

Notes on Ezekiel's Prophecy against Egypt

In Ezekiel chapters 29 through 32, God has Ezekiel prophecy against Egypt and its king (pharaoh). God gives 7 prophecies against Egypt & its king. He dates 6 of these 7 prophecies. There are 13 dates in the book of Ezekiel. So it is amazing that God gives almost half of the dates for the prophecies and 4 whole chapters against Egypt. The most given outside of those for Israel.

1st Prophecy

Ezekiel dates this as January 5, 587_{BC}. This is almost a year after Nebuchadnezzar has started the siege against Jerusalem. (siege started January 588_{BC}, 2 Kg 25:1)

Ch 29:1-6a

- God has Ezekiel prophecy against Hophra pharaoh of Egypt. Hophra reigned from 589_{BC} to 570_{BC}.
- God calls pharaoh a great monster.
- Pharaoh says: "the Nile is mine; I made it for myself"
- God says that He will put hooks in his jaws and make the fish of his streams stick to his scales.
 - Possibly the fish are Egypt's surrounding allies. (they are named in ch 30)
- God will pull them out and cast them into the desert
 - Probably symbolizing their destruction
 - There will be no one to gather them.
 - They will be food for the wild beasts and the birds.

vv 6b-9a

God compares Egypt to the staff of a reed for the house of Israel.

- God uses a proverb spoken by the commander of Assyrian's army used against Hezekiah while he was laying siege on Jerusalem in 701_{BC}. 2 Kings 18:21
- Pharaoh had promised to help Israel against Babylon.
- During Zedekiah, God sent word through Jeremiah (Jer 37:6-8) that Egypt had set out to help Israel from Babylon. But Egypt would retreat back to Egypt.
- God again says that He will destroy Egypt.

vv 9b-16

God says that He will turn Egypt (from Migdol to Aswan, indicating all of Egypt top to bottom, see map on chapter 30 notes of this doc) into a waste land for 40 years.

- People of Egypt will be sent into exile.
- After 40 years, God will bring them back to their land.
- But they will never again be a world power.

Notice that God is scattering the Egyptians in exile similar to the Israelites. But only exiles them for 40 years versus the 70 years that He exiles His people Israel.

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2nd Prophecy

vv 17-21

The date for this prophecy is April 26, 571_{BC}. This is the latest prophecy in Ezekiel. This was probably given shortly before Nebuchadnezzar attacked Egypt.

- God gives Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar as payment for his army.
- They will carry off its wealth.
- God would eventually restore Israel (in that day) to a strong nation.
- God would open Ezekiel's mouth again.

