

## ***Session 6 The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 18-19***

### **I. THE CONTEXT OF ETHIOPIA AND EGYPT IN THE END TIMES (DAN. 11:42-43)**

- A. The Antichrist will attack Egypt and gain control over Ethiopia (Dan. 11:42-43). Ultimately, Jesus will destroy the Antichrist's armies and will redeem Ethiopia (Isa. 18:7) and Egypt (Isa. 19:16-25).

***<sup>42</sup>He [Antichrist] shall stretch out his hand against...Egypt...<sup>43</sup>He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver...also the...Ethiopians shall follow at his heels [cooperate with him]. (Dan. 11:42-43)***

1. Egypt will be temporarily occupied by the Antichrist's military forces, giving the Antichrist control of their national finances resources.
2. The Ethiopians "shall follow at his heels," or be in step, in cooperation, with the Antichrist.
3. The Antichrist shall invade the Glorious Land of Israel (11:45). He will plant part of his headquarters around Jerusalem. The "glorious holy mountain" speaks of the temple site in Jerusalem. The two seas are the Mediterranean Sea (in the west) and the Dead Sea (in the east).

***<sup>45</sup>"And he [Antichrist] shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas [Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea] and the glorious holy mountain [Jerusalem]..." (Dan. 11:45)***

*Well, I want to give you a tip off. Isaiah 19, which we will get to in just a moment, is one of the most dramatic and important chapters on the end times in the whole Bible. That is just a little FYI. Out of the 150 chapters this is clearly in the top ten, and that might be new information to some of you. So just note to self, "Oh, okay, Isaiah 19. This is must-know, Isaiah 19." Now we are not going to cover it very deeply tonight, but I want you tipped off. This is not just "one of the 150;" this is one of the primary, most dramatic revelations of what God is going to do in miracle power in the generation the Lord returns.*

*Well, we are looking at Isaiah 18 first. We will look at it ever so briefly and then spend most of our time on Isaiah 19. For the context of Isaiah 18-19, you have to go to Daniel 11. Daniel gives us insight that makes Isaiah 18-19 more understandable.*

*Daniel 11:42-43 says the Antichrist is going to stretch out his hand against Egypt. Now Egypt is right below Israel, obviously. The Antichrist has based his palace, it says, in Israel. So Egypt is just a moment down the road. He is going to invade, torment, and trouble Egypt. Egypt is going to resist him, but he is going to go after Egypt with vengeance. The Lord is going to use the rage of the Antichrist to wake up Egypt. Egypt is going to have such a glorious reversal. I mean this Islamic nation will be a radical nation for Jesus and one of the leading nations in the earth in the millennial kingdom, in the 1,000-year kingdom starting when Jesus returns.*

*Daniel 11, the Antichrist will stretch out his hand against Egypt. We are going to find out, when we get to Isaiah 19, that Egypt is at her weakest point here; she is very, very vulnerable. Then the Antichrist attacks and overpowers her. Verse 43, he will have power over all the money. He is going to gain power over the economics and the resources which therefore gives him functional power over everything in society.*

*Notice what it says in the next phrase or two, in the next verse, "The Ethiopians shall follow at his heels." They are in Isaiah 18 which we are starting with tonight. In other words, the Ethiopians who are next to Egypt, really*

close to Egypt—for those of you who are not up to date on your geography, it is right under Israel as well—the Ethiopians will follow at his heels. They will be in step with the Antichrist. In other words, they will be cooperating. It does not mean they like him, but he has gained the upper hand and the control over them. They are at least cooperating with them in a certain way which the message of Isaiah 18 is that after Jesus defeats the Antichrist armies He redeems Ethiopia, Isaiah 18, and then He redeems Egypt. He cleanses them, saves them, and sets them on the map. That is kind of the bigger storyline of what is going on.

**B. Outline**

18:1-3 Instructions for the ambassadors sent to and from Ethiopia

18:4-6 God's message for Ethiopia and the nations

18:7 The Ethiopians will worship the Lord in Jerusalem

Isaiah 18 is the message to Ethiopia. Again, Ethiopia is right next to Egypt, just under Israel; most of you know that. A quick outline here: In verses 1-3, Isaiah gives a message. He gives an exhortation to the ambassadors who are going to Ethiopia and leaving from Ethiopia. There is a two-way coming and going of messengers, envoys. They are ambassadors talking to other nations and other nations talking to them. Remember, everyone here is in fear of the Assyrian empire. We have talked about that the last few weeks. The great global empire is the Assyrian Empire, the great world power. The most powerful nation in the world at that time was the Assyrians which is the whole Middle East area.

Then Isaiah 18:4-6, the Lord has a very clear message for Ethiopia and the nations. Basically He says, "I am going to call war on the nations, and I am going to wake the nations up. I want everybody alert! A great war is coming."

Then in Isaiah 18:7, we find the Ethiopians are saved, redeemed. Jesus breaks in and helps them. They are so grateful for their deliverance because they were in step with the Antichrist, they were fraternizing with him—I am sure they did not really want to—and Jesus showed them mercy and delivered them. They were so grateful in Isaiah 18 that the Ethiopians are presenting themselves to the Lord in a spirit of devotion.

C. Most agree that specific events related to these prophecies are not clearly discernable. Some suggest that the events referred to in Isaiah 18 occurred around 720 BC and those in Isaiah 19 during the reign of Piankhi just after 720 BC. Some associate Isaiah 18 with Sargon's attack on Philistia in 711 BC or Sennacherib's attack in 701 BC or when Shabaka took control of southern Egypt in 716 BC.

D. Instructions for the ambassadors or messengers being sent to and from Ethiopia (18:1-3): The ambassadors from Ethiopia went to Jerusalem and/or to other foreign courts (Moab, Philistia) seeking an alliance against Assyria. Isaiah 18 was written for the benefit of the people in Jerusalem.

<sup>1</sup>*Woe to the land...which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, <sup>2</sup>which sends ambassadors by sea... saying, "Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth of skin [Ethiopia]...whose land the rivers divide."<sup>3</sup>All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth: when he [a messenger] lifts up a banner on the mountains, you see it; and when he blows a trumpet, you hear it. (Isa. 18:1-3)*

Let's go to verse 1. I am not going to spend much time on what he describes here. This is just for those of you who want to look at it a little bit more. There are ambassadors being sent to Ethiopia and from Ethiopia. They are going back and forth to Jerusalem or to the foreign courts like Moab, Edom, Philistia, those courts in those nations right around Israel. The big subject is they are wanting to seek a military alliance, these little nations,

to withstand Assyria, the big, bad, evil empire, the big power base, the super power of the Middle East. They are all talking back and forth, “How can we work together to keep this super power from dominating us?”

1. **Banner on the mountain:** Something very important was going to happen as signified by a “banner being raised” and “a trumpet being blown” (18:3). This is a sign that God is at work, usually related to war (Isa. 13:2; Jer. 51:27). Isaiah’s message is that all the nations need to be alerted (18:3) because the Lord was issuing a call to battle. No one could miss that call when it came. Isaiah does not say who is involved in the war. Historically, it might have referred to a war bringing God’s judgment on Assyria (17:12-14)—the message just before Isaiah 18.

Then, verse 3, Isaiah says, as it were, “Well, let me tell you messengers, as you come and go, there is a bigger message than the political messages you are bringing back and forth one to another. This is a message,” verse 3, “that all the inhabitants of the earth and all the dwellers on the earth need to pay attention to. There is a message that is going to go forth. This messenger is going to lift up a banner on the mountains. He is going to blow a trumpet and everyone is going to hear it.” In other words, in verse 3, Isaiah is saying the Lord Himself is giving a call to war in the nations. Whenever you see this phrase, “lift up a banner on the mountains” or “blow a trumpet,” typically it describes the Lord’s activity in getting the attention of all the nations.

