

LAMENT OVER PHARAOH & EGYPT

32:1 *“In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first of the month, the word of the LORD came to me saying,”*

The twelfth year from the carrying away of Jehoiachin; Jerusalem was by this time overthrown. The year would have been 585 BC.

32:2 *“Son of man, take up a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him, 'You compared yourself to a young lion of the nations, yet you are like the monster in the seas; and you burst forth in your rivers and muddied the waters with your feet and fouled their rivers.'”*

It is important to keep in mind that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. A point that God will make when addressing Israel in the next chapter. As Ezekiel is made to take up a lamentation it, on the one hand does mock the pride of the self-inflated Pharaoh, but on the other hand the lament is not disingenuous on behalf of the Lord. Ezekiel and all who would stand to warn rebellious man of his fate should mourn the thought of their destruction at the hand of the Lord in hell.

Pharaoh was prideful over his ability to build his empire. There is a comparison here made between Pharaoh's perception of reality and the Lord's. Pharaoh views himself as a **young lion of the nations** - meaning that in his conquests all that he brings into his empire will value his might and leadership. Many nations sought the protection of the Pharaoh and Egypt's military might as the impending doom of the approach of the Chaldeans came. Israel was one of these nations.

Yet as he sought to make the rebellious alliances and unite nations against God's righteous instrument, he was rather like **the monster in the seas** who **muddied the waters**. All he did as he sought to move about within the empire and reaching out beyond to raise forces against the Chaldeans, was to stir up the mud, perhaps even seeking some protection of his own under the murky shadow that he stirred up.

32:3-6 *“Thus says the Lord God, "Now I will spread My net over you With a company of many peoples, and they shall lift you up in My net. I will leave you on the land; I will cast you on the open field. And I will cause all the birds of the heavens to dwell on you, and I will satisfy the beasts of the whole earth with you. I will lay your flesh on the mountains and fill the valleys with your refuse. I will also make the land drink the discharge of your blood as far as the mountains, and the ravines will be full of you.”*

But he will experience the all-surpassing power of the judgement of God through Nebuchadnezzar who will be like a large net cast from which there is no escape. The same metaphor that is used to describe the nations whose armies are destroyed by Jesus at His return, is used here; scattered bodies all over the landscape upon whose flesh the beasts of the field and birds of the air will engorge themselves in a great feast. The predator will become the prey. Again for the Egyptian's who picture themselves as discarded and exposed corpses, rather than buried, they would be astonished.

32:7-8 *“And when I extinguish you, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud and the moon will not give its light. All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you And will set darkness on your land, Declares the Lord God.”*

Extinguish you - extinguish his light (Job 18:5). Pharaoh’s power and influence is depicted as a light to the nations. So great will Egypt's fall be that it will be as though the heavenly hosts have lost their assigned light. This ties in to the end times picture painted in Revelation that will be experienced by all of the earth and as in Eze 32:6, there is an allusion to the supernatural darkness sent formerly (Exd 10:21-23). The heavenly bodies are often made images of earthly dynasties (Isa 13:10 Mat 24:29).

32:9-11 *“I will also trouble the hearts of many peoples when I bring your destruction among the nations, into lands which you have not known. I will make many peoples appalled at you, and their kings will be horribly afraid of you when I brandish My sword before them; and they will tremble every moment, every man for his own life, on the day of your fall. For thus says the Lord God, "The sword of the king of Babylon will come upon you.”*

As in the case of the fall of Tyre and its prince and the fall of the final world dictator and his empire, all who look upon such sudden and final devastation, will be astonished to the point that they will be convicted of their own vulnerability before the fury of God. In the great tribulation, the kings of the earth will cry out for rocks to fall on them in order to hide them from the face of Jesus. The irony that rather than turn in repentance and faith to the one who could save them, rebellious man would rather try to find some way to be hidden from His fiery judgement; as if that were possible.

32:12-16 *“By the swords of the mighty ones I will cause your hordes to fall; all of them are tyrants of the nations, and they will devastate the pride of Egypt, and all its hordes will be destroyed. I will also destroy all its cattle from beside many waters; and the foot of man will not muddy them anymore and the hoofs of beasts will not muddy them. Then I will make their waters settle and will cause their rivers to run like oil," declares the Lord God. When I make the land of Egypt a desolation, and the land is destitute of that which filled it, when I smite all those who live in it, then they shall know that I am the Lord. This is a lamentation and they shall chant it. The daughters of the nations shall chant it. Over Egypt and over all her hordes they shall chant it," declares the Lord God.”*

Speaking of total devastation the great numbers of Egyptians and their comprised armies will be gone. But not just humanity, this destruction will include all that fills the land in livestock and produce. The waters no longer have the hustle of all kinds of activity but rather have a deafening silence about them devoid of all of the activity of man, animal and the business that was a part of everyday life and economy. Again Ezekiel points out that the result will be so horrifying to any survivors and spectators that they will know that God is the Lord.

