

## Ezekiel 31

### Awe Inspiring Wonders

We have been in a prophetic book that compares the world of the unseen to the things that we are more familiar with. *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)*

There are unseen forces behind every kingdom and every army carrying out the real battle. Somehow that concurrently plays out in the lives of men.

*<sup>10</sup> Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. <sup>11</sup> And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. <sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel 10)*

These parallel realities are best explained by earthly, visible representations. This chapter compares the world-dominating empires to the world’s largest trees. They are kind of the centers of their local universes. Appropriately so, as trees are the largest living things on earth.

These super giant trees of the old-growth forests even have their own biome (bio-diversity). The most massive trees in the world are the giant sequoias. They can be 300’ tall with 20’ diameters.





Similarly, California Redwoods are even taller, but less massive. They can be up to 426' tall.



When trees become this large, they even create their own micro-climate. They make their own little world, with themselves at the center...like a god. They support a very unique and diverse group of wildlife. They become the center of their own micro-world. All that you can see from that tree are things under its influence. These ancient giants also have their own unique plants. *Epiphytes* are plants that grow on other plants or trees. These mega-trees grow mosses, ferns, and smaller trees on top of them, which in turn, attract and support types of microorganisms in the composting leaves and bark. These features in turn attract and support certain types of insects, amphibians, small animals. They house creatures in their bark nooks, along with and unique bacteria and fungi. A giant sequoia (like Satran) is the center of his own little universe of activity. He was creating a home to all of his own varied creatures.

## Worshipping Creation

It is easy to worship a creation instead of the creator when you stare at a giant tree like this. This is why people used to worship the planets, the tallest mountains, the largest rivers, etc... They were inspired in groves of trees. A number of religions were based in groves of trees. We are to worship the creator...not the creation. This is where Satan has misuses created things.

*who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 1:25)*

God used Babylon and Egypt in the same way. He actually also created Lucifer to play his role. They are spoilers to those heading in the wrong direction.

*“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hand is My indignation. 6I will send him against an ungodly nation, And against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire of the streets. 7 Yet he does not mean so, Nor does his heart think so; But it is in his heart to destroy, And cut off not a few nations.... <sup>15</sup> Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood!... <sup>24</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: “O My people, who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt. <sup>25</sup> For yet a very little while and the indignation will cease, as will My anger in their destruction.” <sup>26</sup> And the LORD of hosts will stir up a scourge for him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; as His rod was on the sea, so will He lift it up in the manner of Egypt.... Behold, the Lord, The LORD of hosts, Will lop off the bough with terror; Those of high stature will be hewn down, And the haughty will be humbled. <sup>34</sup> He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One. (Isaiah 10)*

God uses the largest and most powerful examples known to man to make his point. We also just finished comparing these powerful and fierce empires to the largest most-dominant dinosaurs. He told Job that if we cannot fathom these great creations, then how do we expect to fathom God?

All of these grand empires were breathtaking in their day. Their moment of glory seemed like it could last forever. Their day has come and gone. Nebuchadnezzar wanted his to last forever, but God showed him that he is just one empire in a series.

*<sup>36</sup> “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. <sup>37</sup> You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; <sup>38</sup> and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. <sup>39</sup> But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup> And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. (Daniel 2)*

God is telling Egypt to look around and look back in time. What empire was comparable to Assyria in its day? It is literally falling at the time of this writing. Who could hold a candle to the Egyptian empire in its many years of absolute world dominance?

Egypt is being compared to a massive tree towering far above all things on earth. The nation of Egypt is going to be cut down like a massive tree in a well-watered forest. Like the great Assyrian nation Egypt was a towering giant, dwarfing the nations all over the earth. Their influence was unquestionable. That is all coming to an end. The idea that Egypt would fall seemed to be absurd before the Battle of Carchemish.