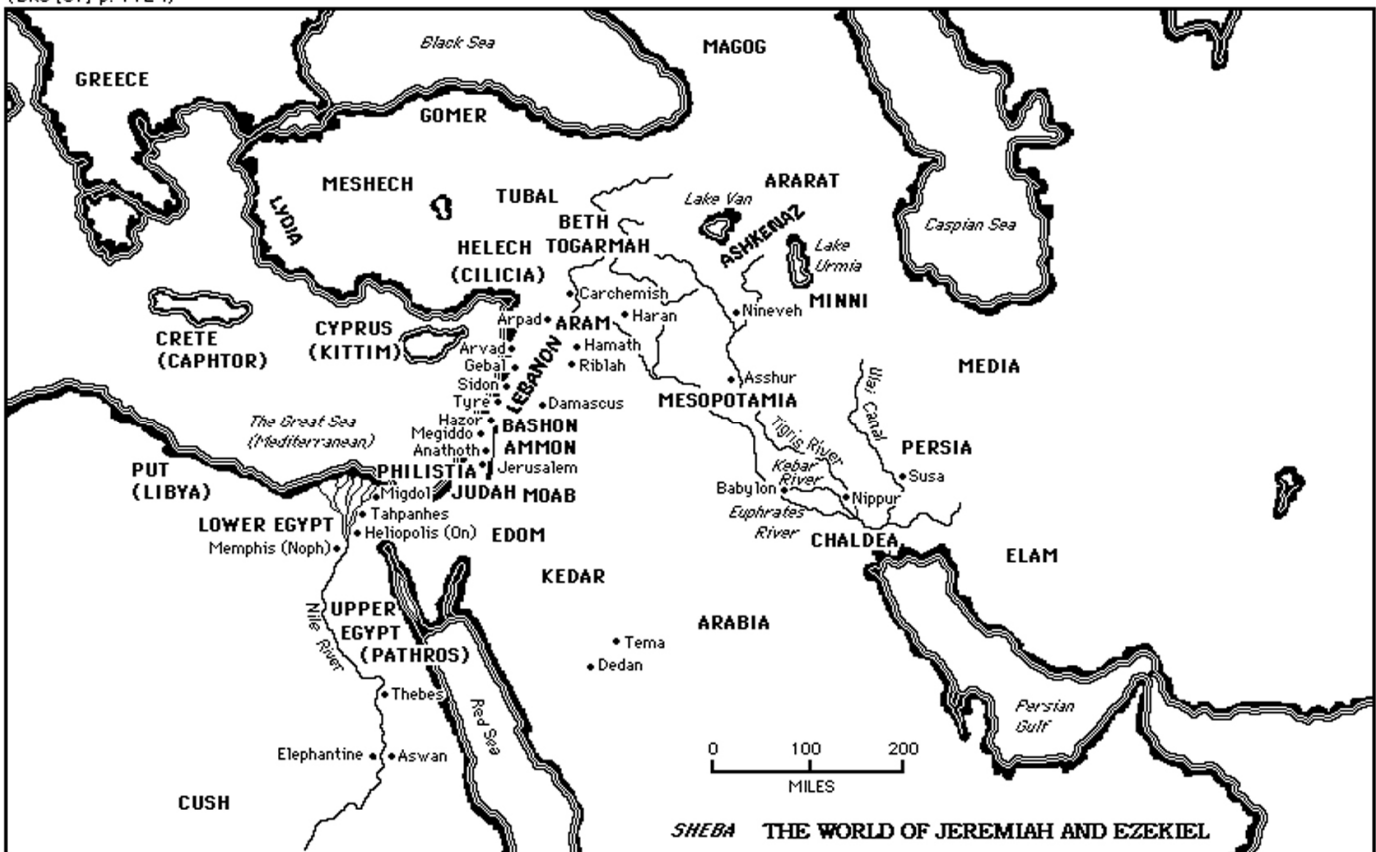
3rd Prophecy

Ch 30:1-19

Ezekiel did not date this prophecy. Some commentaries believe that this was written between January and April of 587_{BC}.

- *The day of the Lord*: this could be reference to God's final judgment on the earth. But NIV notes and commentaries believe it is the time of God's judgment on Egypt.
- *A time of doom for the nations*: this is the translation of most new translations. KJV and NKJV translate it as *the time of the gentiles*.
- God announcing wrath and destruction for Egypt and its allies.
 - Cush: NIV uses this and it is the Hebrew name.
 - KJV uses Ethiopia which is the modern name for that area of Africa.
 - Cush is located in the present-day southern Egypt, Sudan, & Ethiopia.
 - Cush was a son of Ham (who survived the flood)

(BKC [OT] p. 1124)



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- Put: NIV uses this and it is the Hebrew name.
- KJV uses Libya which is the modern name for that area of Africa.
- Put is located in modern day Libya.
- Put was a son of Ham.

- Lydia: NIV & KJV use this, it is a form of Lud which is a Hebrew name.
- Lud was the 4th son of Shem (who survived the flood)
- Lud was located in southwest Turkey..

- Arabia: NIV uses this which is the modern day location.
- KJV uses *all the mingled people*.

- Libya: NIV uses this but notes that the Hebrew word is kûb.
- KJV uses Chub, the Hebrew word.
- Commentaries say that this is an unknown location and its best to leave it at that.

- NIV: *People of the covenant land* are the Jews who fled to Egypt after the fall of Jerusalem. See Jer 44
- KJV uses *men of lands who are allied or in league*. The Hebrew word(s) here are found 284 times in the OT. 264 times it is translated as covenant and 17 times as league.
- God tells us that Nebuchadnezzar will carry out this destruction.
- God tells us many cities and location in Egypt which will be destroyed, basically indicating all of Egypt.

4th Prophecy

vv 20-26

Ezekiel dates this on April 29, 587_{BC}.

