



Welcome back!

Let's pray.

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The slide features a vertical banner on the left with the word "EZEKIEL" in white capital letters against a dark background with a glowing sun or fire motif. The main content area has a white background. At the top, the word "OVERVIEW" is in large, bold, white capital letters inside a blue rectangular box. Below this, the title "The Fall of Egypt (Ezek 29-32)" is in black. A bulleted list follows, containing seven items. At the bottom, there is a date "02/09/2018" on the left, a speaker name "B. G. Hirsch - Ezekiel 29-32" in the center, and a small number "2" on the right.

EZEKIEL

OVERVIEW

The Fall of Egypt (Ezek 29-32)

- Desolation of Egypt
- Wages for Babylon
- Judgment of Egypt and her Allies
- Pharaoh's Broken Arms
- Pharaoh Cut Down Like a Tree
- Lamentation for Pharaoh
- Egypt Joins Nations in the Pit

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In this lesson we will study chapters 29, 30, 31, and 32 of the book of Ezekiel.

This is another challenging section of the Book of Ezekiel. There is a lot of detail, and there is disagreement by historians on this section. Again, in the interest of time, I will not go into much depth about the controversy. I will simply try to provide what I believe to be the best material and explanations for the text in the chapters that we will study.

These four chapters deal primarily with the nation of Egypt and God's judgment on the Pharaohs, on the people of that nation, and upon her allies.

This section will bring to an end our study of God's judgments during Ezekiel's time of the nation of Israel and the surrounding nations. Our next meeting we will launch into the future and examine what is in store for the nation of Israel and the rest of the world.

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Review

- Ezekiel, a priest, a prophet, and a watchman in Babylon continues his ministry to the exiles – 587 B.C. at start of chapter 29
- The LORD proclaimed judgment upon Tyre for its treatment of Israel, Tyre's king for his pride, and on the power behind the king, Satan
- The LORD pronounced judgment upon Sidon
- The LORD promised restoration of Israel

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Let's review.

Ezekiel, a priest from Jerusalem, was taken to Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's second conquest in 598 B.C. During his time in Babylon, Ezekiel, as the LORD's prophet and watchman has been giving the LORD's message of judgment upon the nation of Israel and upon the surrounding nations to the exiles in Babylon. This study moves back in time to the year before our last study, so the first chapter is not in chronological order as we have been used to, but these 4 chapters will take us from the 10th year of Ezekiel's exile, 587 B.C., to the 27th year of 571 B.C., and back to the 11th and 12th years of Ezekiel's exile. The final siege of Jerusalem is about halfway over, and it is January of 587 B.C. as we begin our study.

The last time we met, we heard about God's judgment upon the very wealthy city-states of Tyre and Sidon, which we learned were located in present day Lebanon. We first examined the background and history of Tyre and Sidon. Then, we observed as the LORD spent almost three chapters speaking against Tyre, and only four verses on Sidon.

The LORD said that Tyre's sin was its treatment of Israel after Jerusalem had fallen. And because of this, the LORD stated that He would cause the city to be made like a bare rock where fisherman dried their nets. We also discovered that this is exactly what occurred when Alexander the Great conquered Tyre.

We heard from the LORD that the King of Tyre's sin was pride. And, we recognized that the LORD was speaking in chapter 28 about Satan, the power behind the King of Tyre.

The LORD's judgment upon Sidon for its sin was given in just four verses, but it was clear that Sidon would be conquered and no longer be a great city.

Lastly, we heard the wonderful promise of the LORD's plan to restore Israel, and we saw that part of that prophesy is still to come.

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Desolation of Egypt

- The siege of Jerusalem is underway - the LORD speaks about judgment of Egypt
- Pharaoh is likened to great sea serpent or monster (possibly a great crocodile)
- The LORD will bring a sword upon Egypt and will cause them to go into captivity for 40 years
- The LORD will bring back the Egyptians, but they will never be a great power again

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Let's read chapter 29 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 16. *(Read verses 1-16.)*

Before the fall of Jerusalem, about a year after the start of Nebuchadnezzar's siege, the LORD speaks to Ezekiel concerning the Pharaoh and all of the nation of Egypt.

For most of the Bible Israel and Egypt do not get along well. Even though Israel repeatedly tries to get help from Egypt, this never works out well for Israel. Egypt in scripture is a type of the world or sin, and it is generally a bad idea to go back to the world for help rather than the LORD. This is why it is interesting to me that God sends Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus to Egypt until Herod dies. Here, in verses 6 and 7, Egypt is likened to a reed that Israel wanted to lean on. However, reeds make poor staffs in that they break easily, and can impale you. The LORD says that Egypt is like a broken reed that impales Israel, because they either would turn on Israel, or they just turned tail and ran, leaving Israel defenseless.

