water will become weaker and weaker.

8 The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.

9 Moreover, the manufacturers of linen made from combed flax And the weavers of white cloth will be utterly dejected.

9 Moreover, the manufacturers of linen made from combed flax And the weavers of white cloth will be utterly dejected.

9 The workers in combed flax and the weavers of white linen will be in despair.

9 Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.

10 And the pillars of *Egypt* will be crushed; All the hired laborers will be grieved in soul.

10 And the pillars of *Egypt* will be crushed; All the hired laborers will be grieved in soul.

10 Egypt's workers in cloth will be crushed, and all who work for wages will be sick at heart."

10 And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.

In the above passage (v1-10), Isaiah describes Egypt's punishment because of her sins. It will be characterized by civil war, desolation and famine.

The Foolishness of Egypt's Leaders

In v11-15, Isaiah describes the root cause of Egypt's devastation as her leaders, who had led Egypt astray. Under the dictatorships of Farouk, Nasser, and Sadat, Egypt went to war against Israel on four occasions, each resulting in heavy losses for Egypt and wrecking her economy.

(c) Failing wisdom (19:11-15)

11 The officials of Zoan are mere fools; The advice of Pharaoh's wisest advisers has become stupid. How can you say to Pharaoh, "I am a son of the wise, a son of ancient kings"?

11 The princes of Zoan are mere fools; The advice of Pharaoh's wisest advisers has become stupid. How can you *men* say to Pharaoh, "I am a son of the wise, a son of ancient kings"?

11 Zoan's princes are nothing but fools; the wisest advisors of Pharaoh give stupid advice. How can you say to Pharaoh, "I'm a descendant of wise men, a descendant of ancient kings"?

11 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

12 Well then, where are your wise men? Please let them tell you, And let them understand what the LORD of armies Has planned against Egypt.

12 Well then, where are your wise men? Please let them tell you, And let them understand what the LORD of hosts Has purposed against Egypt.

12 Where are your wise men now? Let them tell you, let them make known what the LORD has planned against Egypt.

12 Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.

13 The officials of Zoan have turned out to be fools, The officials of Memphis are deluded; *Those who are the cornerstone of her tribes Have led Egypt astray.*

13 The princes of Zoan have acted foolishly, The princes of Memphis are deluded; *Those who are the cornerstone of her tribes Have led Egypt astray.*

13 The princes of Zoan have become fools, and the princes of Memphis deluded; the leaders of its tribes have led Egypt astray.

13 The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof.

14 The LORD has mixed within her a spirit of distortion; They have led Egypt astray in all that it does, As a drunken person staggers in his vomit.

14 The LORD has mixed within her a spirit of distortion; They have led Egypt astray in all that it does, As a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

14 The LORD has mixed within them a spirit of confusion; so they make Egypt stagger in all that it does, like a drunkard staggers around in his vomit.

14 The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit.

15 There will be no work for Egypt Which *its* head or tail, *its* palm branch or bulrush, may do.

15 There will be no work for Egypt Which *its* head or tail, *its* palm branch or bulrush, may do.

15 As a result, there will be nothing for Egypt that head or tail, palm branch or reed, can do.

15 Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.

Egypt's Fear of Israel

Starting at v16, five distinct sections (beginning with "in that day") look toward "the day of the Lord" (v16,18,19,21,23). This describes a coming time when Judah is the power in the region and Egypt acknowledges and benefits from these conditions (v16-17). This will occur in the kingdom. See [Arab States in Prophecy](#) for an overview of the final disposition of Arab nations.

(d) Regeneration of both Egypt and Assyria (19:16-25)

16 On that day the Egyptians will become like women, and they will tremble and be in great fear because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of armies, which He is going to wave over them.

16 In that day the Egyptians will become like women, and they will tremble and be in dread because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He is going to wave over them.

16 At that time, the Egyptians will be like women—they will shudder and be afraid before the uplifted hand of the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, when he brandishes his hand against her.

16 In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.

- Because of Egypt's devastating military losses against Israel, they developed a fear of Israel. Never in ancient history has this been true. Even in the days of Solomon, Egyptian forces passed through Israel freely. Only since 1948, and especially since the Six Day War (1967) have the Egyptian forces evidenced a fear and dread of Israel portrayed in this passage. With Egypt having lost four wars against Israel with heavy casualties, the fear is deeply rooted. Prophetically, today is still the period of Is 19:16-17.

17 The land of Judah will become a cause of shame to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in great fear because of the plan of the LORD of armies which He is making against them.

17 The land of Judah will become a terror to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in dread of it, because of the purpose of the LORD of hosts which He is purposing against them.

17 And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians. Everyone to whom it is mentioned will be afraid, because of the uplifted hand of the LORD of the Heavenly Armies that is turning in their direction.

17 And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.

Egypt and the Hebrew Language

18 On that day five cities in the land of Egypt will be speaking the language of Canaan and swearing *allegiance* to the LORD of armies; one will be called the City of Destruction.

18 In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will be speaking the language of Canaan and swearing *allegiance* to the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.

18 At that time, there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD of the Heavenly Armies. One of them will be called the City of the Sun.

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

- Eventually, peace will come between Egypt and Israel. Initially, the peace will be a political one when Hebrew will be spoken in five Egyptian cities.

— This will evidently be the first step in Egypt's conversion. Exactly how this prophecy will be fulfilled remains to be seen.

The National Regeneration of Egypt

19 On that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a memorial stone to the LORD beside its border.

19 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 near its border.

19 At that time, there will be an altar to the LORD of the Heavenly Armies in the heart of the land of Egypt, and a monument to the LORD at its border.

