Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 376 – Howl Ye Through The Egyptians Scattered (Ezekiel 30:1-26)

1. In regard to Egypt in this context, was the day of the Lord a pleasant day for them?
   No: *"(1) The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! (3) For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen. (4) And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. (5) Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. (6) Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD. (7) And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted"* (**Ezekiel 30:1-7**).

   - "Howl ye, Woe worth the day" (**Amos 5:18-20**)!
   - Think about how the phrase "the day of the Lord" is used throughout the Scriptures to most often signify judgment against the evildoers and destruction at the hand of the Lord (**Isaiah 2:12**, **Isaiah 13:1-9**, **Isaiah 34:8**, **Jeremiah 46:10**, **Lamentations 2:22**, **Ezekiel 13:1-8**, **Joel 1:15**, **Joel 2:1**, **Joel 2:11**, **Joel 2:31**, **Joel 3:14**, **Obadiah 1:15-16**, **Zephaniah 1:7-8**, **Zephaniah 1:14**, **Zephaniah 1:18**, **Zephaniah 2:1-3**, **Zechariah 14:1**, **Malachi 4:1-6**, and **II Peter 3:9-14**).
   - The sword upon Egypt, her cities, and those in a league with them is what we learned about in **Ezekiel 29:8-10**.

2. When the fire was set in Egypt, what were the messengers going to cause in others?
   Fear: *"(8) And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and when all her helpers shall be destroyed. (9) In that day shall messengers go forth from me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid, and great pain shall come upon them, as in the day of Egypt: for, lo, it cometh"* (**Ezekiel 30:8-9**).

   - Egypt was certainly going to know the Lord (**Ezekiel 29:6**; **9**).
   - The messengers were going to go forth from this day of the Lord, this time of the sword, with a message that caused fear (**Isaiah 23:5**) for that same thing was coming to them (**Zephaniah 2:12**).
   - In general, the message of God's Judgment should have been and should now be spread abroad for His Judgment ultimately is coming upon all of the ungodly (**Psalms 1:1-6** and **II Peter 3:7**) and that should cause fear (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9**, **Hebrews 10:26-31**, and **Hebrews 12:25-29**).
   - The point: *"Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men"* (**Psalms 9:20**).

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3. Who was the Lord going to use to destroy the idols, set fire, pour fury, and bring down the pomp of Egypt?

Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and his people: *"(10) Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon. (11) He and his people with him, the terrible of the nations, shall be brought to destroy the land: and they shall draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with the slain. (12) And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it. (13) Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt. (14) And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No. (15) And I will pour my fury upon Sin, the strength of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No. (16) And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily. (17) The young men of Aven and of Pibeseth shall fall by the sword: and these cities shall go into captivity. (18) At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity. (19) Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the LORD"* (**Ezekiel 30:10-19**).

- As we have seen and discussed often at this point of our studies on the words of the prophets at this time, Nebuchadrezzar was God's chosen vessel of wrath against all disobedient nations (**Jeremiah 25:9**, **Jeremiah 27:1-7**, and **Ezekiel 29:18-20**).
- We have and shall also see again that God turned His wrath upon Nebuchadrezzar as well (**Jeremiah 50:1-51:64** and **Daniel 4:1-37**).
- Lest the point be missed, this is not so much about who the Lord was using, but what THE LORD was going to do through Him. Terrible judgments, fury, sword, death, and destruction, Thus, we'd do well to recall how horrific the Judgments of the Lord can be (**Numbers 11:33**, **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**, **Psalms 37:20**, **Psalms 145:20**, **Proverbs 15:25**, **Jeremiah 11:22**, **Jeremiah 12:17**, **Jeremiah 21:7**, **Jeremiah 29:17**, **Jeremiah 46:20**, **Ezekiel 7:15**, **Matthew 25:31-46**, **I Thessalonians 5:1-3**, etc.).
- Of course, getting to know the wrath of the Lord or the joy of His salvation is the choice of all people (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**).

4. What did the Lord break on Pharaoh?

Figuratively speaking, his arms: *"(20) And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (21) Son of man, <u>I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt</u>; and, lo, it shall not be bound up to be healed, to put a roller to bind it, to make it strong to hold the sword. (22) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and <u>will break his arms, the strong</u>,*

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and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand" (**Ezekiel 30:20-22**).

- The arms, as is illustrated in this chapter (vs. **23-25**) are a figure representing strength (ex. **Isaiah 51:9**; **62:8** and **Luke 1:51**).
- God took away the strength of Pharaoh (**Psalms 33:8-17** and **Isaiah 63:6**).

5. From whom was strength taken and to whom was strength given to?

Taken from Egypt, Pharaoh specifically; given to the king of Babylon: *"(23) And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. (24) And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded man. (25) But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt"* (**Ezekiel 30:23-25**).

- As we have previously read, they were going to be scattered (**Ezekiel 29:12-13**).
- God chose men and nations, in Old Testament times, wherein He miraculously empowered them (**Isaiah 10:5-7** and **Isaiah 45:1-5**).

6. Were the Egyptians going to continue to live in their land?

No: *"And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I am the LORD"* (**Ezekiel 30:26**).

- Again, as we continue to see emphasized, this great people of Egypt were going to be cast out of their land (**Jeremiah 46:19** and **Ezekiel 29:10**).
- None would help (**Daniel 11:42-45**).

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