You may remember from our prior studies that, before Ezekiel was taken in the 2nd conquest of Jerusalem in 598 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem in 605 B.C. In that same year, 605 B.C., before conquering Jerusalem; the Babylonians defeated Pharaoh Necho and the Egyptians in the Battle of Carchemish. At that point the Babylonians took many captives to Babylon. In 594 B.C. Pharaoh Necho's son, Pharaoh Hophra, as he is called in Jer 44:30, succeeds Pharaoh Necho. According to Herodotus, the Greek historian, Hophra was known for his boasting. And it is this characteristic that the LORD condemns, because Hophra was claiming that the Nile was his. This was in reality due to the success that Hophra had with improvements in the upper Nile area that had increased the prosperity of Egypt.

So once again, the LORD is judging pride, just as we saw the LORD do last week with the King of Tyre.

The LORD says that the Pharaoh is like a great sea monster, possibly a great crocodile. The crocodile was a symbol for the Pharaoh, and it was on their coins.

The LORD says that He will make Egypt desolate for 40 years, and that even when He returns the Egyptians to their land, they will never again be the national power that they had been. After the Battle of Carchemish, Egypt was dominated by the Persians, the Greeks, the Ptolimeians, and the Romans, and in 2500 years they have never again been the dominating power they were in ancient times. (next slide)

Wages for Babylon

- Word of the LORD comes to Ezekiel almost 17 years later than first part of Chap 29 – latest dated prophecy in Ezekiel
- Nebuchadnezzar and Babylonian army received little after 13 year siege of Tyre – wealth moved offshore
- Babylonians were God's instrument against Tyre
- God gives Nebuchadnezzar Egypt in payment
- The LORD says Israel will rise again

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Let's read chapter 29 of Ezekiel verses 17 – 21. (*Read verses 17-21.*)

Ezekiel now gives us the latest dated prophecy in the Book of Ezekiel. According to verse 17, almost 17 years have passed since the message that was given in verses 1 through 16. So this prophecy was given in 571 B.C.

This timing approximately coincides with the end of Nebuchadnezzar's siege of the city of Tyre.

However, the LORD says that Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army did not receive very much pay for all their long and difficult labor, which the LORD characterizes as heads being made bald and shoulders being rubbed bare.

By the time the Babylonians had completed their siege of mainland Tyre, most of the wealth had been moved offshore to the island city of Tyre. Hence, the army did not get the plunder that was the usual wages for an army in ancient times.

However, Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians were God's instrument against Tyre. Therefore, the LORD says that He will give them Egypt as the payment for their wages.

At this point, we run smack into a major conflict with historians. Based upon the dating by Egyptologists, historians say that the invasion and desolation and exile of Egypt never occurred. Nevertheless, biblical commentators have various descriptions of this period that range from Nebuchadnezzar did invade and destroy Egypt between three and seven years after Tyre, to Pharaoh Amasis paid a huge tribute to Nebuchadnezzar to get the Babylonians to leave.

However, the detailed prophecies from God in chapters 29 through 32 of Ezekiel regarding Egypt do not really give us the option for making up accommodations or theorizing possible work arounds for this material. I believe the Bible, so I know that Ezekiel and Jeremiah did not give false or inaccurate prophecies regarding the invasion and 40 year desolation of Egypt.

Fortunately, I was able to find a very scholarly text by Jim Reilly that supports Ezekiel and Jeremiah and adds some very interesting assumptions. For example, the author believes that after the siege of Tyre was the seven year period, described in Daniel, where Nebuchadnezzar was sent out to live as a beast. After this, when Nebuchadnezzar was returned to power in 564 B.C., is when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt from the north to the south leaving them devastated and in exile until their return 40 years later in 525 B.C. under Cambyses of Persia. Hence, Ezekiel and Jeremiah are true and accurate in their accounts.

As this material is very long and detailed, I will not attempt to relate it in this lesson, as I would not finish for a couple of days. However, I have included a link in the notes if you are interested.

