

## Isaiah Lesson 19

Isaiah Chapter 19

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

*Website: [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)*

*E-mail: [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)*

**Introduction:** We studied in Chapter 18 about another ‘burden’ of judgment is foretold, this time against Damascus in Syria. Though the prophecy is primarily of impending judgment against Damascus, there were a few glimmers of end-time events.

Chapter 19 details the ‘burdens’ upon the neighboring nations. In this case, it is Egypt. Foretold is the impending judgment against Egypt which apparently was fulfilled in the not distant future. However, there also is a prophecy looking toward Egypt and Assyria in the Day of the Lord.

### I. An Oracle Concerning Egypt

*Isa 19:1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.*

*Isa 19:2 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.*

*Isa 19:3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.*

Egypt in the time of Isaiah was not the world ‘super power’ it was in the time of the exodus. Nevertheless, it was a substantial nation in the middle-eastern world of that day. Foretold was swift impending judgment by Jehovah God against Egypt. He is likened to riding upon a swift cloud. His wrath was about to be poured out against the idolatry of Egypt. In so doing, the heart of the Egyptians would melt before God’s wrath.

Though there apparently are not available historical details of such, God was about to judge Egypt by causing civil wars and internal uprisings in the land. Notwithstanding the judgment of God about to fall upon Egypt, the Egyptians would still resort to their occult religion and seek help therefrom.

*Isa 19:4 And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts.*

*Isa 19:5 And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.*

*Isa 19:6 And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.*

*Isa 19:7 The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.*

*Isa 19:8 The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.*

God would give the Egyptians over into the hand of a cruel lord. A fierce king would rule over them. Who the “cruel lord” mentioned was is not clear. Some think it was Sennacherib. Others think it was Psammiticus, the father of Pharaohnecho, who slew Josiah. In any event, God began to reveal how He would chastise Egypt and it would begin with harsh leadership.

In Verse 5, not only was judgment coming in the form of political and military chastisement, but God also determined to bring judgement using Egypt’s greatest natural resource—the Nile River. Egypt’s economy relied almost entirely to the waters of the Nile and its annual flooding. Any change to the rivers normal flow would prove to be devastating over time in many ways.

God evidently planned to send a major drought in the interior of Africa which would cause the Nile River to dwindle to a trickle. The tributaries of the Nile would dry up. The vegetation along the river’s side would die. The Egyptians who made their living alongside the Nile River the adjoining valleys were about to be chastened. Papyrus, an ancient forerunner of paper, was produced from reeds growing along the Nile. That industry would end affecting Egypt the inhabited world. The fisherman would have no means of trade There would be no fish in the markets to buy.

The vegetables grown alongside the rivers and the valleys would die. These shortages would affect the whole nation.

## II. Many to be Confounded

*Isa 19:9 Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.*

*Isa 19:10 And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.*

Other crafts and trades would suffer. Most of the materials used to produce these items were harvested along the Nile River.

*Isa 19:11 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?*

*Isa 19:12 Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.*

*Isa 19:13 The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof.*

*Isa 19:14 The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit.*

*Isa 19:15 Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.*

God would thoroughly deal with Egypt including its ruling class. Zoan had become the royal city of Egypt by the time of Isaiah. The royalty was about to be judged by God. The prophecy of Isaiah regarding Egypt undoubtedly was to be sent to the princes of Zoan. God asked where the young princes and wise men of Zoan were. He told Isaiah to let them speak and afterwards to let them know what the LORD of hosts had purposed upon Egypt.

God, in effect, challenged them to try to do anything about what He was going to do to Egypt. God dismissed them with disdain. Noph was another name for Memphis which was the ancient capital of Egypt. The Lord was about to warp the thinking of the leaders of Egypt as alcohol perverts one's mind. The day was soon coming when there would be complete economic collapse in Egypt. It would affect both the elite ("the head") as well as the lower class ("the tail"). God was going to judge them all.

### **III. Egypt, Assyria, Israel Blessed**

*Isa 19:16 In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.*

*Isa 19:17 And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.*

God through the prophet provides further warning of judgement against Egypt. Notwithstanding the politically correct feminist philosophy of this age, God was not and is not encumbered thereby. Egypt would soon be scared like frightened women “because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.” In comparison to Egypt, Judah was a tiny nation. Yet, the day was coming when mighty Egypt would be terrified even of such a small nation as Judah.

*Isa 19:18 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.*

*Isa 19:19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.*

*Isa 19:20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.*

Here the chapter shifts from short term prophecy to the Day of the Lord. As is often the case, the phrase, “in that day” refers to the Day of the Lord. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. Though there is historical record of Egypt being chastened and diminished not long after the time of Isaiah, there never has been a time when Egyptians learned the language of Canaan (i.e., Hebrew) and swore by the name of Jehovah.

There is an interesting play on words and even irony here. Regarding the city of destruction, the latter Hebrew word is heh'-res which came to be known as Heliopolis. Heliopolis is where the sun was worshiped by the ancient Egyptians. However, the day was coming when the Son of God would be worshiped there.

Come the Day of the Lord, there will be an altar to Jehovah God in Egypt. Furthermore, at the very border between Egypt and Israel, there will be a

permanent monument exalting the God of Israel. Never in human history has that been accomplished. It is yet to come in the Day of the Lord. This pillar (monument) shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt.

Come the millennial reign of Christ in the Day of the Lord, not only will Egypt give official recognition to Jehovah God, but when in distress, they will call upon the Lord for help. In that day, the Lord will send them a great savior to help them. Though the context here is political in nature, there is spiritual application to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Come the Millennium, the King of kings will assist even Egypt in their time of need.

*Isa 19:21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.*

*Isa 19:22 And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.*

In the Day of the Lord, Jehovah God will be known throughout Egypt and the Egyptians will know Him as their Lord and Savior. They will make vows to the Lord and fulfill those vows. Though in this same chapter is prophecy of severe judgment against Egypt by God, the day would eventually come when He will heal Egypt.

*Isa 19:23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.*

*Isa 19:24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:*

*Isa 19:25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.*

In the day of the Lord there will be collaboration and cooperation between Egypt, Israel, and Assyria. In Isaiah's day, Egypt and Assyria were mortal enemies, not to mention their mutual disdain of Israel and Judah. The day is coming when an expressway will be built from Egypt through Israel to Assyria. Assyria is the region of Syria and Iraq. None of those countries even today are particularly friendly to each other. However, in the Day of the Lord, there will be unity and cooperation.

Implicit is that these three nations will be in an alliance of mutual cooperation. Israel will be a blessing to its neighboring nations. Even as God will specially bless Israel, so will He bless its former adversaries, Egypt and Assyria. The time is during the millennial reign of Christ.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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*E-mail: [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)*

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