2. **All inhabitants of the world:** A call to war will go forth to all the nations (Isa. 18:3). One of the most sober realities in God’s end-time plan is the Lord calling the nations to war, especially at the end-time battle in Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 9-14; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8; Ezek. 38:4; Rev. 6:4). Satan and the Antichrist will also gather the nations to Israel (Rev. 16:13-14; 17:12-14; 19:19).

**<sup>2</sup>I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... (Zech. 14:2)**

**<sup>2</sup>I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat [near Jerusalem]; and I will enter into judgment with them...<sup>9</sup>Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near...”<sup>11</sup>Assemble and come, all you nations...”<sup>12</sup>“Let the nations...come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.”<sup>13</sup>...for the harvest is ripe... (Joel 3:2, 9-13)**

**<sup>8</sup>“...My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation...all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.” (Zeph. 3:8)**

The Lord might say, “I am going to do something you are not really going to appreciate, but the end of it is going to be good. I am going to cause the nations to come against each other, and in doing that they are going to lose their confidence in their own strength and safety. Then they are going to turn to Me. Then I am going to save them. I am going to use the war narrative, the war plan. I am going to call the nations to war against one another.”

That is His plan to establish peace in the nations. You might think, “Well, if you are the Prince of peace, you want peace.”

He would say, “First I have to get the nations to lose confidence in their own abilities and their safety and their own protection and their agendas and look to Me. They will not do that until they are weakened. So I am going to cause them to weaken one another.”

*In verse 3, Isaiah is telling them, “You envoys who are going back and forth, know this: there is a bigger story. Lift up the banner! Hear the trumpet! Everyone is going to hear. The Lord is about something bigger than what you understand.”*

## **II. GOD’S MESSAGE FOR ETHIOPIA AND THE NATIONS (ISA. 18:4-6)**

- A. Using agricultural metaphors, Isaiah described God’s all-consuming judgment against His enemy.

***<sup>4</sup>For so the LORD said to me, “I will take My rest, and I will look from My dwelling place like clear heat in sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.” <sup>5</sup>For before the harvest... He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches. <sup>6</sup>They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for the beasts of the earth... (Isa. 18:4-6)***

1. ***I will take My rest.*** Sometimes the Lord is described as sitting to judge the nations. In the serenity of sovereignty, He sits in confidence above all chaos and the fray of war.  
***<sup>2</sup>I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to [Jerusalem]; and I will enter into judgment... <sup>12</sup>for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. (Joel 3:2, 12)***
2. ***Like heat.*** Isaiah described God’s overwhelming power—as He gazes on the earth in a way that is compared to the burning heat of summer or a cloud of dew in the harvest. The heat at harvest time is overpowering, and the cloud of dew engulfs the whole land. God is “intensely present” everywhere, like the summer heat. These were familiar terms to the agricultural community.
3. ***Cut off.*** The Lord will prune the nations as a farmer prunes his vines and trees. The nations to be pruned or destroyed are not named. The details can be applied at various times in history.
4. ***Sprig.*** a small stem that might be pruned from a tree or bush.
5. ***Before the harvest.*** The Lord would prune or judge the nations *before* they reached harvest time—at a time that they did not expect it to come.
6. ***Will be left.*** The branches and sprigs were cut off and left to the birds and wild animals to eat.

*Then in Isaiah 18:4-6, Isaiah is describing God pruning the nations. He is using agricultural metaphors. He is using agricultural pictures that were very common to the people of Israel. He says basically, “God is going to break in, and He is going to prune the nations. He is going to cause there to be a whole lot pruned,” verse 6, “and all that He prunes is going to be left lying on the ground.” Now what he is talking about is that at the end of this war there are going to be dead bodies and corpses. In other words, it is going to be tragic. It is going to shift the very balance of power and the balance of the whole narrative of the Middle East in that time. Of course what Isaiah is really talking about is the great war at the end of the age that leads to the second coming of Christ.*

*Okay, I have a little bit on that, though, again it is not my real point to break down all the details of that, but just to give you the overview of what is happening. There is a call to war. The war is going to bring judgment. The judgment is God pruning the nations. The pruning of the nations is going to leave many people dead. It is going to create a wholly different dialogue in the nations. The Lord is going to reveal His mercy in that context.*

*That is what Isaiah 18 is talking about with a focus on Ethiopia saying, “Ethiopia, you are going to be troubled, but I am going to be there to help you.”*

- B. One of the most challenging parts of God’s end-time plan in using war to wake up the nations.

***<sup>9</sup>For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Isa. 26:9)***

- C. After Armageddon, the corpses of the dead soldiers will be left on the ground for the birds to eat (Ezek. 39:17-20; Rev. 19:17-19). These verses elaborate on 18:6 “being left for the birds of prey.”

***<sup>17</sup>...saying to all the birds..., “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, <sup>18</sup>that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men...” <sup>19</sup>I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered...to make war against Him. (Rev. 19:17-19)***

- D. The Ethiopians will worship the Lord (18:7). After Jesus defeats the armies of the Antichrist, the Ethiopians (18:2) will bring gifts to God in Mount Zion in Jerusalem to worship and express their gratitude to God for destroying their enemy. “In that time” links the timing of the Ethiopians offering their gift to the Lord in 18:7 to the judgment released in context to the war in 18:4-6.

***<sup>7</sup>In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin [Ethiopia, v2] ... to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, to Mount Zion. (Isa. 18:7)***

*Then, “In that time,” verse 7, and “the time” is referring to the time in verse 4-6, which I did not read, but I described it: in the time where God is pruning nations and the time where many are left lying on the ground. In that time, he says, what is going to happen is there is going to be a radical transformation in Ethiopia. A present will be brought to the Lord of host from the people of tall and smooth skin; that is the Ethiopians. They are going to bring a gift, a present, to the place of the name of the Lord, to Mount Zion.*

*Now this is radical because Ethiopia in Isaiah’s time was a very powerful nation. It was not of the level of the Assyrian’s superpower, but they were a powerful nation. When Isaiah says, “You are going to be troubled, there is going to be a war, and you are going to lose your way in it, but the Lord is going to deliver you in it,” it is really a picture of the end of the age. For in verse 7 he says, “In that time,” he says, “you are going to be converted.” There is going to be a national conversion. Ethiopia is going to go to Jerusalem and offer gifts to the King. Now that is obviously talking about the second coming of Christ. Ethiopia has never done that as a nation: gone to Israel to offer gifts to Jesus. So he describes that, and they are going to do it in Mount Zion which is in Jerusalem.*

- E. About 300 years before Isaiah 18 was written, David spoke of kings bringing presents to the king in Jerusalem and the envoys or ambassadors working with Egypt and Ethiopia turning to God.

***<sup>29</sup>...Your temple at Jerusalem, kings will bring presents to You.<sup>30</sup>...till everyone submits himself [to God] ...<sup>31</sup>Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.***

***<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; Oh, sing praises to the Lord. (Ps. 68:29-32)***

*Now, just for fun, 300 years before Isaiah 18 was written, 300 years before Isaiah saw this drama of these envoys and messengers and ambassadors going back and forth from Ethiopia, David told the story 300 years earlier in Psalm 68. So really Isaiah was adding to what David said 300 years earlier. It is the same language. It is talking about the generation the Lord returns when Ethiopia and Egypt—that is Isaiah 18-19—how they are going to respond to the Lord.*

*Now these are radical Islamic nations that are really against Jesus right now. The Lord would say, "I already have it in the script. The future is already determined. A war is going to wake you up. My mercy is going to prevail. Even you, Ethiopia and Egypt"—even more intense is Egypt—"I am going to bring salvation and deliver you."*

- F. If the Lord will show such extravagant grace to Ethiopia, after they cooperated with the Antichrist (Dan. 11:43), then we can ask Him show the same extravagant grace to other nations too.
- G. Ethiopian Jews have lived for centuries in Ethiopia, which is often referred to as Beta Israel. In 1977, the Israeli government determined that the Law of Return applied to Ethiopian Jews. The USA and Israeli government financed their transport to relocate to the land of Israel. By 2008, there were 120,000 people of Ethiopian descent living in Israel which includes 80,000 born in Ethiopia.

