

EZEKIEL 24:1-32:32 | THE BABYLONIAN WAR – A PARABLE

EZEKIEL 29:1-32:32 | EGYPT

EZEKIEL 31:1-18 | PERDITION

- Ezekiel 31:1-9 - The Assyrian in his greatness – *see session 21*
- Ezekiel 31:10-18 - The Assyrian in his destruction
 - Verse 10 makes an odd change of pronouns from **thou hast lifted up thyself** to **he hath shot up**.
 - This appears to be a direct reference to the Pharaoh (v. 2) and then turning again to the Assyrian.
 - The conversation is almost an interruption, where the Lord begins talking directly to Pharaoh but then stops and speaks of the Assyrian, with whom the Pharaoh would find his demise.
 - This is the approach of the Darby translation, “Because thou hast lifted up thyself in stature, ...and he hath set his top amidst the thick boughs”. Note the use of the ellipses by Darby, suggesting a break in the conversation.
 - Verse 11 - God has **delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen**.
 - If this is about Assyria, literally, and its king, “the Assyrian,” then the **mighty one of the heathen** is likely Nebuchadnezzar.
 - However, if this is about the Antichrist, as suspected, then this would shed light on the Antichrist going up against Babylon in the last days.
 - The passage says, **he shall surely deal with him**, which literally is “in doing he shall do unto him” (KJV, margin). It gives insight into how the destruction of Babylon “kills two birds with one stone” in also bringing down the Antichrist.
 - The closing phrase of verse 11, **I have driven him out for his wickedness** is difficult to interpret, not knowing the reference to the pronoun, which could go either way, but most presumably being a reference to the Assyrian being driven from his position as worldwide leader.
 - Verse 12 - This Assyrian will die alone: **all the people of the earth are gone down...and have left him**. This aligns with Daniel 7:26, **they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end**.
 - Verses 13-15 - the **fowls of the heaven** will remain **upon his ruin** (echoes of Rev. 19:17-18?). Both the Assyrian and **all the trees** (v. 14) are brought down permanently, and they **go down to the pit** (v. 14) and **to the grave** (v. 15).
 - Verses 16-17 - When the Assyrian fell, the nations shake (v. 16). The Assyrian is cast **down to hell** (v. 16) by God (compare Rev. 20:20). Those that align with him **also went down into hell with him** (v. 17, compare to Rev. 19:21, 20:12-14).
 - Verse 18 turns attention back to Pharaoh directly, yet likely with eschatological implications as in the previous verses.
 - A note on interpretation:
 - Many (most?) commentaries take a “near term” interpretation of chapter 31, making it wholly about the fall of Assyria.

- I think there are simply too many details that make such an application outlandish, and too many details that align with the end times to ignore.
- Darby, commenting on Ezekiel 29-32, says, “I cannot doubt that all this prophecy of judgment relates—in a perspective brought nigh by the energy of the Spirit—to the events of the last days, which will be the complete fulfilment of these purposes and intentions of God.”

EZEKIEL 32:1-16 | DESTRUCTION

- Verses 1-2 - Lamentation for the Pharaoh
 - We are now at the **twelfth year, in the twelfth month**. The previous oracle was the third month of the eleventh year (Ezek. 31:1).
 - The Pharaoh was **like a young lion** (regal) but **as a whale** (serpent in Ex. 7:9-10, *dragon* in Ezek. 29:3, where the context was also the Pharaoh, as well as other prophetic passages). The emphasis is on the contrast between the noble and the ignoble.
- Verses 3-10 | The destruction of the Pharaoh
 - Because Pharaoh is a *dragon*, the Lord will **spread out my net over thee** (v. 3). He will **leave thee upon the land** (v. 4), which gives indication that the *dragon* (**whale** - v. 2) is a sea-creature (used as an illustration). God will **water with thy blood** the water in which the dragon swims.
 - Verses 7-8 sound much like the day of the Lord as described in Matthew 24:29.
 - Because verses 9-10 (and the context of chapters 29-32) make such a strong emphasis on the death of the Pharaoh, I think we must conclude that we need to give more emphasis to the study of Egypt in the last days.
 - Most eschatological presentations make very little of Egypt, yet three chapters in Ezekiel make much of it.
 - Furthermore, Daniel 11:40 has a prominent role of **the king of the south** against the Antichrist, and Daniel 11:42 mentions **the land of Egypt** specifically, with verse 43 saying that **the precious things of Egypt** will be taken by the Antichrist.
 - An eschatology without a prominent Egypt is incomplete.
- Verses 11-16 - Desolation of Egypt
 - While this can be taken as a reference to the attack of Nebuchadnezzar on Egypt (and likely has double reference), the ultimate destruction of Egypt and the lamentation of the nations seems to fit much better in the last days.

EZEKIEL 32:17-32 | PERDITION

- Verses 17-20 – The uncircumcised in Sheol
 - This takes place 15 days after the previous vision (v. 1).
 - Ezekiel is instructed to continue the lamentation and **wail for the multitude of Egypt**. Joining together in Sheol, the nations are **delivered to the sword** (v. 20) and the grave of **the uncircumcised** (v. 19) becomes monumental.
-
-

- Verses 21-27 - The fellowship of the nations in Sheol
 - From **the midst of hell** (v. 21) the **strong among the mighty shall speak** (v. 21) to Pharaoh. In the verses that follow, several of these **strong** and **mighty** are spoken of specifically.
 - vv. 22-23 - **Asshur** - that is, Assyria.
 - vv. 24-25 - **Elam** - the Elamites lived east of Babylon and were associated with the Persian empire, which had taken over Elamite lands and peoples. At the point of this oracle, they are a “dead” nation.
 - vv. 26-27 - **Meshach** and **Tubal**, two ancient leaders and civilizations also long gone.
- Verses 28-32 - Fellowship of the nations in Sheol - part 2
 - The Lord continues to tell Egypt that **thou shall lie with them that are slain**, and continues to list some of the “infamously slain.”
 - v. 29 - **Edom** - the Edomites, descendants of Esau, who lived on the east side of the Dead Sea.
 - v. 30 - **the princes of the north, all of them** - collectively, including **the Zidonians**.
 - God tells Pharaoh that he will join them and **shall be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised** (v. 32).
 - The word *uncircumcised* is used 10 times in this chapter and is reference to those who reject the God of Israel.