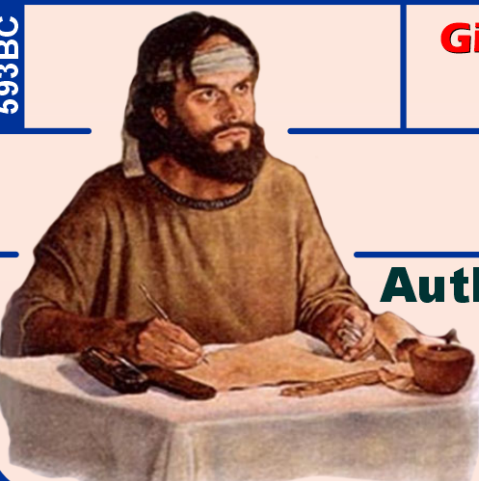


JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

29

EZEKIEL

BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↺ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic											
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48									
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God									
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC			
								The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT				The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE			
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)															
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old															
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old															
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old															
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old															

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 29

- **The seventh and final nation Ezekiel prophesied against was Egypt.**
- **This prophecy was actually a series of seven messages directed against Egypt and its Pharaoh.**
- **Six of the seven messages are dated.**
- **The messages are in chronological order. Message 2 is dated later than the others. It appears Ezekiel wanted to arrange the oracles in a logical progression.**



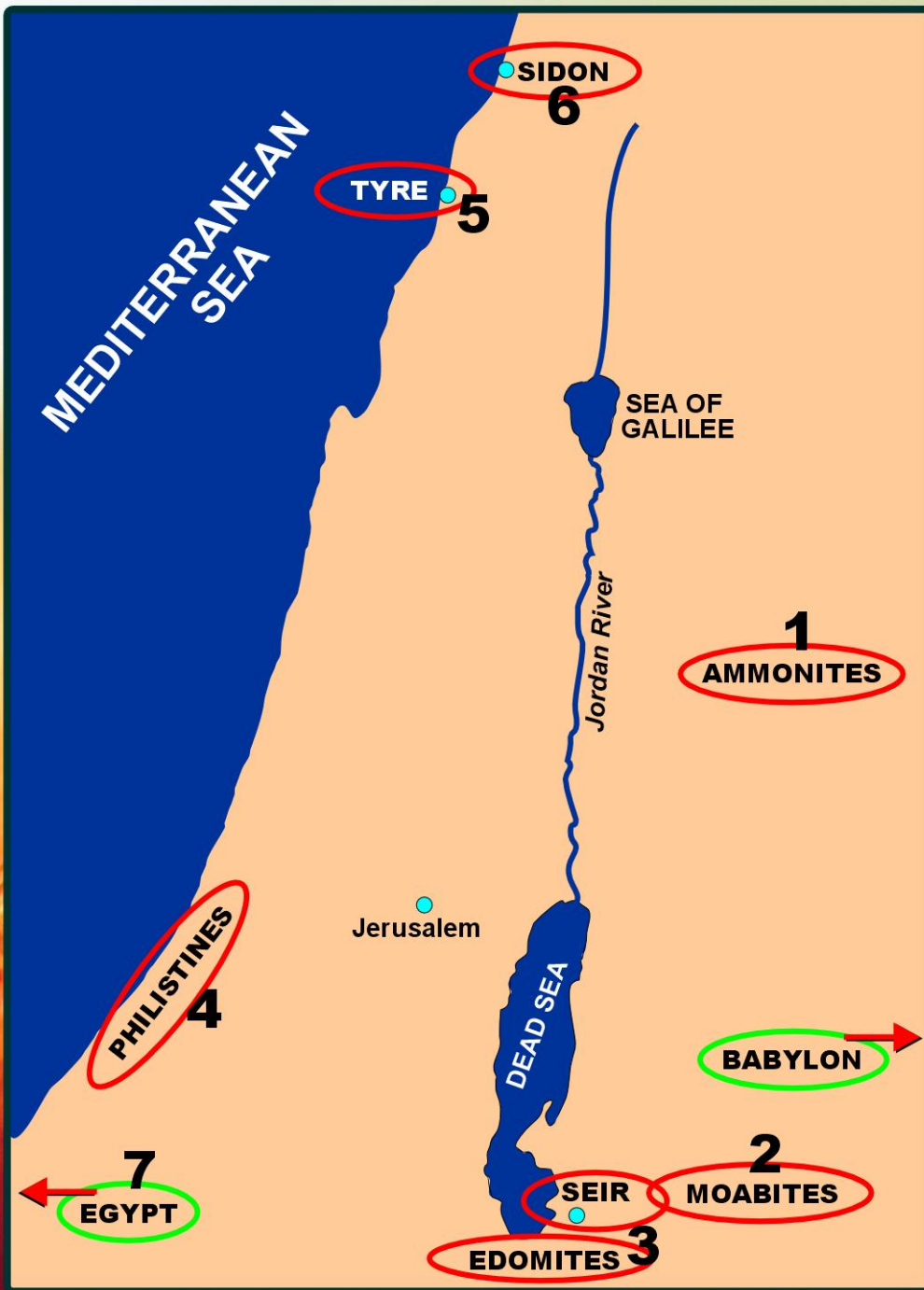
JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS THAT OPPOSED ISRAEL

