

<Terror in the Land of the Living>

Ezekiel 31:1 – 32:32

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God rolls on in this report with a personal rebuke by God against Pharaoh in chapter thirty-one; and more lamentations against the land of Egypt in chapter thirty-two. Our last report began this prophecy against Egypt, and these two chapters conclude the judgment of the nations surrounding Israel. Frankly, if you have not been with us since the beginning of the prophetic section of Scripture that began in Isaiah, then you'll not likely be able to catch up to a full-orbed understanding at this point; although we welcome all new readers at any time. You will certainly want to, at least, go back and read our previous three safari reports before this one.

Naturally, Egypt figured large in Israel's history and, as I type this report and you read it, Egypt remains a thorn in the flesh of Israel. Egypt could be called the dog in the manger; neither Israel nor Egypt will have the Christ child in the manger – so, they have a dog as their replacement – and as such they are. You'll want to pray for understanding about that. Well, God said He would make Egypt a base nation – and a base nation they are; but they are not as base as they will be *in that day* when Christ returns to establish His earthly Kingdom – in the Day of the Lord. While much of this prophecy has been literally fulfilled, some of it has not....

XXXI

1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude; Whom art thou like in thy greatness?

3 Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs.

4 The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.

5 Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.

6 All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

7 Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters.

8 The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chesnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty.

9 I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him.

10 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height;

11 I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness.

12 And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him.

13 Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches:

14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to Sheol, I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him.

16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

~ The fall of Egypt at the time in which we are studying was sudden. As a result, it had a profound effect on the entire then-known world; similar to what would happen if the United States fell overnight. The prophecy of Ezekiel is literally critical to us as believers; and I trust I have made that abundantly clear. If you do not study and understand Ezekiel correctly, then you're not going to understand Revelation, friends – it's just not going to happen. These judgments reveal the glory of the Lord. God is a holy God; and He is going to judge sin. Yes, God is merciful and kind and longsuffering – and God loves mankind and wants to save – not willing that any should perish; but He intends to judge unrighteousness, and He will judge *in that day*. Those who reject His gracious offer of salvation will not be spared. Those who reject Christ while claiming to love and worship Him will receive harsher judgment than unbelievers. I know I may sound like a broken-record, but I cannot stress these truths enough; because, when you stand in judgment before Christ Jesus, you're not going to say Andrew C. Hunt didn't properly warn you.

See, Egypt was to be judged based on the amount of light they had been given – and they had been entrusted with much. They knew the True and Living God – and they continued to willfully reject Him. God reminds them of the greatness He had given the land of Egypt. For thousands of years they had dominated the entire world at God’s direction. They were absolutely the breadbasket of the world. The land of Egypt didn’t even depend on rainfall; they got their water from the vast, endless Nile River that overflowed its banks every year. Egypt was metaphorically a “*great tree*” in a forest full of great trees, as was Assyria; and Assyria was a dominant tree that stood above the others, until God brought it down – just as He is telling Egypt He is going to bring them down. Then, God denuded the forest. That’s the picture of what will happen *in that day*.

In our last report, God said He was going to make Egypt a base kingdom; and they’re as debased as debased can become in modern history. They’ve been a base kingdom for thousands of years. The progression of Egypt is nauseatingly downwards. After Nebuchadnezzar, Egypt never again rebounded to attain the title of world empire. The tree of Egypt fell precisely as the Lord said they would through His prophet Ezekiel. Pharaoh was a human being who was lifted up in pride, and his greatness blinded him to the danger he was in. Pride is natural in the human heart and, if we lift ourselves up, God is going to bring us back down. Whether you are Israel or Egypt, pride will lead God to fulfill His promise of delivering you into Nebuchadnezzar’s hands – and that’s exactly what happened to them. Egypt was cut off in an instant.

Naturally, the sudden fall of Egypt was a jolting shock to the world. Frankly, I would love to spend more type and space in this section of Scripture, but our Spiritual Safari is going to have to keep moving now. The sincere student of Scripture will find a literal treasure trove of information to study in this chapter; beginning in verse fifteen. Pharaoh went out to battle the King of Babylon and was summarily killed. “*Sheol*” in verse fifteen means the grave – but here, “*Sheol*” more specifically means the *unseen world*; the unknown realm of existence where the spirit of a lost man goes to await judgment at the Great White Throne when he dies. Remember, it was Solomon who told us the body goes to the grave and the spirit and soul goes to God – saying, specifically, “... *then shall the dust return to the earth*

as it was; and the spirit returns to God Who gave it'' – Ecclesiastes chapter twelve verse seven. We're dust in the wind, friends. Most us forget that and never think about it; because we're actually dust that has become stuck on itself – which is mud. No one wants to think about that.

