

ISAIAH – Chapter 19

Egypt

Flood to Abraham

Founded soon after the flood by Mizraim, son of Ham, son of Noah.

Gen. 10:6, 13-14 Egypt was at times called the “land of Ham.” Ps. 105:23; 106:21-22

The History of Egypt

Egypt consists of two halves, geographically.

Northern or Lower Egypt called Mazor.

Southern or Upper Egypt called Pathros. Isa. 11:11

United, it was called Mizraim – “the two Mazors.”

The Old Kingdom (most ancient).

- 1) had Memphis as its capital. Hos. 9:6
- 2) the Pyramids were built during this period.
- 3) fell into a period of decline – this was followed by:

The Middle period

- 1) Thebes, in Upper Egypt, was the capital for this period.
- 2) This period was ended with its overthrow by the Hykos (shepherd princes), who produced 3 dynasties of kings. Their capital was Tanis.
- 3) It was during this time that Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph entered Egypt. Gen. 12:10-13:1; Gen. 37:1-46:27, esp. 46:2-27
- 4) These foreigners were driven out and:

The New Kingdom was established under the leadership of the Rameses and others. Ex. 1:8-14 & ff

- 1) After Rameses III, Egypt fell into decay.
- 2) Solomon married the daughter of one of the last kings of the 21st dynasty. 1 Kings 11:1
- 3) When Solomon became old, God used Pharaoh to begin to cause deterioration in the house of David. 1 Kings 11:9-22; 14:25-28

- 4) In the time of Hezekiah, Egypt was conquered by the Cushites, who formed the 25th dynasty.

Egypt was still a factor at the time of the Babylonian captivity. Jer. 37:5-11

- Vs. 1 Having paused for Cush, we return to our series of “burdens” given to Isaiah to deliver. (Remembering that Chapter 20 places Cush with Egypt.)

The Lord is riding on a swift cloud. Ps. 18:7-15 (Our study of Revelation and the picture of God and His connection with the clouds.)

Upon His arrival:

- 1) the idols of Egypt will tremble.
- 2) the hearts of the Egyptians will melt within them.

NOTE:

- 1) Egypt was often looked to for assistance in times of trouble – she will be no help, for the time of her judgment has come.
- 2) Her gods:

Hapi or Apis – bull god, god of the Nile.

Isis – goddess of the Nile.

Khnum – ram god, guardian of the Nile.

Heget – goddess of birth, with a frog head

Set – god of the desert.

Re – sun god.

Hathor – goddess with a cow head.

Nut – sky goddess.

Osiris – god of storms.

Min – god of reproduction.

Pharaoh’s first born son – to become a god.

None of them could help when God called His people out of Egypt and none will be able to help when God sends the Assyrian king, Esarhaddon, upon Egypt in 671 B.C.

- Vs. 2 Along with an external attack, God will cause the Egyptians to turn upon each other. Judges 7:19-22; 1 Sam. 14:20; 2 Chron. 20:22-24, etc.

Vs. 3 Consequently, the Egyptians will become demoralized.

God will confound their strategy.

God will drive them into the arms of their gods!

Vs. 4 Esarhaddon of Assyria will carry out God's will. (Look at the notes on the cruelty of the Assyrians.) How things have changed. Ex. 1:11

Vs. 5-8 Egypt's entire economy depended upon the Nile River.

Egypt's enemy will not be man as much as it will be God! A "dust bowl" will bring any nation to its knees.

1) waters from the sea will dry up.

2) Nile will drop – no more flooding.

3) water life will die off – stench.

4) The reeds and rushes will rot away.

5) dry up

6) those who make their living from the Nile will mourn – pine away.

Vs. 9 Those who work with crops, who depend on the annual flooding will become dejected.

Vs. 10 The entire economy will be brought to its knees, grieving the souls of all the people.

Vs. 11-13 Egypt's wise men will be unable to help – their wisdom is foolishness when compared to the wisdom of the God of the Hebrews.

1) the officials of Zoan. Num. 13:22; Ps. 78:12, 43-51 (been there before)

2) the wise counselors of Pharaoh.

3) the leaders of Memphis. Jer. 44:1-6

Vs. 14 These things have not just happened – it is the Lord at work. If the Lord has purposed – who can stay His hand?

Vs. 15 Neither the leaders (the head and the palm branch), nor the common population (the tail and the reed), can hold back God's judgment.

NOTE: 2050-1800 B.C. – Zoan was Egypt's capital city.
Memphis was the first capital of United Egypt.

Vs. 16-17 In that day (vs. 16, 18, 19, 23, 24) Egypt will know the true God of Israel. In contrast with Isaiah's day when Judah looked to Egypt for help, a time will come when the reverse will occur.

The Egyptians will be like women – in fear of Judah because of the relationship He has with Judah.

Vs. 18 Five cities – the rest of Egypt.

Speaking the language of Canaan – Hebrew – they are in the land.

City of destruction (Sun in other manuscripts) – Heliopolis.

Vs. 19-22 An alter to the Lord will be in her center.

A pillar recognizing the God of Israel will be displayed near her border.

Salvation will come to Egypt. Zech. 14:16-21

In Isaiah's day – say "what"

In the last day – Yes

Vs. 23 The Assyrians will be included in the saved of that day.

Vs. 24-25 What a day that day will be.

Assyria, Egypt, and Israel as one.

Gen. 12:3 – "all the families of the earth shall be blessed."