

Ezekiel 30

We have talked about how Egypt is a caricature of living on earth without God. It is an endless treadmill of men building meaningless pyramids from their sweat and bricks. We are made from the same materials used in bricks. We become a mere commodity, like a brick or a board when God is not in our life. It is the opposite of being a valued living stone among God's people. It is a life of subjection to cruelty, without any mercy or consideration.

We talked about how God created Pharaoh in the same way he made Satan. They serve to influence the thinking of godless men. It is the God-alternative to the natural man. Egypt was the power-center of the world for a very long time. The prior chapter described Satan and Pharaoh as a terrible sea monster living in the rivers of Egypt. Nothing in this world can touch him. They are the next level in power and influence and control.

God is in the business of breaking the monsters who enslave men. God heals us of our sinful tendencies to seek the protections of the rich and powerful. God used Moses to break the Egyptian army, and free the children of Israel. Once again, the Jews find themselves in a hard predicament because they have rejected God's word. Some of them refused to go with Babylon for their 70-year time out. Most who did not were killed in the Babylonian siege. The few who survived in Jerusalem are chronicled in Jeremiah. God told them absolutely do not go to Egypt for protection against Babylon. They did. What they did not see, is that Egypt was on the verge of being crushed by Babylon. We talked about how Babylon broke Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish, far away from home. Now we find ourselves back in Egypt, after losing its world power status. This chapter describes how the godless Jews and the resident Egyptians were helplessly wiped out in Egypt.

Read Ezekiel 30: 1-9: We begin this scary chapter with a description of the terrible Day of the LORD. It is terrible because it is a day of reckoning for men's sins. It is described as a day of darkness falling over the land like ominous storm clouds.

What do clouds have to do with the Day of the LORD? It is a darkening hour that brings a breaking forth of things previously held at bay. The numbers are overwhelming and sovereignly-controlled. It is unstoppable and fast moving.

God has a remedy for men who will not listen. There is a sure-fire way to humble the proud.

Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty. (Joel 1:15)

As believers, we get excited to see the evil exposed and judged. God warns us that like common grace, there is also a common effect when evil men are destroyed. We should pray for God's intervention; but not to celebrate when men are killed for their sins. Christians die in tornados, shootings, earthquakes and fires too.

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! ²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? (Amos 5)

The most common use of the term The Day of the LORD refers to the 2nd coming of Jesus, with hammer-like power and setting everything in order. It is a day, as much as it is an era of time. The second use of The Day of the LORD is a particular judgement on a nation. This chapter is speaking mainly about breaking Egypt as an intimidating world power once and for all.

Babylon was able to freely invade Egypt after crushing its army abroad. This chapter lumps in Ethiopia with Egypt. The ancient history of Egypt includes periods of a joint rulership over Egypt and Ethiopia. Today Ethiopia is south of Sudan, but in those days it was also known as Cush, and it abutted Egypt.



Ethiopia was wealthy and powerful. The other surrounding nations mentioned served as mercenaries to Egypt.

The devastation went from Migdol (extreme northeastern Egypt), to Syene (extreme south end of Egypt). The mercenaries came to help Egypt from Libya, Lydia, and Chubb. They were all wiped out too.

Read Ezekiel 30:10-26 God takes down tyrants and empires with newer and stronger empires. The destruction of a major competitor is all this is to Nebuchadnezzar. The real story of the Battle of Carchemish and the later Babylonian invasion of Egypt was God's hand upon his people who were rebelling against him.