### **III. THE LORD STRIKES AND HEALS EGYPT (ISA. 19:1-25)**

- A. **Principle:** What the Lord does in striking and healing Egypt is a model of what He will do for other nations too. The glory and judgment released in fullness at Jesus' coming will be released in part now. We pray for the release in *part* of that which will be released in *fullness* at His return.

***<sup>22</sup>And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. (Isa. 19:22)***

*Let's look at Isaiah 19. I wanted to run through Isaiah 18 pretty fast, but it is powerful and is not a small message. It is just that we have only limited time. Isaiah 19 is such a dramatic passage of scripture. So what is going to happen here is the theme in Isaiah 19 is that God is going to strike and then heal Egypt. Remember, the Antichrist is going to go and attack Egypt and Ethiopia. We just read that in Daniel 11. So that is the context; that is the overarching story. Egypt is being troubled by a great oppressor.*

*Now what surprises me is that I would think Egypt, being an Islamic nation, being against Israel and against Jesus, would be more acclimated to the Antichrist global agenda, because the Antichrist is going to show himself as a man of peace at first. Somewhere in this, Egypt does not buy it, which is surprising to me. This is quite remarkable that they say, "No, no, we are not going with you."*

*Then when the Antichrist pulls off his mask, and the man of peace is shown to be a fraud and is actually a man of war, then he goes after Egypt and attacks them. It is just interesting that this dark, Islamic nation with a dark spirit in so much of what happens as there is corruption and darkness in it so many ways, yet they do not yield to the Antichrist. They stay adversarial to him throughout the years leading up to the coming of the Lord.*

*Isaiah 19 is one of the great messages of hope. I mean this is a great hope chapter because the principle is that what the Lord does in striking and healing Egypt—here is the key—it is a model of what He will do with all the other nations of the world as well. Well, not all nations, but this is His model. I mean there are going to be some exceptions.*

*In other words, Egypt is adversarial towards the Lord, adversarial towards Israel, adversarial towards Jesus. They are not for any of it. Yet God is going to say, "In kindness, I am going to do the impossible. The nation that could never turn to Jesus is going to turn to Jesus." Well, a matter of fact, Israel has the same storyline. They are going to be leading the nations in radical devotion to the Lord.*

*Again, what the Lord does here in striking Egypt is a principle. It seems so terrifying when He does it. As we look through this, which we will do it quite briefly, it is terrifying what He does. The Lord is saying, in effect,*

*“It is not just the Egypt story; this is My leadership. I am going to do this around the world. Egypt is just my most graphic example of doing this. I am going to strike them”—you find that in verse 22—“but I am going to heal them. I am going to strike them, then I am going to heal them. I want you to study this because this is what I will do in other nations. If you think your nation is out of reach, read Isaiah 19. If I can reach them, I can reach your nation.”*

*If God can reach Egypt, He can reach any hostile city in the earth. If God can reach Egypt, He can reach any man, any family. He can reconcile any situation, if He can do it in this hostile environment towards Him in the land of Egypt. That is really the message that is being portrayed here.*

**B. Outline:**

19:1-15 God will prevail over Egypt’s false gods.

19:1-5 Egypt’s social upheaval and civil strife

19:5-10 Egypt’s economic troubles and a fierce king

19:11-15 Egypt’s terrible political leadership

19:16-25 God will save Egypt, and they will worship Jesus.

19:16-17 Egypt will face fearsome troubles.

19:18-22 The Lord will deliver Egypt and release a great revival.

19:23-25 Egypt and Assyria will worship God.

*Let’s get a quick outline. In the quick outline, first is Isaiah 19:1-15. This is the really negative part of the chapter. This is where the Lord is striking Egypt. He is going to use the Antichrist as one of His tools, but He is even going to cause Egypt to turn on Egypt. Basically what the Lord is about here, He is causing Egypt to lose its confidence in its own agenda, its own abilities, and its own sense of protection. To give up and to cry out for help, that is what this is all about. Of course that is what the Lord’s agenda is in all the nations. Nations resist and resist and resist. That is the same storyline with individuals. That is the same storyline with families and businesses and all kinds of different corporate groups. So we can see a little microcosm of many other groups of people right here in this chapter. In Isaiah 19:1-5, He is going to confront the darkness in Egypt. He is going to prevail over the false gods of Egypt. He is going to turn the whole thing around.*

*Then the second half, in Isaiah 19:16-25, He is going to save Egypt. He is not only going to save them, deliver them from the Antichrist, but He is going to deliver them from their own darkness. He is going to forgive them of their sin, and they are going to be radical worshipers of Jesus, the nation of Egypt will! I mean Egypt is 80,000,000 people right now. The vast majority, I mean a percentage way up in the high nineties—I do not know the exact number—are Muslims. They are not interested in Jesus. The Lord says, “But I am interested in you, Egypt!”*

**C. Review:** When interpreting end-time prophecies, we understand that many prophecies often have a partial fulfillment in history, with ultimate fulfillment at the end of the age.

*This is a point of review here. I have said this probably every session so far. When interpreting end-time prophecy, we understand that many of the prophecies as we read them have had a partial fulfillment in history. When you read the details, only some of the details are fulfilled in history. They have an ultimate fulfillment at the end of the age.*

*So as we look here in the events of Isaiah 19:1-15, we could say of verse 1-15, many of the events have not occurred yet in fullness. They have occurred partially a little here, a little there. There have been minor, partial expressions of this prophecy, but not the intensity of what is described in verse 1-15. Not with the result of*

*Egypt getting saved and becoming a land known for its devotion to the Lord. So that is the context. There is an intensity of chapter 1-15 that has not happened in history yet, a negative intensity. Egypt has had its hard times, but nothing like described here in verse 1-15, nothing of that level nor the fruitfulness of verse 16-25. So we know the whole chapter has an end-time application. That is the point I am making.*

1. Lord's plan is to strike and to heal (19:22). Isaiah 19 is thematic more than chronological. The ultimate fulfillment of the events in 19:1-15 will occur at the same time that the events of 19:16-25 occurs. See the end of this handout for events that will occur before Jesus returns.  
***<sup>22</sup>And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD... (Isa. 19:22)***
  2. The negative events in Egypt as prophesied in 19:1-15 have not yet occurred in their fullness.
  3. A few similar events happened in minor ways throughout the history of Egypt, but not with the same intensity or with the remarkable results as described in 19:16-25.
- D. Assyria defeated the Egyptians in 720 BC. There was civil strife and political failure in Egypt from 724-720 BC. Attempts to locate this in a specific historical context seem futile (Oswalt).
- E. Summary of 19:1-15: The Lord will come to Egypt to confront the idols of Egypt and to turn the hearts of the people to Himself. His plan includes stirring up Egyptians to fight each other until the country is filled with civil strife. This will lead them turn to their idols and occult practices to seek solutions. This will prove ineffective, so the nation will be in great despair, leading to a fierce king coming to power. The Lord will cause the Nile River to dry up, leading to an economic collapse.