Ezekiel 25-32



Fall of Egypt

Ezekiel 29 —32



FALL OF JERUSALEM AND SURROUNDING NATIONS

CHAPTER

24

Fall of Jerusalem PREDICTED

25

1. Ammon (25:1-7)
2. Moab and Seir (25:8-11)
3. Edom (25:12-14)
4. Philistia (25:15-17)

26-28

5. Tyre (26:1—28:19) [Satan]
6. Sidon (28:20-24)

29-32

7. Egypt (29:1—32:32)

33

Fall of Jerusalem ACCOMPLISHED

Jerusalem Struck Down (33:21-33)

EZEKIEL 24-33

**In the tenth year, in the
tenth month, on the twelfth
day of the month, the word
of the LORD came to me,
saying,**

EZEKIEL 29:1



In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.29:1)

- **This first of seven prophecies against Egypt was given on January 5, 587BC.**
- **This was almost a year after the siege of Jerusalem began (Ek.24:1-2).**



**Son of man, set your face
against Pharaoh king of
Egypt, and prophesy against
him, and against all Egypt.**

EZEKIEL 29:2



Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt. (Ek.29:2)

- **The Pharaoh in Egypt at that time was Hophra who reigned from 589 to 570 B.C.**
- **Hophra's promises of assistance prompted Judah to break with Babylon. Both Egypt and her leader were singled out for judgment.**
- **As often in such prophecies, the king is used as a figure of speech for his nation.**



**Speak, and say, 'Thus says the Lord
GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O
Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great
monster who lies in the midst of his
rivers, Who has said, 'My River is my
own; I have made it for myself.'**

EZEKIEL 29:3



Speak, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies in the midst of his rivers, Who has said, 'My River is my own; I have made it for myself.' (Ek.29:3)

- **Ezekiel compared Pharaoh to a great monster in Egypt's streams.**
- **“Monster” described reptiles, from large snakes (Ex.7:9-10) to giant sea monsters (Ge.1:21).**
- **Herodotus implied that Pharaoh Apries (Greek) was so strong in his position that he felt no god could dislodge him.**



Speak, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies in the midst of his rivers, Who has said, 'My River is my own; I have made it for myself.' (Ek.29:3)

- **Reptiles in the Nile (especially crocodiles) symbolized Egypt's strength and ferocity.**
- **Egyptians believed that Pharaoh could conquer the chaos-monster; but here, ironically, God called Pharaoh the monster!**
- **Rather than giving God thanks for the Nile as a resource, the king had proudly claimed responsibility for it.**



**But I will put hooks in your jaws, And
cause the fish of your rivers to stick
to your scales; I will bring you up out
of the midst of your rivers, And all
the fish in your rivers will stick to
your scales.**

EZEKIEL 29:4



**But I will put hooks in your jaws, And cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales;
I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, And all the fish in your rivers will stick
to your scales. (Ek.29:4)**

