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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Ezekiel 30.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Ezekiel 30.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- Egypt will be brought to ruin.
- The nations that support Egypt will fall.
- Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon will destroy Egypt.
- The LORD will bring to ruin all nations in league with Egypt.
- The eleventh year of Babylonian captivity.
- The LORD has broken Egypt's power.

Introduction to the Book of Ezekiel: Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem.

After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (ch. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem.

NOTE: Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

A brief overview: of the history of Ezekiel, Jerusalem and Israel so Far.

- Ezekiel and all the people of influence have been in Babylonian captivity for about eleven years (Ezek. 30:20) (Ezek. 31:1).
- Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's armies about a year ago (Ezekiel 24).
- Those who were at Jerusalem when it was brought to ruin have been in captivity for about one year.

Egypt will be brought to Ruin.

Ezekiel 30:1-5 ----- ¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²"Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Wail, 'Alas for the day!' ³For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. ⁴A sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish shall be in Cush, when the slain fall in Egypt, and her wealth is carried away, and her foundations are torn down. ⁵Cush, and Put, and Lud, and all Arabia, and Libya, and the people of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

Cush: is the country along the Nile River immediately south of Egypt.

Put: is identified with Libya and also signifies Egypt.

Lud: (Ludim) probably the kingdom of Lydia in Asia Minor.

Arabia: refers to the whole or part of the Arabian Peninsula.

Libya: in North Africa west of Egypt.

A day is approaching when Egypt and all the nations that are in league with them will be brought to ruin by the sword. The sword in this context is Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his fierce armies (Ezekiel 29:17-21).

The Nations that Support Egypt will Fall.

Ezekiel 30:6-9 ----- ⁶Thus says the LORD: Those who support Egypt shall fall, and her proud might shall come down; from Migdol to Syene they shall fall within her by the sword, declares the Lord GOD. ⁷And they shall be desolated in the midst of desolated countries, and their cities shall be in the midst of cities that are laid waste. ⁸*Then they will know that I am the LORD*, when I have set fire to Egypt, and all her helpers are broken. ⁹"On that day messengers shall go out from me in ships to terrify the unsuspecting people of Cush, and anguish shall come upon them on the day of Egypt's doom; for, behold, it comes!

Migdol: a town in Lower Egypt where Jews lived.

Syene: an Egyptian city along the east bank of the Nile River.

When I have set fire to Egypt: refers to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his army (Ezekiel 29:17-21).

Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon will Destroy Egypt.

Ezekiel 30:10-12 ----- ¹⁰Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will put an end to the wealth of Egypt, by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. ¹¹He and his people with him, the most ruthless of nations, shall be brought in to destroy the land, and they shall draw their swords against Egypt and fill the land with the slain. ¹²And I will dry up the Nile and will sell the land into the hand of evildoers; I will bring desolation upon the land and everything in it, by the hand of foreigners; I am the LORD; I have spoken.

The LORD will use Nebuchadnezzar to: -

- Put an end to the wealth and prosperity of Egypt.
- Make the land of Egypt to be deserted joyless and without hope.

The Nile River: the Nile laid down black alluvium of the delta and the entire river valley. In view of the almost complete absence of rain, the annual overflow of the Nile was of great importance to the land, for it watered the soil and provided it with new alluvium and some organic fertilizer. Alluvium is soil and sediment deposited by flowing water, especially soil formed in river valleys and deltas from material washed down by the river.

The LORD will dry up the Nile: probably means God will withhold the rainfall so that the River Nile does not overflow its banks and therefore the land does not get the needed fertilises for their crops, fruits and plants to grow in abundance.

The LORD will Bring to Ruin all Nations in League with Egypt.

Ezekiel 30:13-18 ----- ¹³Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will destroy the idols and put an end to the images in Memphis; there shall no longer be a prince from the land of Egypt; so I will put fear in the land of Egypt. ¹⁴I will make Pathros a desolation and will set fire to Zoan and will execute judgments on Thebes. ¹⁵And I will pour out my wrath on Pelusium, the stronghold of Egypt, and cut off the multitude of Thebes. ¹⁶And I will set fire to Egypt; Pelusium shall

be in great agony; Thebes shall be breached, and Memphis shall face enemies by day.
¹⁷The young men of On and of Pibeseth shall fall by the sword, and the women shall go into captivity. ¹⁸At Tehaphnehes the day shall be dark, when I break there the yoke bars of Egypt, and her proud might shall come to an end in her; she shall be covered by a cloud, and her daughters shall go into captivity.

Memphis: was the first capital of united Egypt, their gods were Ptah' and the Apis bull.

Ptah: in Egyptian Mythology was one of the greatest of gods. Ancient inscriptions describe him as creator of the earth, father of the gods and all the beings of this earth, father of beginnings. He was regarded as the patron of metalworkers and artisans and as a mighty healer. He is usually represented in human form as a mummy, sometimes bearing the symbols of life, power, and stability. The main centre of his worship was in Memphis.