The next section merges into the theme of sheol. It is the 7th and final oracle made against Egypt and it is the graphic portrayal of “the pit” rendered in the OT. Sheol is seen as:

- The international abode of the dead (v.22,23)
- Filled with the people of nations once vital (v. 18, 29, 30)
- Nations that were in places of honor or dishonor (v. 23-25, 30)
- Kings on their thrones surrounded by their subjects (also in Isaiah 14)
- Warriors are buried with their weapons under their heads (v.27)
- Being inhabited by weak nations (v. 20, 21; also Isa 14:10 and Job 3:17-19)
- Egypt taking its place among the shameful (v.19)

When dealing with the subject of sheol it is not a matter of the physical realm but the spiritual and therefore time or chronology is not an issue; it is in a realm outside of time. So the whole of who is witnessed there includes all of the perishing of history.

32:17-21 *“In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth of the month, the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Son of man, wail for the hordes of Egypt and bring it down, her and the daughters of the powerful nations, to the nether world, with those who go down to the pit; ‘Whom do you surpass in beauty? Go down and make your bed with the uncircumcised.’ They shall fall in the midst of those who are slain by the sword. She is given over to the sword; they have drawn her and all her hordes away. The strong among the mighty ones shall speak of him and his helpers from the midst of Sheol, ‘They have gone down, they lie still, the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.’”*

Shall Egypt think to exempt herself from the common fate of proud and imperious nations? No; she must take her lot with them. The pit, including its deepest part, the abyss, are depicted as “down” which when compared to the phrase, “bottomless pit”, seems to indicate a geocentric location. While it is not necessarily speaking of the physical it does seem to give locality to sheol as in the bowels of the earth. In Revelation the beast and the demonic hordes are seen as coming “up from out of the pit”. What the description does is demonstrates that the Word of God clearly speaks of life continuing beyond the grave (see Lk 16:19-31).

32:22-23 *“Assyria is there and all her company; her graves are round about her. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword, whose graves are set in the remotest parts of the pit and her company is round about her grave. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword, who spread terror in the land of the living”*

To complete the picture of Egypt being like Assyria (chap 31) they are now pictured as neighbors in the remotest part of the pit. Like all evil humanity, their reign of terror and oppression will be completely neutered in the spiritual realm.

32:24 *“Elam is there and all her hordes around her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who went down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, who instilled their terror in the land of the living and bore their disgrace with those who went down to the pit.”*

EZEKIEL

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32:25 *“They have made a bed for her among the slain with all her hordes. Her graves are around it, they are all uncircumcised, slain by the sword (although their terror was instilled in the land of the living), and they bore their disgrace with those who go down to the pit; they were put in the midst of the slain.”*

Elam was located east of the Tigris River and North of the Persian Gulf. (modern day Iran). Elamites are non-semitic people.

32:26-28 *“Meshech, Tubal and all their hordes are there; their graves surround them. All of them were slain by the sword uncircumcised, though they instilled their terror in the land of the living. Nor do they lie beside the fallen heroes of the uncircumcised, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war and whose swords were laid under their heads; but the punishment for their iniquity rested on their bones, though the terror of these heroes was once in the land of the living. But in the midst of the uncircumcised you will be broken and lie with those slain by the sword.”*

Meshech and Tubal comprise what is now the eastern and central portion of Turkey and will be the allies of Gog in Ezekiel 38 & 39. They were also an aggressive people who fought long and hard with the Assyrians over the control of the area south of the Black Sea. Again these other nations and their armies are given as an image of the fate of Egypt.

32:29-32 *“There also is Edom, its kings and all its princes, who for all their might are laid with those slain by the sword; they will lie with the uncircumcised and with those who go down to the pit. There also are the chiefs of the north, all of them, and all the Sidonians, who in spite of the terror resulting from their might, in shame went down with the slain. So they lay down uncircumcised with those slain by the sword and bore their disgrace with those who go down to the pit. “These Pharaoh will see, and he will be comforted for all his hordes slain by the sword, even Pharaoh and all his army,” declares the Lord God. “Though I instilled a terror of him in the land of the living, yet he will be made to lie down among the uncircumcised along with those slain by the sword, even Pharaoh and all his hordes,” declares the Lord God.”*

These are all nations who are immediate neighbors of Israel. All who were once great forces upon the pages of history will find the same fate in the pit, all full of shame. While the passage describes Pharaoh as being comforted by “the company” of the judged nations, there will be no comfort in hell for it’s inhabitants. While all the nations of the earth will be judged, it is interesting to note that in late of the greater subject of Israel, these are the nations that are mentioned in contrast to what we will see concerning Israel’s fate in the rest of Ezekiel.