- **The Lord promised to remove Pharaoh and his people from their land, as a fisherman pulls a crocodile out of the water with hooks.**
- **He would remove the river-dragon along with the lesser fish that would cling to it.**
- **These fish probably refer to the neighbor nations and allies of Egypt that relied on her.**



**But I will put hooks in your jaws, And cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales;
I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, And all the fish in your rivers will stick
to your scales. (Ek.29:4)**

- In the delta region of Egypt, the Egyptians worshipped the crocodile as a god, Sebek, which they believed protected their nation (Ek.32:2; Ps.74:13; Is.27:1; 51:9).**
- Thus, God promised to destroy Pharaoh, Egypt, and the god supposedly responsible for their protection.**



**I will leave you in the wilderness, You
and all the fish of your rivers; You
shall fall on the open field; You shall
not be picked up or gathered. I have
given you as food To the beasts of
the field And to the birds of the
heavens.**

EZEKIEL 29:5



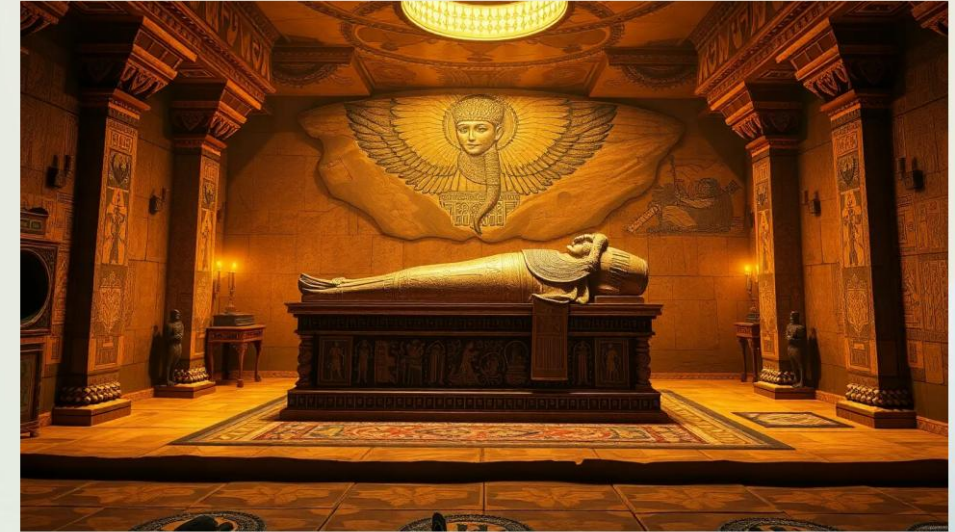
I will leave you in the wilderness, You and all the fish of your rivers; You shall fall on the open field; You shall not be picked up or gathered. I have given you as food To the beasts of the field And to the birds of the heavens. (Ek.29:5)

- God said He would drag Egypt away from her place of protection in the Nile and leave her in the desert.**
- This depicts God's subduing a crocodile (or the mythological "god" who lived in the water) and dragging him to a barren place where he would soon perish. God would defeat Egypt despite her great strength.**
- The Lord would carry the dragon into a wilderness along with its dependent fish where they could not return to water. There the beasts and birds would devour Egypt.**



I will leave you in the wilderness, You and all the fish of your rivers; You shall fall on the open field; You shall not be picked up or gathered. I have given you as food To the beasts of the field And to the birds of the heavens. (Ek.29:5)

- **Hophra (589-570 B.C.) would not receive a royal burial, which was extremely important to the Pharaohs and all the Egyptians.**
- **History records that Ahmose II (Gr. Amasis), another Egyptian leader, strangled Hophra and took his place.**



**Then all the inhabitants of Egypt
Shall know that I am the LORD,
Because they have been a staff
of reed to the house of Israel.**

EZEKIEL 29:6



**Then all the inhabitants of Egypt Shall know that I am the LORD,
Because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. (Ek.29:6)**

- **In this prophecy Ezekiel deals with Egypt's basic sin.**
- **Egypt had been a staff of reeds for the house of Israel.**
- **A “staff” was used as a cane or walking stick for support on the rough terrain in Israel (Zc.8:4; Mk.6:8; He.11:21).**