Apis Bull: Apis the sacred bull of the ancient Egyptians. It was also known as Serapis and was regarded as the incarnation of Osiris or of Ptah. A court was set apart for Apis in the temple of Ptah at Memphis. It was believed that when Apis died a new Apis appeared and had to be searched out; he would be recognizable by certain sacred marks upon his body, such as his colour (mainly black) and a knot under his tongue. Apis is sometimes represented as a man with the head of a bull.

Pathros: was Upper Egypt it extended from the south of Memphis to the First Cataract of the Nile River.

Pelusium: was an Egyptian fortress.

Pibeseth: was a city in Lower Egypt on the western bank of the Nile River.

Tehaphnehes: was an Egyptian town.

Thebes: was at one time the capital of Egypt, it is situated on the east bank of the Nile River. They had a cult centre devoted to the god Amon.

The following three gods formed the divine trinity of Thebes.

1. **Amon:** (or Ammon) a major deity in Egyptian mythology, he was originally a local Theban god of reproductive forces, represented as a ram. His name means hidden.
2. **Mut:** (meaning the mother) was believed to be Amon's wife, and the goddess of the sky and sometimes the divine mother of the reigning Pharaoh.
3. **The son of Amon and Mut:** was believed to be the moon god Khonsu (meaning to traverse the sky).

Later, Amon was identified with the Sun god Ra of Heliopolis, and was known as Amon-Ra (meaning the father of the gods, the fashioner of men, the creator of the universe and creator of cattle and the lord of all beings. As a universal god he became the god of the Egyptian nation and the empire. The power of his high priest rivalled that of the Pharaoh, provoking political problems similar to rivalry between church and state. The most massive temple ever built was constructed for Amon-Ra at Karnak. Amon was worshipped in the ancient Greek colonies of Cyrene, where he was identified with Zeus, and in Rome, where he was associated with Jupiter.

Zoan: was an ancient Egyptian city the Egyptian god Seth. Zoan had a worship center for the Egyptian god Seth

The temples that were dedicated to them were treated as their abodes and, as such, could be entered only by priests and the Pharaoh. Great festivals were held in their honour: The Pharaoh himself led the celebrations, escorting the statues of the gods through streets lined with worshippers towards temples decorated with flags and streamers.

While most ordinary people probably worshipped the less-elevated local deities at shrines in their homes, these festivals were national holidays and state occasions in which all participated.

The Eleventh year of Babylonian Captivity.

Ezekiel 30:19-20 ----- ¹⁹Thus I will execute judgments on Egypt. *Then they will know that I am the LORD.* ²⁰In the eleventh year, in the first month, on the seventh day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me (see also Ezekiel 31:1).

The LORD will execute His judgments and wrath by destroying the gods and idols of the nations and making their cities a desolation destroying some by fire and war, and having others taken captive by their enemies.

The LORD has Broken Egypt's Power.

Ezekiel 30:21-26 ----- ²¹Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and behold, it has not been bound up, to heal it by binding it with a bandage, so that it may become strong to wield the sword. ²²Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt and will break his arms, both the strong arm and the one that was broken, and I will make the sword fall from his hand. ²³I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them through the countries. ²⁴And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put my sword in his hand, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him like a man mortally wounded. ²⁵I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh shall fall. *Then they shall know that I am the LORD,* when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt. ²⁶And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. *Then they will know that I am the LORD.*

Pharaoh King of Egypt: is pictured as a man with a broken arm that is dangling loose from its shoulder, it is not even in a sling to support it so that it can heal and become strong, but even worse, the other arm is going to be broken so that he is enormously weak and has no way of defending himself (this is the state of the Pharaoh King of Egypt).

The King of Babylon: is pictured as a man not only with both arms strong, but being continually strengthened. The LORD is telling Ezekiel that He will weaken Egypt and strengthen Babylon. Babylon's fierce armies will defeat the armies of Pharaoh King of Egypt and the people of Egypt will be scattered throughout the surrounding nations.

The expression: "Then they will know that I am the LORD" is an expression that is regularly repeated throughout the book of Ezekiel, God firstly judged and punished His people Israel and then turned His focus toward judging all nations that harmed Israel throughout history and who mocked and scorned Judah and Israel while they were in chains, defeated and suffering in captivity at the hands of Babylon. The justice of the LORD is seen in God's actions of not judging Israel's enemies until He had firstly judged and punished his own people (Judah and Israel) and only then turning His judgment toward their enemies.

God's wisdom: the absolute wonder and wisdom of God in all this is that at the final end of God's judgment on Israel and their enemies it brought about the same result in both groups. Both Israel and their enemies came to the same conclusion which was, "The God of Israel is the Almighty Lord God and the only true God."

End.