Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 378 – A lamentation for Pharaoh Through Slain With The Sword (Ezekiel 32:1-32)

1. What did the Lord liken Pharaoh king of Egypt unto?

"(1) And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas: and thou camest forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers" (**Ezekiel 32:1-2**).

- As I have written in previous studies, I am not sure where we are counting from when statements such as verse 1 are made. I don't know if that is the time in captivity, the attack, or siege, or king Jehoiachin's captivity, or something else (**Ezekiel 1:2**, **Ezekiel 33:21**, **Ezekiel 40:1**, etc.).
- As we have previously noted in our studies of Ezekiel, he was to take up lamentations at times for those whom were about to experience the wrath of God (**Ezekiel 19:1**, **Ezekiel 27:1-2**, and **Ezekiel 28:12**). Anyone teaching God's word should understand this (**Psalms 119:136**, **Lamentations 3:48-50**, **Luke 19:41-44**, and **Romans 9:1-3**).
- The imagery of being likened to a young lion (**Psalms 7:2**, **Psalms 17:12**, **Proverbs 20:2**, **Proverbs 28:15**, **Proverbs 30:30**, and **Hosea 13:7-8**).
- Likened to a whale and previously as a great dragon in the river (**Ezekiel 29:1-3**).

2. Once caught in the net of the Lord, what did the Lord say was going to happen to Pharaoh's flesh and blood?

Spread about the land and waters for the fowls and beasts to consume:

"(3) Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will therefore spread out my net over thee with a company of many people; and they shall bring thee up in my net. (4) Then will I leave thee upon the land, I will cast thee forth upon the open field, and will cause all the fowls of the heaven to remain upon thee, and I will fill the beasts of the whole earth with thee. (5) And I will lay thy flesh upon the mountains, and fill the valleys with thy height. (6) I will also water with thy blood the land wherein thou swimmest, even to the mountains; and the rivers shall be full of thee" (**Ezekiel 32:3-6**).

- Caught like fish (**Lamentations 1:10-15**).
- While this is not time and chance, it is God's judgment, the principle of sudden destruction upon the rich and strong is thought provoking (**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12**).
- God's judgment upon sinners wherein He left the flesh of men as food for the beasts and the fowls is not a new thing as we have studied the Old Testament (**Deuteronomy 28:25-26**, **Psalms 79:1-2**, **Jeremiah 16:4**, **Jeremiah 19:7**, and **Jeremiah 34:20**).

© 2019 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.

3. When the Lord judged Pharaoh, what occurred in the sky?

"(7) And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. (8) All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD" (**Ezekiel 32:7-8**).

- Language like this occurred many times when the Lord judged various nations in the history of the world thus far (**Isaiah 13:1-10**, **Isaiah 34:1-10**, **Joel 2:1-11**, and **Matthew 23:37-24:34**).

4. What did the Lord say other people of other nations were going to do when Pharaoh fell?

They would be amazed, in fear, and would lament the fall of Pharaoh: *"(9) I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known. (10) Yea, I will make many people amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall… (16) This is the lamentation wherewith they shall lament her: the daughters of the nations shall lament her: they shall lament for her, even for Egypt, and for all her multitude, saith the Lord GOD"* (**Ezekiel 32:9-10** and **Ezekiel 32:16**).

- Like we discussed with Tyrus and Egypt already, the fall of nations has an impact on others (**Ezekiel 27:27-36** and **Ezekiel 30:20-26**).
- As far back as when God brought Israel out of Egypt, we see He wanted His judgments to be seen, heard, and feared (**Exodus 15:1-18**).
- In fact, He foretold of their punishments so that no other person or false deity could get the credit (**Isaiah 41:14-29**). He DID such things to establish His might (**Isaiah 45:1-12**). Then, after He was finished with that city or nation, He often left a few to tell what happened for evidence that He is the Lord (**Ezekiel 12:16**). He did not want His glory going to another (**Isaiah 42:8** and **Isaiah 48:11**).
- Again, as we discussed with Tyrus, other nations lamented the fall of their merchant partners, etc. (**Ezekiel 26:15-17**).

