

EZEKIEL 29 vs 1

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Matthew Henry wrote: 3 chapters we had concerning Tyre and its king; next follow 4 chapters concerning Egypt and its king. Egypt had formerly been a house of bondage to God's people; of late they had too friendly a correspondence with it.

In this chapter we have the destruction of Pharaoh foretold, for his dealing deceitfully with Israel.

An outline of Ezekiel: **Chapters 1 – 24**: The Lord's prophecies against **Israel** and **Judah**; **Chapter 25**: prophecies against 4 neighbors: Ammon, Moab, Edom – east of Jordan, Philistia – the western coastline; **Chapter 26 – 28**: judgment on Tyre in Lebanon, its overthrow; a funeral song; its leader's downfall, and a funeral song for its real king; lastly judgment on Sidon.

Chapter 29 – 32: judgment on Egypt; description of judgment; comparison to Assyria; a funeral song over Egypt. **Chapter 33**: appointing watchmen on the wall; **Chapter 34**: firing all the shepherds / the hired pastors; the LORD will do the job. **Chapter 35 – 36**: judgment begins at the household of God; but extends to the irksome neighbors; God always looks for love freely given. Much of this record – but not all was local history 2500 years ago.



Prophecy Against Egypt

¹ In the tenth year, in the tenth month / January 586bc... 7 months before the fall of Jerusalem, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me saying,

² Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt:

³ Speak and say, Thus says the LORD God:

Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lays in the midst of his rivers / the lumbering dufus of a beast wading in the Nile going nowhere, that said,

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My river is My own, I made it for myself / and did someone in eternity say, did you hear that fool? Worldly minds always please themselves with, and pride themselves in their property, forgetting that whatever we have, we only have the use of it, the property belongs to God. We ourselves are not our own, but His. *Our tongues are not our own* --- **Psalm 12**. This is My Father's world, and too our listening ears; all nature sings and round us rings the music of the spheres.

And the LORD can't let this pass, He creatively speaks up:

⁴ I will put hooks in your jaw, and make the fish of your rivers stick to your scales,

and I will draw you up from the midst of your rivers, and all the fish of your rivers that stick to your scales / in other words, the LORD is going fishing in Egypt... and all his fish will be drawn out with him, his servants, his soldiers, and all that had a dependence on him, as he thought (but really such as he had dependence upon).

⁵ And I will cast you out in the wilderness, you and all the fish of your rivers: you will fall on the open fields, and not be brought together, or gathered.

To the beasts of the field and to the fowls of the heaven / which includes all the winged creatures God created; bluebirds, pelicans, bees, wasps, bugs, mosquitos, and gnats; they are all invited to the brunch, **I have given you for food.**

⁶ And all the inhabitants of Egypt will know:

I am the LORD, because they have been a *flimsy* staff of reed to the **house of Israel**.

⁷ when they grasped your hand, you broke and tore their shoulders: and when they leaned on you, you broke and made all their loins quake / Egypt pretended to be a staff for Israel to lean upon, but, when any stress was laid upon them, they were either weak and could not, or treacherous and would not do... that for them which was expected.

⁸ So thus says the LORD God: Behold, I will bring a sword on you, and cut off man and beast from you,

⁹ and the land of Egypt will be desolate and a waste; and they will know:

I am the LORD:

because you said, The Nile River is mine, and I made it,

¹⁰ so behold, I am against you, and against your rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt an utter waste and desolation, from Migdol to Syene, even to the border of Ethiopia.

¹¹ No foot of man will pass through it; no foot of beast will pass through it;

it will be uninhabited forty years.

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12 And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of countries already desolated, and her cities will be desolate forty years among the cities that are laid waste.

I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them through the countries.

13 Yet thus says the LORD God:

At the end of forty years, I will gather the Egyptians from the nations where they were scattered:

14 and I will restore the fortunes of Egypt,

and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin;

and there they will be a lowly kingdom.

15 It will be the lowliest of the kingdoms; it will never again exalt itself above the nations. I will make them so small that they will never again rule over the nations.

16 And it will never again be the confidence of the **house of Israel,**

recalling their iniquity when they turn to them for aid; but they will know:

****I am the LORD** God.**

The Ruin of Egypt

17 And it happened in the twenty-seventh year, in the first month / March – April 571bc, on the week before the Passover recalling their liberation from bondage,

on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me saying,

18 Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor hard against Tyre / the siege against Tyre lasted 13 years; it was an economic disaster.

Every head was made bald, and every shoulder was rubbed bare: yet he had no wages, nor did his army get anything from Tyre, for the labor he served against her.

19 So thus says the LORD God:

Behold, I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

And he will take her wealth, and seize her spoil, and take her plunder:

it will be wages for his army.

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²⁰ I have given him the land of Egypt for his labor which he did,

because they worked for Me,

says the LORD God.

²¹ On that day, I will make the horn bud forth for the **house of Israel** / this is around the time when Babylon was at its zenith, and Judah was in captivity; yet Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were set over the affairs of that kingdom; when their prophetic mouths were open,

and I will open your mouth in their midst; and they will know:

I am the LORD.

And again, history tells us that is what happened.

When reading these verses, we must remember, that in every nation, tribe and language, the people of the Lord have responded to Him through the ages. I am sure those who live in some of these places have a certain anxiety over these verses; our brothers and sisters in the Lord living in Egypt, or Lebanon or elsewhere must always remember 2 things:

1. that no matter where they live: in the world we will have tribulation, troubling times; but the people of God *are not appointed to wrath, but to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord* – **1 Thessalonians 5**
2. 3 Days are still on the Lord's calendar; *shadows of things to come...* the **Day of Trumpets**; the **Day Afflicting of souls**; and the joyous **Day of Tabernacles** – **Zechariah 14**. Obviously, the Day of God's wrath is what we intend to avoid. And we will avoid it because we acknowledge that Jesus the Messiah came the first time, and substituted His life for ours. When we make Him our sacrifice for sin, and as we live to know Him better; He will see and be satisfied – **Isaiah 53**.

Doesn't it seem like lots of people still need to learn that simple lesson: The God of Israel and Judah...

He is the Lord.

Check out our Egyptian brothers and sisters singing 3 songs of praise to the Lord:



Hallelujah | Ana Bahabak ya YASUA | Hayaty tebaa leek al-youm