*Okay, I am going to give you a summary of verses 1-15. So we don't really have to go through it all very fast, I want to give you just the snapshot of it, so when you read it on your own time, you can say, "Hey, I got a feel for where this chapter is going. Okay, it makes sense."*

*What is going on: The Lord says to Isaiah, "I am going to confront the idols of Egypt. I am going to confront them head on. Egypt is going to get delivered from her false gods. That is agenda number one. I am going to confront the darkness in this land of Egypt. Then I am going to turn the hearts of the Egyptians to Myself." The Lord is saying He is going to turn the heart of the Egyptians to Himself. His mysterious plan—this is a little unnerving when I look at our own nation and the nations of the earth—the Lord says to Isaiah, "Here is My plan. I am going to confront the darkness **and** I am going to turn them to Me. Though it is not going to be an easy journey, it is the best journey. I am going to use My wisdom and power, and I know what I am doing, so you have to trust My leadership."*

*First thing He is going to do or one of the things He is going to do—I do not know that there is a chronological order to it—He is going to stir the Egyptians one against another. There is going to be tremendous civil strife and discord, even civil war. City against city, kingdom against kingdom, within the nation of Egypt, neighborhood against neighborhood. Again, He is going to use that strife to cause the whole nation to look for another answer outside of themselves and to look for another agenda and another way forward in life.*

*I mean, when the Lord allows a nation within itself to have strife and turmoil of this intensity, the Lord is saying, "I am after that nation. I want them to turn to Me." It is the Lord who is going to cause this to happen. Yes, the devil has his hand in it, but the Lord says, "I know what I am doing. I have a masterplan, and the devil*



and the sin of men are involved in it, but I am actually going to stir them up against each other.” Like, where is that in the Bible? Isaiah 19.

This is going to lead them to turn to their idols. They are going to get in trouble, and they are going to turn to their sorcery and their idols. They are going to seek help, but they are going to find their false gods and their religion gives them no answers at all. So the Lord is like, “Check—your religion did not help you or it did not work.” So He is going to move on. It is going to be so ineffective the nation will be in great despair. Isaiah describes them. It says that their heart is melting away. The whole nation is going to be in great despair.

Again, remember this is not just a story about Egypt. This is a story about how the Lord is going to wake up nations. We see the beginnings of this even in our nation. I look at this, and I think, “I do not like this part of the story. I like that we love Jesus at the end of the story.”

Well, this great despair and this great vulnerability, this weakening of the nation’s unity and its social infrastructures, it is going to implode. It is going to open the way for a fierce king to gain power. That fierce king—there has been a few versions of that fierce king through history—the fierce king is the Antichrist at the end of the age. So in a weakened state, some Egyptians are going to cry out, “Give us a leader!” Other Egyptians are going to be too much in turmoil to resist the Antichrist when he wants to come. Then, to really exasperate things, he really is trouble. The Antichrist is called a fierce king. He is a cruel leader. He comes in. He gains a foothold of power.

Then, to intensify everything, unprecedented, God dries up the Nile River. It says in verse 5, “I will dry up the river.” It has never happened in Egypt’s history. Some commentators say that it is poetic or it means there was a drought. No, the Lord says, “I am going to dry the river up and cause havoc and economic chaos” —because the Nile River is the primary source of economics for the whole nation—“I am going to have a natural disaster to disrupt the whole economy of the nation to get them to look for a solution outside of themselves.”

Lord, do You really do this stuff? The drying up of the Nile River will be almost as dramatic as dividing the Red Sea, splitting the Red Sea, in the days of Moses. I mean, the Nile River drying up? Are you kidding? This is an impossible situation. The Lord would say, “I am going to do it. It is going to get the attention of the whole world because I have it written in the Book ahead of time.”

It is remarkable that God is drying up the Nile, and He is going to do the same thing to the Euphrates River in Iraq. He is going to dry up those two rivers. It is mentioned several times in the prophetic scriptures. It is going to cause tremendous implications and repercussions in Iraq and the Middle East and in Egypt when God shows His mighty hand and dries the river. Many, many implications are involved in that. We could spend a half hour talking of some fifteen different implications of what would happen, economics being one.

- F. The social upheaval and civil strife in Egypt as the Lord confronts their idols (19:1-2): The nation will be in great despair (19:2, 3). The Lord will give Egypt into the hands of the Antichrist for a brief season to strike the nation so that the Lord make heal the nation (19:4, 22)

<sup>1</sup>***The burden against Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, and the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.***

<sup>2</sup>***“I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; everyone will fight against his brother, and everyone against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. <sup>3</sup>The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, and they will consult the idols and...the sorcerers. <sup>4</sup>And the Egyptians I will give into the hand of a cruel master [Antichrist], and a fierce king will rule over them,” says the Lord, the LORD of hosts. (Isa. 19:1-4)***

Okay, just a quick glance at these first fifteen verses. The Lord says, verse 1, "I am going to ride in on a swift cloud." What He is saying in effect is, "I am going to be actively present and involved, with My hand setting things into place. I am going to be controlling situations that are going to cause Egypt to cry out to Me. So I am going to move in in power." That is the picture over there. "I am going to come into Egypt."

Through verse 1 He tells us, "My goal is to cause the idols, the false gods of Egypt, to fall in My presence. I am going to cause Egypt to break their alliance with their false gods and with their false religion. That is My goal." Well, His goal is to heal the land and to save them, but first He is going to show their religion to be bankrupt. He says, "In the midst of this, the heart of Egypt will melt." In other words, there will be so much despair in the culture, they will be desperately looking for another solution because the despair will be so great as this is happening.

Verse 2, one of the primary things the Lord says He is going to do is, "I am going to set Egyptians against Egyptians. I am going to set everyone against his brother. I am going to do it because I am going to disrupt the equilibrium of the culture so they have to look outside of themselves for a solution. A matter of fact, I am going to set city against city."

Again, if this were not in the Bible I would say, "Where is that in the Bible, that God does that?" God actually does this! It is a "temporary severe mercy" so He can wake up a nation to bring them radical transformation and salvation. The key is that He wants His people in the process. I have shared this with Egyptians. I have a lot of Egyptian-believer friends. It is like, "Do not draw back on His leadership as He does this." Again, this is not just an Egyptian story. Egyptians are probably one of the most intense versions of it, but I would say this to all the nations of the earth because what the Lord does in Egypt is part of His strategy of waking nations up.

Now, the Lord would never be voted into office because nobody would ever vote into office a leader who did this. The Lord knows what He is doing. This is the agenda that He is going to have. He does not want His people who love Him—I am talking about the believers in Jesus—to be offended or to be fearful. He is saying, "It is temporary. It is severe mercy. Trust My leadership. I know what I am doing. It has a great ending, the story does. Trust Me and do not draw back. Do not let go. Do not give in. Keep your eyes on Me because it is going to be troublesome for a short period of time."

Okay, so He is going to go on. He says, verse 3, that the spirit of Egypt will fail. That means, again, despair in the culture, despair and negativity everywhere. Jesus talked about this in Luke 21:26. He said that men's hearts will fail for fear. This is globally, but here this is happening in Egypt; this is just one example. God is going to do things that cause people to look up. If they do not know His leadership and they do not have relationship with Him, they are not going to have a way of peace. That is why it is so important to know the biblical storyline so as these things happen we are not in confusion saying, "What is happening?" We know what is happening. God is going to make these things happen, He really is. It is unto redemption, and that is the glorious part.

Verse 3, He says, in effect, "I am going to cause the spirit of Egypt to fail. I am going to cause their self-confidence and their sense of 'we can pull it off together'—I am going to cause them to see that is a lie, that it is the very attitude keeping them from saying yes to Me. I will destroy their counsel, then they will consult sorcerers. They will consult all their false gods, but they will not work." The Lord would say, "I actually want them to try them so they give up on them and move on and conclude that their false religion does not get them anywhere."

Verse 4, They will really get exasperated because the Egyptians will be weakened in this state of this national, political, military vulnerability, in this economic troubling. "The Egyptians," verse 4, "I will give into the hand of a cruel master." We know from Daniel 11, the passage we started with, that the Antichrist is going to invade

Egypt. The Lord is saying here, in effect, “I am going to actually let that happen, but it is only going to be a very short. It is going to be a very temporary disciplining.”