**Then all the inhabitants of Egypt Shall know that I am the LORD,
Because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. (Ek.29:6)**

- **Israel leaned on Egypt for support in her revolt against Babylon, but Egypt's support was as fragile as the reeds which grew abundantly on the Nile River's shores.**
- **They had proved to be as weak a support as one of the reeds that grew along the banks of the Nile (Ex.2:3).**
- **The Israelites, of course, should not have trusted in Egypt, but this did not excuse the Egyptians for breaking their covenants with Israel.**



**When they took hold of you
with the hand, You broke
and tore all their shoulders;
When they leaned on you,
You broke and made all
their backs quiver.**

EZEKIEL 29:7



**When they took hold of you with the hand, You broke and tore all their shoulders;
When they leaned on you, You broke and made all their backs quiver. (Ek.29:7)**

- **When the pressure came, the reed snapped, and Israel found herself unable to stand.**
- **Possibly Ezekiel was quoting a proverb commonly applied to Egypt which had a reputation as an unreliable ally (2Ki.18:20-21).**
- **The time of this prophecy probably coincided with Egypt's halfhearted attempt to aid Jerusalem during Nebuchadnezzar's siege (Je.37:4-8).**



**When they took hold of you with the hand, You broke and tore all their shoulders;
When they leaned on you, You broke and made all their backs quiver. (Ek.29:7)**

- **Egypt backed out and Jerusalem suffered the consequences.**
- **Jerusalem learned too late that a slender reed could not give support.**
- **When she leaned on Egypt for deliverance from Babylon, Egypt let her down.**



**Therefore thus says the Lord
GOD: "Surely I will bring a
sword upon you and cut off
from you man and beast.**

EZEKIEL 29:8



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will bring a sword upon you and cut off from you man and beast. (Ek.29:8)

- **Because of Egypt's false promises of support to Judah, God said He would punish the Egyptians by the sword and Egypt would become a desolate wasteland.**
- **As punishment, Yahweh would bring war into Egypt that would slay man and beast.**



**And the land of Egypt shall become
desolate and waste; then they will
know that I am the LORD, because
he said, 'The River is mine, and I
have made it.'**

EZEKIEL 29:9



And the land of Egypt shall become desolate and waste; then they will know that I am the LORD, because he said, 'The River is mine, and I have made it.' (Ek.29:9)