19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

- It is striking that the nation Egypt will one day worship the God of Israel (v19-23)

- Paradox: some identify this verse with the Great Pyramid at Giza

The Great Pyramid of Giza

Today a gigantic monument sits at the only spot on Earth that is both in the heart of Egypt and on its border. (The Biblical name for Egypt is Mizraim and literally means 2 Egypts since it's the dual form of its root, Matzor.) It's in a place called Giza, which is an Arabic word that means border. Giza is located on the border between Upper and Lower Egypt (the 2 Egypts) and is at the point of an arc that circumscribes the Nile Delta region. So it's on the border, but also in the heart of Egypt. The monument is called the Great Pyramid, and it's the most remarkable edifice on the face of the Earth. The unique characteristics of the Great Pyramid's location, its construction, and its dimensions would challenge the limits of human capability even today, and yet it was built 4,000 years ago. Who built it, and for what purpose? Is this the monument of which Isaiah spoke? Many who've studied the Great Pyramid are convinced that the answer is yes. (Read more about [The Great Pyramid of Giza](#))

20 And it will become a sign and a witness to the LORD of armies in the land of Egypt; for they will cry out to the LORD because of **oppressors**, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will save them.

20 It will become a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will deliver them.

20 It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of the Heavenly Armies in the land of Egypt; when they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior, and he will come down and rescue them.

20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

- "...oppressors" - Egypt will be greatly oppressed by the forces of the Antichrist and his cohorts (Dan 11:42-43), but God will save Egypt from the domination of those oppressors in v20b
 - The Egyptians will realize that Allah, the Moslem god, cannot save them, but only Jehovah, the God of Israel. This will lead to the national conversion of Egypt.
 - Egypt will be one of the nations that move against the Antichrist (Dan 11:40)

21 So the LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD on that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the LORD and perform it.

21 Thus the LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the LORD and perform it.

21 So the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will acknowledge the LORD.

At that time, they will worship with sacrifices and offerings, and they will make vows to the LORD and carry them out.

21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.

- Egypt shall know the Lord and will worship the God of Israel with sacrifice, oblation, and vow.

22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the LORD, and He will respond to their pleas and heal them.

22 The LORD will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the LORD, and He will respond to them and will heal them.

22 The LORD will strike Egypt with a plague, striking but then healing. Then they will turn to the LORD, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them.

22 And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

- The same God who brought about their destruction will also bring about their regeneration and healing when they turn to faith in him.

The Union of Israel, Egypt and Assyria

Economic & Religious Union

23 On that day there will be a road from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria; and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

23 At that time, there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will come into Egypt, and the Egyptians into Assyria, and they will worship with the Assyrians.

23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

- The famous highway of the ancient world, known as the *via maris*, has ceased to function since 1948 when Israel became a state. In 1948, Egypt and Syria closed their borders, making the highway inoperable.

-- However, in the Kingdom, when peace will be restored, all borders will be open, and the highway, a symbol of economy, will be restored between these nations. The means by which this will occur is conversion in v24-25.

Blessing Union

24 On that day Israel will be the third *party* to Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth,

24 In that day Israel will be the third *party* with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth,

24 At that time, Israel will be in a triple alliance with Egypt and Assyria; they will be a blessing in the midst of the earth.

24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:

25 whom the LORD of armies has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

25 whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

25 The LORD of the Heavenly Armies has blessed them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

- Not only will Egypt undergo a conversion experience, so also will the ancient area of Assyria. Assyria will become a blessing in the earth and will receive a blessing from God.

-- The three former enemies will now have a spiritual unity as well as an economic and political one

-- This spiritual unity will be the basis for the other unities.

In v24-25 we have one of the clearest and most striking predictions of the calling of the Gentiles in Scripture. Observe the following from this section:

- (1) In a coming day ("in that day") three traditional enemies—Egypt, Assyria, and Israel—will all be the people of God and worship the God of Israel. This has never occurred in history, so the circumstances presented here must await the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah. Zech 14:16-19 affirms this when it mentions Egypt and other nations going up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord who is then reigning over the earth.
- (2) Egypt and Assyria are said to be "a blessing in the midst of the earth," which shows that what is taking place is occurring during an earthly kingdom.
- (3) These events occur when Israel exists and is a dominant power in the region. Egypt has a healthy respect for Israel during this time (v16-17).
- (4) Titles once used only of Israel in the OT are expanded to include Gentiles. Egypt is called "my people," and Assyria is designated "the work of My hands." Thus, the concept of the people of God expands to include Gentiles.

Theological Implications

Nations, as national entities, will be part of the kingdom. What is described is more than just the gospel message spreading to various nations in this present age. This passage describes a time when national entities are serving the Lord and have a national recognition of God.

The "people of God" concept expands to include Gentiles alongside Israel, who still exist as the people of God. While many believe that Gentiles being blessed alongside Israel means that believing Gentiles are incorporated into Israel. The text does not say that Egypt and Assyria "become" Israel...it says these nations are the people of God alongside Israel. It is not true to say that Israel expands to include Gentiles...instead, the people of God expand to include Gentiles alongside Israel. Becoming the people of God does not mean loss of ethnicity or national affiliation. Nor does it mean that everyone becomes Israel. Jews and Gentiles participate together in the people of God but they don't morph into each other. Yet there are no national entities that worship the Lord today, not even Israel. According to Rom 11:11-12, Israel's present transgression has brought "salvation to the Gentiles," but Israel's "fulfillment" will bring even greater blessings to the world. A day is coming when "all Israel will be saved" (Rom 11:26) and full blessings to the world will occur. Jesus is coming again to rule literal nations (see Ps 2; Rev 2:26-27) and when He does, exponential blessings to the world will take place. At that time the nations of the world will serve God along with saved Israel (Amos 9:11-15).