5. Who was going to bring a sword upon Egypt to cause desolation?

The king of Babylon: *"(11) For thus saith the Lord GOD; The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee. (12) By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed. (13) I will destroy also all the beasts thereof from beside the great waters; neither shall the foot of man trouble them any more, nor the hoofs of beasts trouble them. (14) Then will I make their waters deep, and cause their rivers to run like oil, saith the Lord GOD. (15) When I shall make the land of Egypt desolate, and the country shall be destitute of that whereof it was full, when I shall smite all*

© 2019 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.

them that dwell therein, then shall they know that I am the LORD" (**Ezekiel 32:11-15**).

- **Jeremiah 25:1-38**, **Jeremiah 43:1-13**, **Jeremiah 46:1-26**, and **Ezekiel 29:19-20**

6. Who would Pharaoh and the Egyptians be laid in the midst of?

The uncircumcised, Asshur, Elam, Meshech, Tubal and her multitude, Edom, the Zidonians, etc.: *"(17) It came to pass also in the twelfth year, in the fifteenth day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (18) Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit. (19) Whom dost thou pass in beauty? go down, and be thou laid with the uncircumcised. (20) They shall fall in the midst of them that are slain by the sword: she is delivered to the sword: draw her and all her multitudes. (21) The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell with them that help him: they are gone down, they lie uncircumcised, slain by the sword. (22) Asshur is there and all her company: his graves are about him: all of them slain, fallen by the sword: (23) Whose graves are set in the sides of the pit, and her company is round about her grave: all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which caused terror in the land of the living. (24) There is Elam and all her multitude round about her grave, all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which are gone down uncircumcised into the nether parts of the earth, which caused their terror in the land of the living; yet have they borne their shame with them that go down to the pit. (25) They have set her a bed in the midst of the slain with all her multitude: her graves are round about him: all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword: though their terror was caused in the land of the living, yet have they borne their shame with them that go down to the pit: he is put in the midst of them that be slain. (26) There is Meshech, Tubal, and all her multitude: her graves are round about him: all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword, though they caused their terror in the land of the living. (27) And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war: and they have laid their swords under their heads, but their iniquities shall be upon their bones, though they were the terror of the mighty in the land of the living. (28) Yea, thou shalt be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, and shalt lie with them that are slain with the sword. (29) There is Edom, her kings, and all her princes, which with their might are laid by them that were slain by the sword: they shall lie with the uncircumcised, and with them that go down to the pit. (30) There be the princes of the north, all of them, and all the Zidonians, which are gone down with the slain; with their terror they are ashamed of their might; and they lie uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword, and bear their shame with them that go down to the pit. (31) Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army slain by the sword, saith the Lord GOD. (32) For I have caused my terror in the land of the living: and he shall be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that are*

© 2019 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.

slain with the sword, even Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD" (**Ezekiel 32:17-32**).

- Verse 18 is the key to this whole context. The point is, like others before them, they are going to perish and be buried in the earth (cf. **Isaiah 14:4-15**).
- As great as they were, as beautiful, they were not above judgment from the Lord (**Psalms 96:9-13**).
- Those speaking to them out of the midst of "hell". The word "hell" there means: "שְׁאוֹל še'ôl; or שְׁאל shol; from 7592; Hades or the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates: — grave, hell, pit" (Strong's # 7585). Consider: **Psalms 9:17**
- The only comfort Egypt will have in their demise is that they are in the same company as other mighty nations the Lord destroyed at the hands of Babylon (**Jeremiah 9:25-26** and **Jeremiah 27:1-6**). There is a worldly saying: "misery loves company".
- The Lord had caused His terror in the land of the living with an ultimate goal beyond just destruction (**Zephaniah 3:1-20**).

© 2019 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.