He is a fierce king. He is a cruel one. Now, there have been a few kings that could fulfill this description in a small way through history. I have read quite a few scholars and commentaries on this. Most of the commentaries cannot agree on who that king would be in history. There is a big, long list, but most of them admit that they did not really control Egypt in the way this passage is describing, though at least it is a partial fulfillment. God is going to discipline Egypt through the Antichrist. That is one of the means, not the only means. In Isaiah 19, in verse 22, we are going to find out that He is going to heal the land.

- G. Egypt will have great economic related to the Lord causing the Nile River to dry up (19:5, 10).

**<sup>5</sup>The waters will fail from the sea, and the [Nile] river will be wasted and dried up. <sup>6</sup>The rivers will turn foul...the reeds and rushes will wither. <sup>7</sup>The papyrus reeds by the River...and everything sown by the River, will wither...and be no more. <sup>8</sup>The fishermen also will mourn...and they will languish who spread nets on the waters...<sup>10</sup>All who make wages will be troubled of soul. (Isa. 19:5-10)**

Verse 5, then the Nile “will be wasted and dried up.” This is just inconceivable when you think about the implications! The Nile and the Amazon River are the two biggest, largest river systems in the earth. They are both over 4,000 miles. The Nile is the economic base of the nation. If the Nile is not functioning right, the economics dry up everywhere. That is what it says in verse 10, “All who make wages will be troubled,” very, very troubled, because it will bring economic bankruptcy. The Lord would say, “I am going to do it because I am going to give them great prosperity on the other end of it.” He says that He will not stop there; it is going to be more than economic collapse. You can read verses 8-10 on your own time. There it describes it a little bit. I just kind of abbreviated it here.

1. **River will be dried up:** The Lord will dry up both the Nile (19:5) and the Euphrates Rivers (Isa. 11:15; Zech. 10:11; Rev. 16:12). The Lord will destroy the tongue or gulf of Egypt (Gulf of Suez) at the Red Sea, and He will cause the Euphrates River to dry up (Isa. 11:15).

**<sup>12</sup>Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. (Rev. 16:12)**

**<sup>11</sup>He shall...strike the waves of the sea: all the depths of the River [Euphrates] shall dry up. (Zech. 10:11)**

**<sup>15</sup>The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue [gulf] of the Sea of Egypt...He will shake His fist over the River [Euphrates], and strike it...and make men cross over dry-shod. (Isa. 11:15)**

2. The Lord may dry up the Nile by a supernatural act like He will dry up the Euphrates, or by a natural process of drought and Ethiopia's hostile use of their Grand Renaissance Dam.
3. The Lord will mingle a perverse spirit in their political crisis (19:11-15)

**<sup>13</sup>The princes of Zoan have become fools; the princes of Noph are deceived; they have deluded Egypt...<sup>14</sup>The LORD has mingled a perverse spirit in her midst; and they have caused Egypt to err in all her work, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit. (Isa. 19:13-14)**

*Verse 13, He says that the leaders will become seen or displayed as foolish. "I am going to do this, I am going to cause their leaders, the best of the nation to be deceived. Their ideas are going to be bad. They are going to delude the nation. They are going to bring the nation into error on their military ideas, their economic ideas, their political alliances, their social infrastructure. They are going to miss it on every point. I am going to see to it that they do. They will cause Egypt to error in all of her ways." You know the social, economic, military, all these kinds of ways. The nation will stagger, as a nation—this word picture—like a drunken man, just unable to barely make it. Then the Lord says, "I am then going to deliver them with a deliverance so glorious, with an honor so beyond what they can imagine. That glory will last upon them forever and forever. Trust My leadership. I know what I am doing."*

*This is pretty severe! We are reading it, and we are thinking, "Poor Egypt!"*

*The Lord is saying, "No. I am giving you an exposé of My leadership. I am giving you insight into one of the most severe situations so you will grasp what I am doing in the nations. I want you to understand that **I really do** this stuff." Again, the point I want to make here is, if you know the Word, then you have got a grid for what is going on. History is not "the train off the track, going nowhere." It has not lost its way. There is a sovereign God, though there are moments that are very painful and chaotic. He is leading it to a redemptive end. That is the message we are getting here.*

*I love Egypt, and I have a lot of friends over there. I want to join them in prayer for this next part, verses 16-25. The whole thing turns around, and there are promises that we are to pray, and we are to cry out to the Lord even now. Remember, the promises that will happen in fullness when the Lord comes, those promises will happen in part right now.*

*If the Lord says, "I am going to do miracles when I appear," then we know He is going to do miracles now in an increasing way. Whatever positive thing He is going to do in fullness when He appears in the clouds, He is going to do that positive thing in an increasing way, more and more, closer to His return. We can believe for the glory to increase in the way He describes here in this chapter, well, in all of these chapters.*

*The judgment against oppression will increase as well. The judgments prophesied in the Bible, most of them are about the end times or against the Antichrist empire or for the people who absolutely refuse to yield to the Lord. He is trying to wake them up so that He can save them.*

- H. Nine times the Lord declared that He would act directly in the affairs of Egypt. They include the Lord setting Egyptians against Egyptians (19:2), destroying the counsel of her national leaders (19:3), giving them into the hand of a "cruel master," the Antichrist (19:4), mingling a perverse spirit in the midst of her national leaders (19:14), waving His hand over them in judgment (19:16), determining to allow the Antichrist in Judah to bring terror to them (19:17), sending a Savior to deliver them (19:20), striking and healing the nation (19:22), and blessing Egypt, Assyria and Israel (19:25).
- I. We can identify five prophetic decrees in Isaiah 19—each beginning with "**in that day**" (19:16-17; 18; 19:22; 23; 24-25). I use the word *decree* in context to a biblical promise that we declare back to God in intercession. These decrees will be commonly known among the Body of Christ before Jesus returns, as the Church will be partnering in prayer with Jesus in His end-time plans.

#### **IV. DECREE #1 (INDIVIDUAL): RELEASE THE FEAR OF GOD (ISA. 19:16-17)**

- A. Isaiah 19:16-17 describes the fearful response that many Egyptians will have to the negative events prophesied in 19:1-15. The Lord wants to use the fear of trouble to cause people to look up and to find their solutions in the Lord and in embracing His leadership—thus, in the fear the Lord.

*Now we are going to look at five different decrees. There are five times where Isaiah says, “In that day...” You know that the phrase, “in that day” in the prophetic scriptures is code for “the generation the Lord returns.” Not every single time, but the vast majority of them in the Scripture, when it says, “in that day,” it is talking about those years leading right up to the second coming of Christ and those years immediately following the second coming of Christ where everything is being transitioned and reordered in a glorious way.*

*Now these five decrees in Isaiah 19 will be commonly known by the Body of Christ. These five decrees are promises; we can pray these for Egypt now. Not only can we pray these five things for Egypt now, but if God will do these five things in a spiritually dark nation hostile to Jesus, He will do these things in other nations as well. The idea is that there is no nation that is out of reach. This is one of the great hope chapters of the end-time chapters, Isaiah 19. So for each one of these five things, I say, “Lord, it might look different in our nation, but we know these similar types of glorious expressions of Your grace and mercy—You are going to do it. It will look different in every nation, but we know this is what You are about. We know these are the sort of things on Your agenda in the end times.”*

*Well it starts off, the first decree, the first is individual. Then you will see as we go on it goes from individual, the word is how individuals respond. Then the second decree it is regional, then it is national, then it is international. The scope gets bigger and bigger, you will see that as we go these five different decrees.*

*You will have to look at it on your own time and kind of get your mind around it. Tonight I am just giving you the big picture view so you say, “Okay, I think I got the view of where this is going.” The analogy I like to use it is the puzzle picture on the cover of the puzzle box. You see the picture so you can see where things are going. Then you can go find out where the individual pieces fit later. So what I like to do on these Friday nights is give you the overview of the chapter. Then you can spend more time on it. The pieces fit together as you get more familiar.*