Paul tells us the spirit of the saint goes to be with the Lord upon their death; while the spirit of the lost go to Sheol – Hades – the place of torment – to await judgment at the Great White Throne. Sheol is *NOT* hell designated as the lake of fire, though. The true life account, given by the Lord Jesus as a parable in Luke chapter sixteen, concerning the rich man and Lazarus in the afterlife, is terrifying. There is a great gulf fixed between the saved person and the lost man in eternity. The lost aren't coming back to tell you they got saved, either. Those stories are feces of fabricated fable – mark my words on that – because that's what Jesus said. Well, when Pharaoh was killed, the entire world from Phoenicia to Tarshish mourned for him. The surrounding nations were all dependant upon Egypt, their economies rested upon Egyptian trade, they were all allies of Egypt who needed protection, they had all gotten their culture and technology from Egypt – but now Egypt was suddenly gone. The nations were shaken to their core because they knew they would now fall with Pharaoh to the Chaldean's. What a picture we really have here....

17 They also went down into hell with him unto them that be slain with the sword; and they that were his arm, that dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen.

18 To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

~ Interestingly, when Pharaoh arrived in down in Sheol, the place of torment for the lost dead, he discovered all of his previous business associates and friends were there. Pharaoh also discovered there is a democracy in death! Society speaks incessantly about *integration*. Well, there is *NOTHING* that is going to integrate the rich and the poor, black and

white, male and female – and those at the top of the social ladder with those at the bottom – quite like death is going to bring them together in hell! But not in a good way. You and I cannot begin to imagine the level of misery that the spirit of the narcissistic, megalomaniacal, proud and arrogant rich man is going to experience in death; they'll become like inmates on death row – nothing but a number waiting to die at any random moment. And they will die a thousand deaths – and lose their minds each time. Even so, I think they'll be the ones who receive few stripes in hell. Oh, yes, I mean that. Read on.

It is the religious man who has denied Christ while pretending to worship Him, leading so many others astray, who is going to receive the most stripes in hell and the greatest condemnation in torment. Their eternity in hell will be unbearable. There are certain eschatological views men hold today that make no provision for the resurrection, deny Satan exists, and erroneously believe they are having their best life now. They're in for a shocking surprise, I can promise you that. They think their works are good enough, but they have no capacity for God. While I used to think they were also somehow going to be saved – I now know from Bible study they are not saved. Of course, they'll say that about me, too; but, interestingly, they have no desire for the Lord Jesus Christ in a personal love relationship. They never study the Bible properly; although they act like they are Bible scholars. Their prayer life is non-existent; although they'll deny that, too. They're only kidding themselves. The things of Christ are merely components of a sterile contract of blasé blasphemy with them. They are truly the church in Laodicea. How tragic they are. May God somehow have mercy on their souls.

Both of these categories of people are going to be in hell *NOT* because they are sinners, my beloved, but because they rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. To turn your back on the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ – today is what we think of as the *"unpardonable sin;"* because that's exactly what it is – or in the case of the dead – was. They never trusted Christ. They never believed anything that was true. Where else besides hell do you think God should put them? I can't think of any other place they would want to be. They don't want to be with God. Here is the place in the Bible where we're taught how the lost atheist and the religious

apostate are confederate in rebellion against God, so they are cast out together to what Jesus Himself called the place of torment. The suffering never ends there; where the worm dieth not, and the fire is never quenched. So many people erroneously think they're going to get things straightened out when they appear before the Lord. They always think they are pretty good people. They're fools. There's a lot that could be said in this section of Scripture, but we're moving on now. Correct comprehension of this doctrine opens up a new area of understanding altogether. This has been labeled the Dante's Inferno of the Word of God....

XXXII

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.

~ So, this lamentation for Pharaoh drags on and on in a droning mourning. Tragically, this is where must end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Bible. Old man Pharaoh had muddied up the waters of life with his excrement – but now he is cast out. Just as the fisherman spread nets in the Nile, Pharaoh was caught and dragged away. When the heat of battle raged, and the moment came that Pharaoh recognized there was no escape, terror came upon him that is unspeakable. I'm sure he thought of his palace, his fine food, his harem of women, the sweet music and all the luxuries – and his families and friends. He knows he will never see any of that again. I believe he also had the realization that all of his people would be following him straight to hell. What an absolute horror picture we're watching in the Word of God. Well, it's not over yet; stay with us on safari at your own risk, my dear readers....

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.

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.

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.

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 them that dwell therein, then shall they know that I am the LORD.

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.

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 slain with the sword, even Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD ~

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