- God tells us that He has broken the arm of pharaoh.
 - Possibly when Babylon was laying siege to Jerusalem and Egypt came to help. But Babylon drove back Egypt. Jer 37:5-8
- Then God tells us that He will also break the good arm of pharaoh as well.
 - Possibly the fulfillment of the final attack after taking Tyre.
- God tells us that He will put the sword in Nebuchadnezzar's hand and strengthen it.
- Again God tells us that He will scatter the Egyptians among the nations.

5th Prophecy

Ch 31

Ezekiel dates this on June 21, 587_{BC}. This would be almost 13 months prior to the fall of Jerusalem. God has Ezekiel say this to pharaoh.

- God tells pharaoh that Egypt was majestic.
- God tells pharaoh to consider Assyria and compares Assyria to a cedar of Lebanon.
- God empowered Assyria many times to deal with the 10 northern tribes of Israel
 - Tiglath-Pileser was king of Assyria 2 Kg 15:29, 16:7-10
 - Shalmaneser king of Assyria is used to destroy and exile the northern tribes of Israel 2 Kg 17:1-5
 - Sennacherib king of Assyria fights with Hezekiah king of Judah several times. 2 Kg 18, 19. But God delivers Judah from total destruction. But Judah pays tribute to Assyria.
 - God tells us through the prophet Zechariah that He will destroy Assyria. Zech 2:13
 - Nineveh falls to Babylon 612_{BC} (Daniel Timeline).

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- Neco pharaoh of Egypt goes out to help Assyria fight against Babylon 2 Kg 23:29. (in 609_{BC} see Daniel Timeline)
- Nimrod was the first to build Nineveh in Assyria. Gen 10:9-10
- God tells of how Assyria was brought down to the pit, the grave.
- God tells He covered the spring with mourning. How majestic Assyria was.
 - It seems that God was also sad that Assyria had to fall???
- God tells pharaoh that Egypt too will fall to the pit / grave.

6th Prophecy

Ch 32:1-16

Ezekiel dates this at March 3, 585_{BC}. This would be about 9 months after the fall of Jerusalem (July 16, 586_{BC}, 2 Kg 25:4).

- God tells Ezekiel to take up a lament for pharaoh, so sure is this to come that God is already giving a burial lament.
- God will cast His net with a great throng of people. He will hurl them on the open field
- The bird and the beast will gorge themselves on you.
 - Similar wording as used in Rev 19:21 for Armagedon.
- God will cover the sun and the moon will not give its light.
- God will trouble the hearts of many people, they will be appalled.
- God will bring the sword of the king of Babylon against them.
- Again God uses the term *most ruthless of nations* for Babylon. He used it 4 times in Ezekiel (28:7, 30:11, 31:12, 32:12).

7th Prophecy

vv 17-21

Ezekiel dates this as the 12th year and the 15th day. But does not specify the month. The BKC sites that many interpreters believe that it is the same month as the 6th prophecy, which would put the date as March 17, 585_{BC}, about 2 weeks after the 6th prophecy. On the other hand the NIV study notes suggests that the Septuagint infers that the month is the 1st month which would set the date as April 27, 586_{BC} (this is odd in that it precedes the 6th prophecy and it is before the fall of Jerusalem).

- God say that Egypt and daughters of mighty nations are consigned to the pit.
- They will fall among those killed by the sword.
- Assyria and its whole army have fallen by the sword and are in the pit.
- Elam and her hordes have fallen by the sword and are in the pit.
 - Elam is a land to the east of Assyria
- Meshech and Tubal have fallen by the sword and are in the pit.
 - Since Meshech & Tubal are mentioned together, they would be sons of Japheth (Noah's oldest son)
 - Mechech is a people of northwestern Turkey
 - Tubal is a people of central Turkey
- Punishment for their sins rest on their bones
- You too pharaoh will be broken and laid with those killed by the sword.
- Sidonians and princes of the north have fallen by the sword.
 - Phoenicians, usually mentioned with Tyre (Sidon).
- Pharaoh and all his army with see these who have fallen.

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Egypt will eventually worship God

Isaiah 19:16-25

- God will eventually bless the Egyptian people.
- They will acknowledge and worship the Lord. Isa 19:21
- They will turn to the Lord and He will respond to their pleas. Isa 19:22
- The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance." Isa 19:25