<http://www.displaceddynasties.com/volume-1.html>

The last verse says that Israel will rise again and her power will be restored. It also suggests that Ezekiel will continue to prophesy, but we are not give later specific dates. (next slide)

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Judgment of Egypt and her Allies

- Continuation of chapter 29 prophecies
- The day of the LORD
- God will bring Nebuchadnezzar upon Egypt and her allies
- The Babylonians will destroy from the north to the south
- The idols will be no more and the Pharaoh will fall
- The people that survive will go into captivity

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Let's read chapter 30 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 19. (*Read verses 1-19.*)

This section is not dated by Ezekiel, and due to its content, this material would simply seem to follow the latter part of chapter 29. Hence, it is being given in 571 B.C.

Verse 3 speaks of the day of the LORD being near. The term “the day of the LORD” is associated with God’s judgment. It is often used prophetically of the end times. I have included several other references in the notes that you may wish to look up later:

Is 13:6-9, Joel 1:15, Joel 2:1-11, Joel 3:14, Amos 5:18-20, Zeph 1:14-18, 1Thess 5:2, 2Peter 3:10

The LORD will bring Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army upon Egypt, and they will invade and destroy from the north, Tehaphnehes (takh-pan-khace'), to the south, Syene (sev-ay-nay') known as Aswan today.

Those nation that are allied with Egypt will also be conquered.

As we saw how the nations that traded with Tyre were shocked, dismayed, and terrified by the destruction and loss of Tyre. Even so, there will be great anguish for the nations that receive news of Egypt’s destruction.

The LORD further states that He will destroy the idols of Egypt and He will eliminate the Pharaoh.


Those that survive will go into captivity as we have seen with the Jewish people.

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Here is a map of Babylon's invasion of Egypt in 564 B.C. You can see at the top in the north the city of Tahpanhes. The invasion route follows down to Syene or Aswan in the south.

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Pharaoh's Broken Arms

- Move back to 587 B.C.
- Ezekiel receives a word from the LORD saying the LORD has broken the arm of the Pharaoh
- The LORD is against Pharaoh and will break Pharaoh's arms so that he can't wield a sword
- Will scatter the Egyptians among the nations

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Let's read chapter 30 of Ezekiel verses 20 – 26. (*Read verses 20-26.*)

Chapters 29 through 32 are really a collection of prophecies, given at different times, by Ezekiel regarding the LORD's judgment and punishment of Egypt and her allies.

In chapter 30, we start off once more in the 11th year, or 587 B.C.

At this time, you may remember that Zedekiah was hoping that Egypt would come to his rescue. Instead Nebuchadnezzar, defeated the Egyptians. This is what is meant in verse 21 that the LORD has broken the arm of Pharaoh.

The LORD goes on to say that He will break Pharaoh's arms so that Pharaoh will not be able to resist the invasion that is coming from Babylon.

As a result, the Egyptians, like the Jewish people, will be scattered among the nations.

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Pharaoh Cut Down Like a Tree

- Once more in 587 B.C.
- Allegory of Assyria like a great tree; all the nations are likened to trees
- Because of Assyria's pride, the LORD allowed it to be cut down
- Assyria sent to Sheol (the grave or Hades)
- The LORD says that Pharaoh and his "multitude" because of pride will be brought down to Sheol to lie with the uncircumcised who are slain by the sword

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Let's read chapter 31 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 18. (*Read verses 1-18.*)

Approximately two months after Ezekiel's last prophecy in 587, the LORD again speaks to Ezekiel regarding Pharaoh and Pharaoh's "multitude". The Hebrew word for multitude is חֲמוֹנָה hamown (haw-mone'), which also speaks of noise or tumult, and I believe this is the better translation in this instance, because I believe the LORD is reacting to the pride and boasting of Pharaoh.

The LORD once more uses allegory while addressing Pharaoh. The LORD asks Pharaoh, "Whom are you like in your greatness?" The LORD then describes Assyria, or the Assyrian in the KJV, as a great tree that towered over the other trees, was very beautiful, and gave shelter and shade to all great nations.

The tree was so great that all the trees of Eden envied it. The LORD likens all the nations in this section to trees. And the LORD says that this great tree became proud. Hence, God gave the tree into the hand of "a mighty one of the nations". The great tree is then cut down and left to decay as a sign to all the other trees that they should not also be proud.

The mighty one is Nebuchadnezzar who defeated both Assyria and Egypt. Daniel chapter 4, which was written by Nebuchadnezzar, describes Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great tree and Daniel's interpretation of that dream. In that case the great tree was Nebuchadnezzar, and the result was his being like a beast for seven years. We mentioned this in regard to the second part of chapter 29. We also see a similar story in Matt 13:31-32 where Jesus tells the parable of the mustard seed.

