

## Ezekiel 29

We have been reading through chapters in Ezekiel that provide insight into who the Devil is. We have already read about him as the *master trader*, who will trade you out of your blessings and leave you destitute.

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)*

We also compared Satan to the King of Tyre. He and his wealth are attractive to the natural mind. On the surface, he seems to be the one who has it all going his way.

Chapter 29 provides yet another view of Satan. He is compared to Pharaoh. He is called the sea serpent who lives in the Nile River. There are a number of reasons that he is portrayed this way.

- We have talked about how individual nations are compared to various rivers. They form national boundaries. They are distinct in their characteristics. They all ultimately flow into the sea and combine with other nations in an international community. There is nothing like the Nile River. The Nile is the longest river in the world; which has many tributaries that form a network all over Egypt. The Nile is considered to be the greatest river. It makes sense to compare the power of Egypt to an animal which has its strength and advantage in a water environment. The sea trade has contributed to the wealth of ancient Egypt.
- Pharaoh is the tyrant of this world, enslaving men from all nations.
- Egypt is often compared to this enslaving world. Its furnaces are kilns for making bricks. Satan occupies men with endless projects. We can be so busy that we miss out on everything that is important. This sweat of our brows symbolizes a life of effort and quiet desperation. Life is very unsatisfying if you are on the devil's treadmill.
- This sea serpent is described as being the greatest creature in the sea. The sea represents the Gentile nations. Job uses the brontosaurus and the sea monster to illustrate the greatest creations on earth and sea. God has given power to these creatures accomplish his purposes. The sea monster was a real creature in a class by himself.

- *12 Am I a sea, or a sea serpent, That You set a guard over me? (Job 7)*

- *For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth. <sup>13</sup> You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. <sup>14</sup> You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness. <sup>15</sup> You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers. (Psalm 74)*
- The Nile River is associated with numerous gods of Egypt. Hapi is the god associated with annual flooding and the beneficial harvests in Egypt. Osiris is the god of the underworld and resurrection which bring life to the land.



## Osiris: Egyptian God Of Fertility And Resurrection

- *“Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? <sup>2</sup> Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook? <sup>3</sup> Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? <sup>4</sup> Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? <sup>5</sup> Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens? <sup>6</sup> Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? <sup>7</sup> Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears? <sup>8</sup> Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle—Never do it again! <sup>9</sup> Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; Shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him? <sup>10</sup> No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me? <sup>11</sup> Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine. <sup>12</sup> “I*

*will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions. <sup>13</sup> Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle? <sup>14</sup> Who can open the doors of his face, With his terrible teeth all around? <sup>15</sup> His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal; <sup>16</sup> One is so near another That no air can come between them; <sup>17</sup> They are joined one to another, They stick together and cannot be parted. <sup>18</sup> His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. <sup>19</sup> Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out. <sup>20</sup> Smoke goes out of his nostrils, As from a boiling pot and burning rushes. <sup>21</sup> His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth. <sup>22</sup> Strength dwells in his neck, And [gl]sorrow dances before him. <sup>23</sup> The folds of his flesh are joined together; They are firm on him and cannot be moved. <sup>24</sup> His heart is as hard as stone, Even as hard as the lower millstone. <sup>25</sup> When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; Because of his crashings they are beside themselves. <sup>26</sup> Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or javelin. <sup>27</sup> He regards iron as straw, And bronze as rotten wood. <sup>28</sup> The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones become like stubble to him. <sup>29</sup> Darts are regarded as straw; He laughs at the threat of javelins. <sup>30</sup> His undersides are like sharp potsherds; He spreads pointed marks in the mire. <sup>31</sup> He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment. <sup>32</sup> He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair. <sup>33</sup> On earth there is nothing like him, Which is made without fear. <sup>34</sup> He beholds every high thing; He is king over all the children of pride.” (Job 41)*

- God killed the gods of Egypt in the 10 Plagues of Egypt during the exodus. He is about to do the same things here. He is going to put a hook in the sea monsters jaw and drag it out of its home waters into the desert sun, where it will die helplessly. The Egyptian army will leave the rivers of Egypt to help Assyria. They will get ambushed by Babylon away from their homeland in the Battle of Carchemish. They will get slaughtered in the dessert and cease to be a world power.



### Battle of Carchemish "Facts & Results" - ...

Around 605 BCE, Carchemish, the capital for the remnants of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, came under threat by the Babylonian and Medians. Aside from being the Assyrian capital, Carchemish was also an important location as it was a major trading city and crossing point for the Euphrates River. Nebuchadnezzar II was made commander of the allied Babylonian and Median force. Necho II would bring an army north to defend the city and their allies against further Babylonian expansion. The armies of Necho II and Nebuchadnezzar II met at or near Carchemish in 605 BCE. The battle ended in the defeat of the Egyptian and Assyrian forces to Babylon and its allies. There is no specific or exact number known for the forces each side commanded, nor how the battle progressed. Nebuchadnezzar II conquered Carchemish and expanded Babylon through the defeated remnants of the Assyrian state. The defeat would end all Egyptian influence in the Levant.

- God's people can serve as alligator bait, to draw out the demons into their own traps. God used similar language to lure Russia into Israel during the last days.
  - *and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. <sup>4</sup>I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. <sup>5</sup>Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup>Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you. (Ezekiel 38)*

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**Read Ezekiel 29:1-7:** Egypt served as a false confidence and useless support to Israel. God told his people to go with the Babylonians during their siege of Jerusalem. God spoke through Jeremiah emphatically about not returning to Egypt for protection. They did. This was right before Egypt got smashed by Babylon; and lost its world power status. In other words, the Jews ran straight into hell.

Pharaoh saw himself as a god who was the master of his own destiny, just like Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon did. God takes these larger-than-life figures and humbles them. God transformed Nebuchadnezzar into an insane animal-like man for 7 years, until he understood to the true source of life is. God uses the most powerful men in the world to show us who he is.

*<sup>28</sup> All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. <sup>30</sup> The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” <sup>31</sup> While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! <sup>32</sup> And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” <sup>33</sup> That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws. (Daniel 4)*

God raised up Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar, and many other kings to accomplish his will.

*For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” <sup>18</sup> Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. (Romans 9)*

We need not worry about the Russian Bear, or the Chinese hoards. God has these little creatures in the palm of his hand.

**Read Ezekiel 29:8-16:** God will wipe out Egypt at the battle of Carchemish. In the writings of the biblical prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah, describe an invasion of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, dated around the year 565 B.C. According to these two eyewitnesses the devastation inflicted on Egypt was catastrophic.

Every temple in the country (with one exception) was demolished. Most of the population of Egypt was slaughtered or taken captive. Only a small remnant survived. For years Egypt was left without a resident pharaoh. Temple worship ceased. The devastation lasted for forty years, though from extra biblical sources we can determine that sporadic restoration activity was underway during the final two decades, following the 543 B.C. takeover of the country by Cyrus the Great. This rebuilding intensified under Cambyses, following his 525 B.C. expedition to Egypt, and into the reign of Darius I.

When Egypt was allowed to return and rebuild it never became a world power. In fact, it became one of the lowest kingdoms on earth. The great one became the weak one.

**Read Ezekiel 29:17-21:** Nebuchadnezzar took coastal Tyre; but they did not obtain any loot. Tyre moved out to its offshore island. God decided to let Nebuchadnezzar to get paid for its efforts, instead, from raiding Egypt.

God will empower the Messiah and Israel in the later days.