

# Isaiah 20 - The Sign Against Egypt & Ethiopia (Cush)

## 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)

(e) Isaiah's nakedness demonstrates the humiliation of both Ethiopia and Egypt at the hands of the Assyrians (20:1-6)

## Isaiah 20

(e) Isaiah's nakedness demonstrates the humiliation of both Ethiopia and Egypt at the hands of the Assyrians (20:1-6)

1 In the year that **the commander** came to Ashdod, when **Sargon** the king of Assyria sent him and he fought against Ashdod and captured it,

1 In the year that the commander came to Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him and he fought against Ashdod and captured it,

1 In the year that the supreme commander, sent by Sargon the king of Assyria, came to Ashdod, attacked it, and captured it—

1 In the year that **Tartan** came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;

- "...the commander" - Tartan (2 Kings 18:17); in 711 BC Assyria marched against Egypt; three years earlier (713 BC) Ashdod rebelled against Assyria

- "...Sargon" - this is the only place that Sargon is mentioned in the Bible. Once doubted, now archaeologically confirmed...

2 at that time the LORD spoke through Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go and loosen the sackcloth from your hips and take your sandals off your feet." And he did so, going naked and barefoot.

2 at that time the LORD spoke through Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go and loosen the sackcloth from your hips and take your shoes off your feet." And he did so, going naked and barefoot.

2 at that time the LORD spoke through Amoz's son Isaiah: "Go loosen the sackcloth that's around your waist, and take your sandals off your feet." So that's what he did: he went around naked and barefoot.

2 At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.

- Not necessarily stark naked: only underclothes (2 Sam 6:20)

- Isaiah was opposed to trusting to Egypt; and it seems that this time some attention was given to his words; Judah was not attacked by Sargon who was then at the height of his power.

### **The Meaning**

3 Then the LORD said, "Even as My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and symbol against Egypt and Cush,

3 And the LORD said, "Even as My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot three years as a sign and token against Egypt and Cush,

3 Then the LORD said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has walked around naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and a warning for Egypt and Ethiopia,

3 And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;

4 so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, young and old, naked and barefoot with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

4 so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, young and old, naked and barefoot with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

4 so the king of Assyria will lead away the Egyptian captives and exiles from Cush, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot—with even their buttocks uncovered—to the shame of Egypt.

4 So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

### **The Results**

5 Then they will be terrified and ashamed because of Cush their hope and Egypt their pride.

5 Then they will be dismayed and ashamed because of Cush their hope and Egypt their boast.

5 Then they will be dismayed and put to shame because of Cush, their hope, and Egypt, their jewel.

5 And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory.

6 So the inhabitants of this coastland will say on that day, 'Behold, such is our hope, where we fled for help to be saved from the king of Assyria; and how are we ourselves to escape?'"

6 So the inhabitants of this coastland will say in that day, 'Behold, such is our hope, where we fled for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria; and we, how shall we escape?'"

6 At that time, the inhabitants of this coastland will say, 'See, this is what has happened to those on whom we counted and relied for help and deliverance from the king of Assyria! How, then, can we escape?'"

6 And the inhabitant of this isle shall say in that day, Behold, such is our expectation, whither we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria: and how shall we escape?