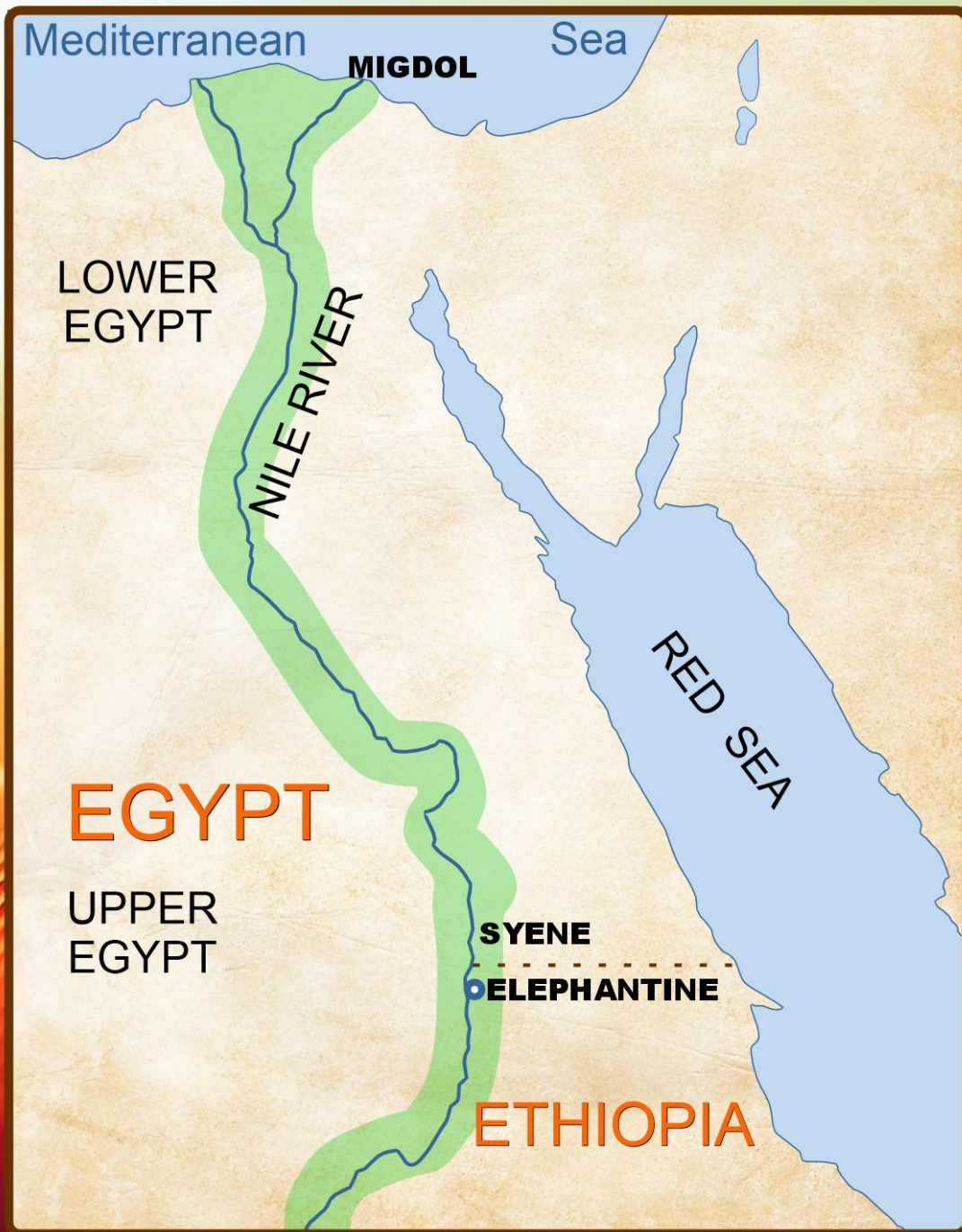
- **Pharaoh was considered a god; therefore he thought of himself as having created the Nile.**
- **Egypt would become desolate and waste, and people would learn that the Lord is God.**
- **The Nile River was the water supply for all Egypt's crops.**



**Indeed, therefore, I am against you
and against your rivers, and I will
make the land of Egypt utterly
waste and desolate, from Migdol
to Syene, as far as the border of
Ethiopia.**

EZEKIEL 29:10





EZEKIEL 29

- Ezekiel's prophecy discusses the extent of God's judgment on Egypt (Ek.29:10-16).
- The desolation would extend from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Ethiopia.
- "Migdol" was in the Delta region in northern (lower) Egypt.
- "Syene" was at the first cataract in southern (upper) Egypt and was the southern boundary between Egypt and Ethiopia.

Indeed, therefore, I am against you and against your rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Ethiopia. (Ek.29:10)

- **This portion of Ezekiel's prophecy discusses the extent of God's judgment on Egypt (Ek.29:10-16).**
- **The desolation would extend from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Ethiopia.**
- **"Migdol" was in the Delta region in northern (lower) Egypt.**
- **"Syene" was at the first cataract (natural barrier) in southern (upper) Egypt and was the southern boundary between Egypt and Ethiopia.**



**Neither foot of man shall pass
through it nor foot of beast pass
through it, and it shall be
uninhabited forty years.**

EZEKIEL 29:11



Neither foot of man shall pass through it nor foot of beast pass through it, and it shall be uninhabited forty years. (Ek.29:11)

- **Egypt would not be inhabited for 40 years, and other desolated lands would surround her.**
- **Her cities would lie waste, and her people would disperse among other nations and live in other countries.**
- **Egypt's fate was like a repetition of Israel's in the wilderness (cf. Ek.4:6).**
- **Egypt did indeed fall to the Babylonians in 568-567 B.C.**



**I will make the land of Egypt desolate
in the midst of the countries that are
desolate; and among the cities that
are laid waste, her cities shall be
desolate forty years; and I will scatter
the Egyptians among the nations and
disperse them throughout the countries.**

EZEKIEL 29:12



I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate; and among the cities that are laid waste, her cities shall be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. (Ek.29:12)

- God would disperse Egypt among the nations; she would also be carried into captivity.**
- Nebuchadnezzar did attack Egypt (Ek.29:17-21; Je.43:8-13; 46:1-25).**
- Assuming that Nebuchadnezzar conquered the country, one would expect him to deport people to Babylon as he did others he conquered.**
- Most presume the Egyptian captives would have been allowed to return home in the reign of Cyrus of Persia.**



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."