*I want to encourage you—again, I do this nearly every week, as some of these details seem so new—I want to say again, there are only about ten key dates, only about ten dates and international events and international facts in Isaiah. If you know those ten, you really have the story. It is not like a hundred; there are about five or ten of them. At first it seems difficult when you hear these. Like Assyria, “I never heard of Assyria, you know.” You hear a couple dates, and you hear a couple historical things, and it is a little overwhelming because you might hear five or ten of them. But that is really about all there are, about five or ten of them. Once you get them, you think, “Hey, this is not so hard. You know, I can put this together.” Then you begin to get familiar with it. Then Isaiah 19, it fits with other chapters. You think, “Yeah, yeah! I know the Egypt story. I kind of know that Egypt story. That fits with the Ethiopian story. Yeah, that fits with the Iraq story. Yeah, I can see where this is going.”*

*It just takes a little bit of familiarity to stay with it. The fog lifts, and the whole thing really does come together. It is really not that confusing if you just stay with it and give it a little bit of time. I know you know we have been doing this just six weeks. Give it six months, and you will find out we will be covering some of the same material—different nations, different chapters, but the same storyline happening over and over and over again. Then you become really comfortable because you have grasped the storyline. Then those chapters really begin*

*to come together because you have a confidence and they fit in your understanding. I say that every week, and I probably will for a few more months.*

- B. Unbelievers in Egypt will be gripped with the fear in seeing God's judgments on the wicked (19:16). Fear and terror are mentioned four times (19:16-17). This oracle is against those who refuse God's grace. They will be afraid of Jesus' judgments (19:1-15) and the Antichrist's reign of terror in Judah.

***<sup>16</sup>In that day Egypt will...be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand [19:1-15] of the LORD of hosts, which He waves over it. <sup>17</sup>And the land of Judah will be a terror to Egypt; everyone who makes mention of it will be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts which He has determined against it. (Isa. 19:16-17)***

*Well, it starts with the first decree, "In that day"—here is the first saying—"Egypt will be afraid. Egypt will have fear because of the waving of the hand of the Lord of host which He waves over it." Now we just read about the waving of God's hand in verses 1-15, He is going to trouble the nations. So God is going to trouble the nations.*

*In verse 17, the first one of these decrees is negative. It is really for the spirit of the fear of the Lord to come on the nation, though. That is the point. That is the thing that is implied or promised here: that the negative fear is to be replaced by a positive fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the answer to overcoming the fear of the Lord's stirring up the nation. He is going to wave His hand over the nation. Again we just described that in verse 1-15. He is troubling the nation, He is striking the nation. Waving His hand is a negative thing. He is stirring it up to wake them up.*

*Then verse 17 it says that, "The land of Judah"—of course that is Israel right above Egypt—"will be a terror to Egypt." Everyone who even mentions the land of Israel, at the mention of it the people of Egypt will be afraid. You think, "What? Why is this?" "Because the counsel of the Lord has determined this against Egypt."*

*Now if you only have this verse, you think, "Why would Egypt be afraid of the land of Judah or Israel? Like what?" We just looked at it at the very beginning, Daniel 11, the passage we started with. It is because the Antichrist has his palace and one of his bases in Israel, right above the land of Egypt. He is invading Egypt over and over, troubling them. He has taken control of Israel. So for a brief time, Israel to the Egyptians means the Antichrist's oppression. It says that even the mention of the land of Judah terrorizes them. Internally, every individual is saying, "This is horrible. How could it ever get worse?"*

*Fear and terror are mentioned four times in these two verses. That is the theme of it, and the overarching theme is the Lord wants the spirit of the fear of the Lord, not the fear of judgment or the fear of the Antichrist rage. He is saying, "Get on My team and get that inferior fear replaced by a superior fear called the spirit of the fear of the Lord." Okay, I gave you a couple verses there.*

1. ***Waving of the hand:*** This refers to God's judgment prophesied in 19:1-15. The Lord will wave His hand to destroy the tongue or gulf of Egypt (Gulf of Suez) at the Red Sea, and He will wave His hand or strike His first to cause the Euphrates River to dry up (Isa. 11:15). He will dry up both the Nile (19:5) and Euphrates rivers (Isa. 11:15; Zech. 10:11; Rev. 16:12)

***<sup>15</sup>The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue [gulf] of the Sea of Egypt...He will shake His fist over the River [Euphrates], and strike it...and make men cross over dry-shod. (Isa. 11:15)***

<sup>11</sup>***He shall...strike the waves of the sea: all the depths of the River [Euphrates] shall dry up.***  
***(Zech. 10:11)***

2. ***Strike:*** The Lord struck the land of Egypt in the days of Moses (Ex. 3:20) and He will again strike Egypt (Isa. 19:22) and the nations of the earth in the end times (Isa. 11:4)

<sup>20</sup>***I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders...*** (Ex. 3:20)

<sup>22</sup>***And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it...*** (Isa. 19:22)

<sup>4</sup>***He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and...shall slay the wicked.*** (Isa. 11:4)

3. ***Terror:*** The Antichrist's reign of terror is described as a scourge going through the land of Judah (Isa. 28:14-19). Many Egyptians will be terrified in hearing the report from Judah.

<sup>18</sup>***When the overflowing scourge [of the Antichrist] passes through, then you will be trampled down by it...***<sup>19</sup>***It will be a terror just to understand the report.*** (Isa. 28:18-19)

*This is going ahead to Isaiah 28. Isaiah is describing the Antichrist. He says, "When the overflowing whip or scourge"—scourge and whip are the same thing—"of the Antichrist passes through the land, you will be trampled down by it." He is talking about the land of Israel right here in Isaiah 28. He says verse 19 that it will be a terror just to hear the report of that evil man trampling through Israel. That is what is going on in Egypt. They have heard the report of that evil man up there. That evil man is invading their own nation. It is a terror just to hear the story! That is how intense the Antichrist will be.*

*The good news is it will be a very temporary, three-and-a-half-year reign of terror. God will use that scourge to wake up Israel, to wake up Egypt, and actually to wake up the nations of the earth. Three and a half years is long when it is heavy, but it is short when you think of billions of years of the glory of God on those people and upon those nations as they turn away from their darkness and turn to the Lord.*

4. ***He has determined:*** The Lord shows Himself as determined in serious matters (Isa. 10:23; 19:17; 28:22; Dan. 9:24, 26, 27; 11:36; Zech. 1:6; 8:14, 15; Lk. 22:22; Acts 2:23; 4:28; 17:26)

- C. We pray, "Lord, wave Your hand of power to shake Egypt so that they cry out for Your salvation. Release the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Stop ungodly leaders who resist You."

*Now what do we do with this first decree? This, "In that day the Lord says, fear will come"? We ask the Lord, "Wave Your hand, Lord, wave Your hand over Egypt even now. Trouble Egypt in a way that is redemptive. Lord, wave Your hand over America. Wave Your hand over Europe. Wave Your hand over Asia. Lord, wave Your hand so that the unbelieving powers-that-be are alerted, and they wake up to the fact that their agenda and their power is not ultimate. Wave Your hand. Release the spirit of the fear of the Lord and stop ungodly leaders in their hubris, their arrogance, where they think their agenda and their power and their way is the solution for their nation without crying out to the Lord." So that is one way that we can pray this first decree. "Lord, release Your hand. Wake them up, and stir, and let them see the truth of the bigger picture that there is a Savior, that it is not them."*

**V. DECREE #2 (REGIONAL): RELEASE A SPIRIT OF REVIVAL (ISA. 19:18)**

- A. The spirit of revival will rest in an unusual measure on five cities in Egypt before Jesus returns. This will happen to such a degree that these cities will swear to follow Jesus. They will be renowned for their dedication and boldness in the face of Islam and the Antichrist's oppression (19:20).