God previously shared the same kind of prophecy with Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel. Babylon was a towering empire, providing sustenance and life to the whole world under its influence...until God chopped it down. It has ceased to provide God's purpose for his people. A great tree was a perfect example.

*<sup>10</sup> “These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, And its height was great. <sup>11</sup> The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. <sup>12</sup> Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it. <sup>13</sup> “I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> He cried aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, And the birds from its branches. (Daniel 4:10-14)*

In general, God is saying, what can compare with these great empires? Moreover, what do they ultimately represent? He is also saying, “Who can be compared to Satan”? To mere men, these powers are beyond impressive and unstoppable. Just because something is greater than we are does not mean that it should be worshipped. We cannot trust in any creation...only the creator himself. To God, they are a momentary tool in his hands. Once they serve their purpose they are destroyed. God creates empires like disposable tools. He also created Lucifer, knowing his purpose and destiny in advance.

We can get lost somewhere between being impressed by what we can see and the ultimate spiritual realities that we do not see. We tend to live by force of circumstances and braille, instead of carefully considering God’s position.

There is just something inspiring about a spectacular tree. Egypt was the biggest tree of the forest, so to speak. This chapter is doubling in concurrent multiple truths about how Satan was also an attraction that got chopped down.

The point of this chapter is to address the people of Egypt just before they are destroyed to explain what is about to happen. They are worshipping a man and a nation. Egypt was a towering example of greatness and influence and power.

### God’s Corrective Patterns

This demise is not without precedent. There had been another time long before, when God gave Moses the place and power to address and judge Pharaoh long before this. Now God is having Ezekiel put out an updated message to Pharaoh.

God is similarly telling Egypt that they served their term as *the big tree in the forest*. They have never honored God, so they only served as an agent to effect God’s people-Israel. Their role was all unintentional.

*<sup>19</sup> Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. <sup>21</sup> Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (Genesis 50)*

Egypt’s vast resources and network of rivers are going to dry up. The richest kingdom will now become the poorest. The strongest nation will now become the weakest.

*A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (Matthew 7)*

This chapter is ultimately about Lucifer and those consumed with their own greatness. Both Pharaoh and Lucifer said that they were gods.

*“Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,’ Yet you are a man, and not a god, (Ezekiel 28)*

*For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ <sup>15</sup> Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. (Isaiah 14)*

### In the Beginning

This chapter helps us gain an angelic view of the Garden of Eden. Lucifer was a towering and magnificent specimen who was awe-inspiring. Lucifer was bright and attractive and smart. The other angels were attracted to him in the Garden of Eden. He was a major stand out in the Garden of Eden. He was like the tallest tree in the forest. He became an attraction and a distraction to those around him.

**Read Ezekiel 31:1-9:** Pharaoh is being given a message just before his demise. He was given greatness and power and resources to strengthen his kingdom and influence. His positioning and beauty and breathtaking presence was like standing in front of a massive sequoia tree. You just find yourself staring at this unique spectacle.

There was a comparable situation in the Garden of Eden. The pre-flood world was a lush forest of massive species of plants and animals. It had a constant mist; so it was like a terrarium. God should have been the talk of the garden among the angels. For some angels, the conversation reverted back to Lucifer. He was the big man on campus. He looked like a winner. Any angel who was not serving for honorable purposes had an alternative to become part of a high-profile team. God is looking for selfless servants; not *glory hounds and groupies*.

God has nicknames for Satan, such as the Assyrian. The children of Satan share the same underlying inspirations for greatness. The proud and powerful King of Assyria hated God; and yet he was given his moment of fame and power to fulfill God's purpose. It was never about him being a great leader, apart from God's plans. God shows Egypt that they were next in line. They fell right after Assyria, and before Babylon.