EZEKIEL 29:13



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. (Ek.29:13)

- **Judah had been destroyed because she relied on Egypt. Egypt would suffer the same fate.**
- **At the end of 40 years, the Lord promised to gather the Egyptians back to their original land, the land of Pathros, Upper (southern) Egypt, from the countries where they had fled (Is.11:11).**



**I will bring back the captives of
Egypt and cause them to return
to the land of Pathros, to the land
of their origin, and there they
shall be a lowly kingdom.**

EZEKIEL 29:14



I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom. (Ek.29:14)

- **God would then take the Egyptians back to Pathros, the land of their ancestry.**
- **“Pathros” (Ek.30:14) was a geographic region located in southern (upper) Egypt.**
- **Some feel that this was the traditional birthplace of the nation of Egypt.**
- **It may be that “Pathros” was used here to represent the entire land of Egypt.**



I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom. (Ek.29:14)

- **Though God would let the Egyptians return to their land, Egypt would not achieve the place of power she once held.**
- **No extrabiblical evidence has yet come to light to substantiate this forty-year captivity of Egypt, but that is not unusual since it was rare for ancient Near Eastern rulers to admit defeats much less document them for future generations.**



**It shall be the lowliest of kingdoms;
it shall never again exalt itself
above the nations, for I will diminish
them so that they will not rule over
the nations anymore.**

EZEKIEL 29:15



It shall be the lowliest of kingdoms; it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, for I will diminish them so that they will not rule over the nations anymore. (Ek.29:15)

- **Forty years after Egypt fell to the Babylonians, the Persians, who had by that time defeated the Babylonians, allowed the Egyptians to return to their homeland.**
- **This was the foreign policy of the Persians under which the Israelites were also able to return to their land.**
- **After Persia's rise to power, Egypt never again in biblical times became a major international power.**
- **Egypt tried to exert herself during the intertestamental period, but she was held in check by Greece, Syria, and Rome.**



**No longer shall it be the confidence
of the house of Israel, but will
remind them of their iniquity when
they turned to follow them. Then
they shall know that I am the Lord
GOD.**

EZEKIEL 29:16



No longer shall it be the confidence of the house of Israel, but will remind them of their iniquity when they turned to follow them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord GOD. (Ek.29:16)

- **Pharaoh would soon learn he was no match for the true Creator-God.**
- **Egypt's political weakness would be a continual object lesson to Israel.**
- **Israel would look at Egypt and remember her folly of depending on men instead of God.**
- **Then all would know that the Lord is God.**





Defeat of Egypt by Babylon

Ezekiel 29:17-21

**And it came to pass in the
twenty-seventh year, in the first
month, on the first day of the
month, that the word of the
LORD came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 29:17



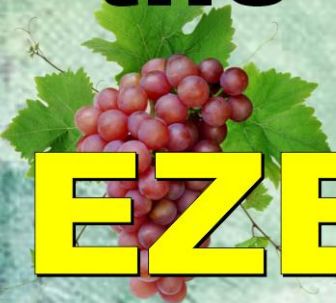
And it came to pass in the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.29:17)

- **Ezekiel's second prophecy against Egypt came in April 26, 571 B.C.**
- **Ezekiel probably placed this prophecy out of chronological order to draw attention to his logical progression.**
- **He had just described Egypt's coming judgment (Ek.29:1-16); he placed Ezekiel 29:17-21 afterward to indicate who would bring the judgment.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar himself would attack Egypt.**



**Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon caused his army to labor
strenuously against Tyre; every head
was made bald, and every shoulder
rubbed raw; yet neither he nor his
army received wages from Tyre, for
the labor which they expended on it.**