**<sup>18</sup>In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan [Hebrew] and swear by the LORD of hosts... (Isa. 19:18)**

*Let's look at the second decree. Verse 18, Isaiah says, "In that day." So now he is going to give the second oracle, so to speak, or decree. This is really different. This is what happens when the fear comes and the nation is troubled, and then it makes way for this second thing. I believe there is a progression going on here. This is remarkable. This is, like, very surprising.*

*"In that day five cities"—or five large communities, we do not know the size of them but they are enough that the Bible calls them a city—"five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan," which is Hebrew. The language of Israel is what it is talking about. These five cities will speak Hebrew. Now, beloved, in Egypt cities do not speak Hebrew; they speak Arabic. In Egypt, nobody speaks Hebrew. I mean they do, one here and one there, kind of on the side. There is going to be something happening so dramatic in five cities, and Isaiah adds to it, "Not only are they going to learn the language of Hebrew, they are going to swear by the God of Israel."*

*Now if you swear by the God of Israel, and you are the leader of a city in Islamic Egypt, and the Antichrist is breathing down the neck of the Egyptians, and there is this group of people—it is not a little group of five or ten. There are five cities and we do not know exactly where they are going to be raised up—They are going to be like cities of refuge, spiritually speaking, where they are going to love Jesus because the name of the Lord, His name is Jesus. It is not just generic "God."*

- B. To speak the "language of Canaan" means they will speak Hebrew. The official language of Canaan was Arabic for 1400 years. In 1948, the primary language changed to Hebrew. It would not be a noteworthy prophetic event for five cities in Egypt to speak Arabic. Does this refer to Jews speaking Hebrew in these five cities because so many moved to them? Or will Egyptians be called by the Spirit to learn Hebrew in preparation for Jews seeking refuge there?

*They are going to learn Hebrew. One of the reasons they are going to learn Hebrew, I believe, is they want to serve and relate to Jews in Egypt in flight from the Antichrist, in flight from Israel, fleeing to Egypt. These cities are going to be ready, prepared. They are going to greet them in their own native language. They say, "We know the Hebrew Bible. We know the Hebrew God. We know the Hebrew Messiah, Jesus. We know who you are."*

*These Jews in flight are going to say, "Like, really? You love us enough to know our language? In a nation hostile to Israel?" This is a most remarkable reality.*

*Now when I see that in Egypt, I say, "Lord, if You can raise up five cities in an Islamic nation under the eye of the Antichrist and his oppression, Lord, raise up five cities in this nation like this. Raise up five cities of unusual devotion to the Lord that swear by the name of the Lord openly." Meaning, they do not have just a secret devotion. They have a public, bold stand for Jesus. They understand Jesus' kingdom purposes for Israel. They stand for Israel even in a way that Israel does not understand. Then they are prepared even to receive the Jews in flight from the Antichrist.*



*Of course, in Egypt they are fleeing from Israel itself, because the Antichrist is troubling them. Of course the Antichrist is troubling the Egyptians. The Antichrist is troubling the Syrians. The Antichrist is troubling everybody who does not obey him.*

- C. We pray, “Lord, release a spirit of revival, dedication, and boldness in the five cities, and come in power to awaken these five regions with an unusual outpouring of the Spirit.”

*So we pray, “Lord, in Egypt”—I love to pray this for Egypt; we can also pray it for Asia. You can pray it for Mexico. You could pray it for the islands—“Lord, release a spirit of revival on five cities. It does not have to be limited to five, but in the midst of darkness, in the midst of great shaking, in the midst of people filled with terror with economic crisis, with religious persecution, raise up a city, raise up communities of radical people.”*

*When you think about being under this kind of situation, you think of World War II. You look at some of the documentaries of the war, war-torn cities, the broken economies. They do not have the food. You know, look at the Syrian refugees. You think, “How could anybody really connect with God in all of that?”*

*Well, God is saying that there are going to be five cities in Egypt. This is before Jesus returns. This is not after He returns; this is before. The spirit of revival will be that powerful. The grace of God will be that sufficient. In a nation with economic chaos, political chaos, civil war, strife, persecution from the Antichrist, there will be a flourishing gospel advancement and entire cities captured in the name of the Lord.*

*Again, I do not just pray for the five cities in Egypt. I do not know what those cities are. I say, “Lord, if You can do it there, You can do it here. If You can do it here, You can do it in the other nations.” There is no nation that is out of reach from this kind of complete reversal and rescue, even in the midst of darkness.*

## **VI. DECREE #3 (NATIONAL): PRAYER MINISTRY & NATIONAL SALVATION (ISA. 19:19-22)**

- A. The grace of prayer leading to a great revival and supernatural deliverance from the Antichrist will be released in Egypt before Jesus returns. The Lord will strike the land and then heal it.

***<sup>19</sup>In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. <sup>20</sup>And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. <sup>21</sup>Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. (Isa. 19:19-22)***

*The third decree is not just regional. It is not just five different regions or five cities. This is national. So the scope is getting bigger and larger in each one of these five decrees. There is a progression here.*

1. **Altar to the Lord:** Egypt will build an altar and a pillar as expressions of gratitude.

*Verse 19, “In that day”—now again this is before the Lord returns. This is the devotion in an Islamic Egypt with economic crisis, civil war, Antichrist breathing down their neck. This is how God is going to move, by the grace of God, on people. When I read this, it just totally gets me excited—“there will be an altar to the Lord.” “There will be an altar” speaks of worship and prayer. There will be worship and prayer ministries to the Lord throughout the land. In the midst of the land, there will be an altar to the Lord—in the midst of the land. Again, that is a worship and prayer dimension; that is what an altar is for in the Bible. It is a public expression of worship and prayer.*

2. **Pillar to the Lord:** Egypt will build a pillar as expressions of their gratitude for their national deliverance. It will be a monument at the border to testify of their devotion to Jesus (19:19-20).

*They will have a pillar, like a monument, to the Lord at the border. I do not know how they are going to do this with the Antichrist raging. They are going to have a pillar, like a monument, that says, "We love Jesus," at the border. Saying, "If you are going to come in our area, know this is a Jesus place. We love the God of Israel." I mean it is public, it is open, it is bold, it is defiant before the presence of darkness.*

*I look at that and I think, Wow!" I mean, there are so many believers, even today, who will not speak up for almost anything if there are ten people in a social or a work setting who are taking the other direction. They just get all quiet. These people in Egypt, they all build a monument, a pillar, an open declaration.*

3. **Cry to the Lord:** A mighty prayer movement will be raised up that will cry out for God to remove wickedness until the nation and protect them from the Antichrist's oppression until the land is delivered (19:20) and fully healed (19:22). The Antichrist will function as an "end-time Pharaoh" who will oppress God's people. The saints will cry out for deliverance as Israel did in Moses' day.

***<sup>7</sup>"I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry...<sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them...<sup>9</sup>The cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them."* (Ex. 3:7-9)**

*Verse 20, this altar, this prayer and worship ministry, this pillar, this public declaration, "it will be a sign and a witness to the Lord in the land of Egypt." I mean, in a land of darkness, hostility, chaos, and brokenness, there will be a witness to Jesus that is open, bold, and public, "For they will cry out to the Lord." How is this going to happen? "Because there is an oppressor" who has come into the land. Of course that is the Antichrist.*

*"They will cry out to the Lord, and the God of Israel will send them a Savior." God the Father is going to say, "Jesus," when Jesus returns, "I want You to actually visit Egypt when You return." I mean I think Jesus is literally going to go to Egypt in context to His second coming and return. He will go to Egypt. He will do whatever He does there. He will deliver them. He will be the greater Moses. As Moses went to Egypt and delivered the people who cried out to Him, so the greater Moses is literally going to do the same when He returns in the second coming. In Isaiah 19:1, we read that He is going to come by the cloud of His presence. Eventually He is going to come back on that heavenly cloud. Somewhere in the mix He is going to enter Egypt in some dimension. He is going to bring open deliverance to the nation.*

*Verse 21, "Then the Lord"—remember in Isaiah's time he did not know His name was Yeshua or Jesus. I want to say, "Jesus," because the God of Israel, His name is Jesus—"will be known in Egypt." I love it! The Egyptians will know the Lord in that day.*

4. **Make a vow:** Egypt will perform or follow through on their vows to the Lord (19:21).