*“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hand is My indignation. <sup>6</sup>I will send him against an ungodly nation, And against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire of the streets. <sup>7</sup> Yet he does not mean so, Nor does his heart think so; But it is in his heart to destroy, And cut off not a few nations.....<sup>13</sup> For he says: “By the strength of my hand I have done it, And by my wisdom, for I am prudent; Also I have removed the boundaries of the people, And have robbed their treasuries; So I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man. <sup>14</sup> My hand has found like a nest the riches of the people, And as one gathers eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth; And there was no one who moved his wing, Nor opened his mouth with even a peep.” <sup>15</sup> Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood! <sup>16</sup> Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, Will send leanness among his fat ones; And under his glory He will kindle a burning Like the burning of a fire. (Isaiah 10)*

We learn a little about the Garden of Eden, where Lucifer fell from angel to a demon. He lost his job and started his own revolutionary army of demons. Lucifer was as impressive as any living thing. He had the visual imagery. Lucifer means light bearer. He was covered with all kinds of precious stones. He was musical and inspiring to draw a crowd.

He was also very inappropriate. It would be like having a party and having someone take over the event and becoming the center attraction. God let it happen on purpose to draw out the hidden desires of the posing angels. Satan is a very necessary catalyst to draw out the hidden intentions and true natures into the light. God does the same thing today. He let President Biden run with his transgender and treasonous agenda, to allow the rats in the woodpile all come out of hiding.

Background to Egypt vs the Jews

The Jews looked to Pharaoh to protect them from King Nebuchadnezzar of Egypt. They were looking at the effect, not the cause. It was only about their disobedience to God. God gave them a protection plan; but they refused it. They ran to the most impressive nation. God destroyed Egypt after he warned his people to stay out of Egypt. It was about to crumble. The Jews worshipped idols, so God sent them to idol-central in Babylon to get deprogrammed and cleanse the territory of idolatry.

*<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. (Romans 1)*

Lucifer and Pharaoh are spiritual and human examples of apparent greatness. Nothing is great without God. God allows their fan club to build way up to illustrate how easily God can incapacitate these idols and raise others up from relative obscurity. Today, we can worship technology, a political party, a 401 (k) a president, our own talent or savings or anything else. God is an idol buster. Whatever else we put our trust in will fall like a massive tree.

### Angelic Corrections

**Read Ezekiel 31:10-19:** We do not hear a lot about angelic sin, the possibility of an angel to repent, angelic rebellion against God, etc... This chapter offers some helpful insight. Again, we are continuing to use great trees to illustrate the parallel underlying messages.

Lucifer was created with all kinds of impressive attributes. You could say he had a lot of glory going on. The angels in the Garden of Eden thought of him as being at the ‘next level’ of glory and power. He was just bigger and brighter. He lost his job when he became too engrossed in himself. God fired him, just like Trump would. He still has access to heaven to accuse the saints before God’s throne.

God used Lucifer as a sign or a cautionary tale to all other angels. Do not try this. It won’t go well for you. If the serpent went down like a clown, so will you! Today, Satan is not in hell. He has never been there. There is a huge

misunderstanding of hell. It is not Satan's office. It is a place created by God for

Satan; that has been expanded to accommodate more and more men who have likewise rejected God's plan for their lives.

*<sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41)*

*Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself And opened its mouth beyond measure; Their glory and their multitude and their pomp, And he who is jubilant, shall descend into it. <sup>15</sup> People shall be brought down, Each man shall be humbled, And the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. <sup>16</sup> But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, (Isaiah 5)*

*<sup>9</sup> Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Revelation 14)*

Whoever is a candidate for pride should read this chapter. Anything about ourselves that we are especially proud of should give us a cause to pause. God instructed the kings of earth not to multiply their women (lust of the flesh and doorway top idolatry), or their horses (lust of the eyes), or riches, or touch God’s glory (boastful pride of life). Lucifer fell, Pharaoh fell, Nebuchadnezzar fell, and even Solomon fell badly.

*<sup>14</sup> “When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ <sup>15</sup> you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. <sup>16</sup> But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ <sup>17</sup> Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. (Deuteronomy 17)*

*I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, (Isaiah 42:8)*