EZEKIEL 29:18



Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre; every head was made bald, and every shoulder rubbed raw; yet neither he nor his army received wages from Tyre, for the labor which they expended on it. (Ek.29:18)

- **This prophecy was written shortly after Tyre's surrender to Babylon in 572 B.C.**
- **For 13 years Nebuchadnezzar had besieged the city of Tyre (585-572 B.C.).**
- **The picture of heads rubbed bare because of the prolonged wearing of helmets and of shoulders that were raw from carrying wood and stone for building siege mounds is graphic.**



Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre; every head was made bald, and every shoulder rubbed raw; yet neither he nor his army received wages from Tyre, for the labor which they expended on it. (Ek.29:18)

- Nebuchadnezzar had worked hard for meager results. He got no reward from that campaign against Tyre.**
- Tyre surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, but there were no vast spoils of war to distribute as booty to his army.**
- Many believe Tyre shipped off her wealth before she surrendered.**
- Tyrians retreated to an island bastion out in the sea and survived, not giving Babylon full satisfaction in their acquired spoils (“wages”), which would be expected after such a long struggle.**



Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre; every head was made bald, and every shoulder rubbed raw; yet neither he nor his army received wages from Tyre, for the labor which they expended on it. (Ek.29:18)

- **In ancient times armies were not paid as they are today. Soldiers might receive a small allowance along with their rations.**
- **A special incentive system made army life attractive and often exciting.**
- **Soldiers successful in battle were allowed to take and keep anything they could lay hands on and carry away.**



**Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
'Surely I will give the land of Egypt to
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he
shall take away her wealth, carry off
her spoil, and remove her pillage; and
that will be the wages for his army.**

EZEKIEL 29:19



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he shall take away her wealth, carry off her spoil, and remove her pillage; and that will be the wages for his army. (Ek.29:19)

- **Nebuchadnezzar needed money to pay his soldiers for their labor so he turned to Egypt.**
- **God announced that He would give Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar as payment for executing His judgment against Tyre.**
- **To make up for Babylon's lack of sufficient reward from Tyre, God allowed a Babylonian conquest of Egypt in 568/67 B.C.**



**I have given him the land
of Egypt for his labor,
because they worked for
Me,' says the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 29:20



I have given him the land of Egypt for his labor, because they worked for Me,' says the Lord GOD. (Ek.29:20)

- **Prompted by economic necessity, Babylon attacked Egypt and plundered its wealth to pay his army.**
- **It was really God who was “paying” Babylon to attack Egypt.**
- **The absolutely consistent justice of God shines through in this prediction.**



I have given him the land of Egypt for his labor, because they worked for Me,' says the Lord GOD. (Ek.29:20)

- **He would even pay back an evil pagan king for serving Him, unconscious as Nebuchadnezzar was of his role.**
- **How much more can we count on God being fair with His own (cf. Ge.18:25; Mk.9:41; Ga.6:7).**



**'In that day I will cause the horn of
the house of Israel to spring forth,
and I will open your mouth to speak
in their midst. Then they shall know
that I am the LORD.'**

EZEKIEL 29:21



'In that day I will cause the horn of the house of Israel to spring forth, and I will open your mouth to speak in their midst. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.' (Ek.29:21)

- **Ezekiel's second prophecy against Egypt ended with a promise to Israel.**
- **The “day” in question was probably the time when God would judge Egypt through Babylon and then restore Egypt to her land.**
- **When God finally restored the nations of Israel and Egypt, He would make a horn grow for Israel.**



'In that day I will cause the horn of the house of Israel to spring forth, and I will open your mouth to speak in their midst. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.' (Ek.29:21)

- The “horn” probably refers to Israel’s strength which Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed. When Egypt was restored, Israel would also be restored as a nation.**
- Ezekiel’s spoken prophecies which had perplexed the people would become clear when they were fulfilled. Israel would recognize God’s character as He faithfully accomplished His promise.**
- The Israelites would be more open to messages from the Lord and more able to assert themselves because their old nemesis had suffered humiliation.**
- Most likely, this refers to the day when Ezekiel's writings would be understood by looking back at their fulfillment.**



JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

29

EZEKIEL