So to recap, these are the nations mentioned that will be in the pit: Egypt, Assyria, Elam, Meshech & Tubal, Edom, the princes of the North, the Sidonians and the Pharaoh. Lets look at an interesting passage, Psalm 83, that hilights the same nations and is very relevant not only to this chapter but to the current scene on the world stage today.

EZEKIEL

“Strengthened by God”

Session 23 - Ezekiel 32

Ps 83:1-5 “O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, “Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.” For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant:”

The Psalmist writes about God’s enemies and why are they God’s enemies? Because they hate Israel, God’s chosen and treasured people. Their goal is to remove all traces of the people of Israel from the pages of history. In so doing they conspire together against what God has planned for the future. In Psalm 2 God promises His King that His enemies will be made His footstool, even though they rage and imagine a vain thing. Notice the shrewd plans.

Always cloaked in deception are the treaties and arrangements that Israel’s enemies make with her with the real goal in mind to conspire against her. Notice how making war with God’s people is making war with Him.

Ps 83:6-8 “For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant: the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; they have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah.”

The children of Lot are Moab and Ammon. As we have seen these nations are not all Arab but do have one common binding feature; they are all Muslim.

Edom	-	Southern Jordan
Ishmaelites	-	Father of the Arabs
Moab	-	Central Jordan
Hagarenes	-	Egypt
Gebal	-	Lebanon
Ammon	-	Northern Jordan
Amalek	-	Sinai Peninsula
Philistines	-	Gaza
Tyre	-	Lebanon
Assyria	-	Iraq and parts of Syria

These nations will be judged on the basis of their blood ties and anti-Semitism. These things will lead them to a destiny of one of the following. They will convert or be occupied or destroyed. So let's see what the Bible says about each.

Edom (Esau)	-	Total destruction (Ez 35:6-9; Isa 34:8-15; Jer 49:7-20; Obd; Ez 25:12-14)
Moab (Lot)	-	Subservient (Jer 48:1-47)
Ammon (Lot)	-	Subservient (Jer 49:1-2,6)

Egypt - Subservient (Isa 19:1-2)
Civil war; economic upheaval (Isa 19:11-15)
Fear the Lord (Isa 19:17)
5 Cities (Hebrew) (Isa 19: 18)
Conversion (Isa 19:19-22) from Allah to YHWH
40 years of dispersion (Ezek 29:8-14)
960 years - millennium (Zec 14:16-19)

Lebanon - Occupation (Ez 47:13 - 48:29)

Iraq

- Assyria - Conversion (Isa 19:23-25) - “my people” (Isa 19:24,25)
- Babylonia - Destruction (Isa 13,14; Jer 50, 51; Rev 18)

Saudi Arabia - Destruction (Jer 49:28-33)

Iran (Elam) - Conversion (Jer 49:34-39)

There are many ways to interpret these passages in their connection with these specific nations.

- They can be referring to the actual ethnic peoples and while some of them are no longer in appearance today, those who are not may be reappearing.
- The references can simply be territorial or geographic
- Could be from the supernatural; non-time line view
- Could be used metaphorically to make a moral point.

Ps 83:9-11 “Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishon, who were destroyed at En-dor, who became as dung for the ground. Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb and all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,”

Zebah and Zalmunna were slain by Gideon (Judges 8:21) and he afterward removed the “saharon” or ornaments that looked like the moon or crescent. The “moon god” was worshipped abroad in those days and was called “Al - Elah”. The same god was called “sin” by the Babylonians. The crescent moon that is the icon of Islam and on every mosque today. So while the majority of the world will be gathered against Israel, it’s primary enemies lie in the heart of Islam.

The cry of Islam today is “Allahu Akbar” and is often mistranslated “God is great”. What it really means every time it is shouted is “Allah is greater than”; greater than what? Any other known god out there. It is specifically aimed at the God of the “book”. So for those within the world of Christendom today (primarily in the seeker - driven and evangelical movements) who would claim compatibility with Islam or that we worship the same god, they are actually aligning themselves with the religion of the ancient moon - god who is Satan himself as he is the one that Isaiah describes who desires to be worshipped above the Creator.