The great tree and the other trees that were proud are all descend to the pit or Sheol, which is Hell or Hades. The remaining trees were shocked and frightened by the fall of the great tree. The LORD says that Pharaoh and his tumult will join the other proud nations in Sheol and with those who are slain by the sword.

There appears to me to be an underlying subtext to this chapter. It subtly resembles the message to the King of Tyre in chapter 28. However, this section also seems to look forward toward the end times.

I believe that the LORD again may be addressing the power behind Pharaoh, which is Satan. Satan was in Eden, and he was proud of his own beauty. Satan also wanted to be like the Most High (Is 14:14), and verse 10 says the tree was proud of its height.

One of the names that is used for the Anti-Christ in the Bible is "the Assyrian", such as we see in verse 3. The Anti-Christ is described as being boastful and making blasphemous statements. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus will judge the nations, and all those that are found wanting will go into the Lake of Fire. Satan will then be bound in Sheol for 1,000 years.

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Lamentation for Pharaoh

- 585 B.C.
- Ezekiel told to raise a lamentation over Pharaoh
- Pharaoh again likened to a sea-monster
- The LORD will destroy Pharaoh and Egypt
- The other nations will be appalled at the destruction of Pharaoh and Egypt
- The LORD will make the land desolate

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Let's read chapter 32 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 16. (*Read verses 1-16.*)

Almost two months after the message of Chapter 31, the word of the LORD comes again to Ezekiel. Once more the LORD asks Ezekiel to raise a lamentation (qiy-nah'). This time the lamentation is for Pharaoh and for Egypt.

The LORD says that Pharaoh considers himself a lion, but that Pharaoh is not. The LORD then repeats His description of Pharaoh from chapter 29, where He call Pharaoh a sea-monster. The LORD again says that Pharaoh will be hauled out of the waters and cast in the open field to be devoured by the birds and the beasts. This is indicative of the coming destruction to Pharaoh and Egypt.

The LORD then says that He will drench the land in blood and bring darkness in the heavens and make the land dark. This is significant, because it both speaks of the past in the Book of Exodus and of the future in the Book of Revelation.

In Exodus 7:19-20 the rivers and streams are turned to blood. In Revelation 8:8 a third part of the sea becomes blood.

In Exodus 10:21-23 there is darkness upon the land of Egypt for three days (interesting number, and the children of Israel had light in their dwellings). In Rev 16:10 there is a plague of darkness.

The LORD says the kings of the other nations will be appalled and dismayed by the fall of Pharaoh and Egypt. These kings will live in fear because of the judgment of the LORD.

The LORD says that He will leave Egypt desolate.

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Egypt Joins Nations in the Pit

- Two weeks later in 585 B.C.
- Ezekiel to wail for people of Egypt
- Egypt taken to the pit
- Other nations already in the pit
 - Assyria
 - Ealm
 - Meshech and Tubal
 - Edom
 - Phoenicia and Sidon
- Final word about Egypt

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Let's read chapter 32 of Ezekiel verses 17– 32. (*Read verses 17-32.*)

About two weeks after Ezekiel's lamentation over the Pharaoh and Egypt, the word of the LORD comes again to Ezekiel. Ezekiel is to wail for the nation and the people of Egypt.

Now the LORD goes beyond the death and destruction of Pharaoh and Egypt, and tells of their eventual destination in Sheol, the pit of Hell. The LORD says to take Egypt and drag them away.

In addition to taking the Egyptians to the pit, the LORD lists the nations that have already gone down to the pit before Egypt that Egypt will now join:

- Assyria = the empire that preceded the Babylonians and which took the northern tribes of Israel into captivity
- Elam = a nation to the east of the Tigris River which eventually was taken over by Persia
- Meshech and Tubal = also known as the Scythians were the beginnings of the Ukraine and Russia
- Edom = was settled by the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother
- Phoenicia and Sidon = on the coast of Lebanon; we studied their destruction in chapters 26 to 28

The LORD gives a final word to Egypt that they will be laid to rest with those who are slain by the sword.

However, in Isaiah 19 verses 18 to 25, there is an unusual set of prophecies that Egypt will be a prominent nation again.

Questions?

Please read chapters 33 and 34 for next week. We will also begin the history of the modern nation of Israel. Please note that we will not have a study on 2/23. So yes, we have a study next week on 2/16 but not on 2/23.

Let's pray.