*He takes a deep breath, Isaiah does. He says, "Yes, you heard me. And, they will make a vow. They will not make a casual vow that costs them nothing. They will make a vow to obey Him. They will follow through on their vows. They will perform it." See, a lot of people get into a good mood at a conference or they go to a retreat or a seminar or a weekend somewhere or a summer somewhere. They make promises to the Lord. Then, when they get back to "business as usual," the promise kind of fades. Not this case! They are going to make a*

vow in the place of pressure and adversity. They will follow through because the vow will touch their heart at that level.

Verse 22, now Isaiah describes the whole thing. He says, “How does all this happen?” He goes on, “Let me summarize it: The Lord is going to strike Egypt. He really is.” The One they are vowing to, the One they love, the One that they are building an altar to, He struck them and they know it was He who struck them. They see the redemptive reason. They see the salvation. He will heal them. “They will return to the Lord. The Lord will be entreated by them.” Entreated means prayed to.

The Lord says, as it were, “I am going to cause them to pray to Me. I am going to cause the prayer dynamic in Egypt, the prayer anointing among the believers in Egypt, to be at a level that is beyond anything they can imagine.”

- B. **Five stages:** Egypt’s national oppression (stage #1, v. 20) will create the context for a national prayer movement to mature (stage #2, v.20, 22). This will lead to a national deliverance (stage #3, v. 22), then national salvation (stage #4, v. 21), and the healing of the land and its national infrastructures (stage #5, v. 22).
- C. We pray, “Lord, release grace on to raise up a mighty prayer movement in Egypt to contend for national deliverance, salvation, and healing.”

Again, the same thing, I say, “Lord, release that prayer anointing in Egypt. Hey, Lord! If You can do it there, You can do it here. If You can do here, You can do it in the other nations. If You can release a prayer anointing in that kind of adverse situation, if You can do it there, You can do it here.”

## **VII. DECREE #4 (INTERNATIONAL): RECONCILIATION BETWEEN NATIONS (ISA. 19:23)**

- A. Believers in Egypt will be unified with believers in Assyria—parts of modern-day Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, and parts of the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Iran.

**<sup>23</sup>In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria. The Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. (Isa. 19:23)**

The fourth decree is now international. Verse 23, here is the fourth decree—remember there are five decrees total, as you know—“In that day, there will be a highway between Egypt and Assyria.” Assyria covers the majority of the Middle East nations. Assyria is the old, ancient name, but today it is Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, the Gulf states, Lebanon, Jordan, etc.

- B. **Highway:** A highway will facilitate international relationships, cooperation, and communication. Isaiah often referred to this literal millennial highway (Isa. 11:16; 19:23; 35:8; 49:11; 62:10).

There will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will come to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. Now you think, “Okay, that is cool.” Well, if you know a little bit—I do not know that much about it but—there is so much animosity between Arab nations. I mean, according to Isaiah 19:2, the Egyptians do not like the Egyptians, many of them, in that hour. Many of the Muslim leaders do not like each other. You know you have the Shiites and the Sunnis and the tremendous adversarial relationship between nations.

In Jesus there is going to be a reconciliation where Iran and Iraq and Egypt and Syria will love each other in Christ. This is going to be a massive reversal of ancient animosities between these Middle East nations. They will actually have a servant spirit. They will have a highway for international cooperation, communication,

projects, collaboration. They will do many things together and serve one another. This is a radical healing and restoring of broken international relationships at a level surpassed only by verse 24.

- C. We pray, “Lord, fully unify Egyptian and Iraqi believers now as a first fruits.”

### **VIII. DECREE #5 (GLOBAL): RELEASE WORLDWIDE UNITY (ISA. 19:24-25)**

- A. Egypt and Assyria (Muslim nations) will be fully reconciled with Israel (19:24-25). Israel will be reconciled to her longest-standing enemies as they embrace Jesus. The names once reserved only for Israel will be given to Egypt and Assyria. Unity comes as the national identity and destiny of each nation is understood by each of these three nations.

***<sup>24</sup>In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria-- a blessing in the midst of the land [earth], <sup>25</sup>whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” (Isa. 19:24-25)***

*The final decree, “In that day,” it will not just be Egypt and Assyria that are unified. It is going to be Egypt and Assyria **and** Israel. Not only are the Egyptians going to like the Iraqis and the Iranians, and they are all going to love each other in Christ, but the former Islamic nations are going to love Israel. Israel is going to love them. There is going to be peace in the Middle East under the name of Jesus. It says, “In that day Israel will be one of three.” There will be a blessing in the midst of the land. The Lord shall bless them. He says, “Blessed is Egypt, My people. Blessed is Assyria, the work of My hands. Blessed is Israel, My inheritance.” This is so intense because these are titles reserved only for Israel. God is declaring them over Egypt and Assyria, these dark, adversarial nations hostile to Israel.*

*The Lord’s message is, “My salvation is bigger than you could imagine. My power—even though I am going to use negative in My plan—I have such the ability to restore, to reverse, to turn around at a level you cannot imagine. If I can do this between Islamic nations with each other, and between Islamic nations and Israel, I can do it in any nation. I can heal any nation if I can do this.” So He is giving us one of the most intense, most difficult examples. He says, as it were, “If I can do it there, I can do it everywhere. If I can do it with nations, I can do it with families. If I can do it with families, I can do it with marriages. I can do it with ministries. I can restore. I can reconcile. I can do this in my leadership.”*

- B. The garden of Eden will be restored (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12). The geographic area where Eden is most likely existed will be restored in the Millennium by the territory of these three ancient nations—Israel, Egypt, and Assyria. This unity will result in a blessing in the midst of the “land.” The word for *land* is often translated “earth,” as in the NIV, NAS, and RSV.

***<sup>35</sup>They will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden...” (Ezek. 36:35)***

*Now the last thing I want to point out here is that it says here, verse 24, that “Israel will be one of the three with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the land.” Now the word “land”—I have a few notes on this—is the same word as the word “earth.” A matter of fact, many translations say they will be a blessing in the midst of the earth. Now, if you look at Israel, Egypt, and Assyria, they are the Middle East nations that form the original boundary lines of the garden of Eden. What the Lord is doing—He is going to restore the garden of Eden in its original boundary lines. It is going to be those nations. He is going to say, as it were, “This new*

*Eden is going to flourish and spread out and infiltrate the whole earth in a glorious way.” It is going to start there, and then it is going to work its way out. The branch of the Lord will branch out, and this Eden reality will spread throughout the whole earth after the Lord first establishes it under His leadership right here in Isaiah 19.*

- C. God’s glory will be poured out, resulting in the unity of Israel, Egypt, and Assyria. Great blessing to the world will result from this historic and unprecedented unity in Christ (Jn. 17:21-22).  
*<sup>21</sup>that they all may be one...that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup>And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one... (Jn. 17:21-22)*
- D. Believers in Jesus from Israel and Gentiles nations (including Egypt and Assyria) make up one new man (Eph. 2:15), fulfilling part of the mystery of Christ (Eph. 3:4-6).  
*<sup>15</sup>...so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace... (Eph. 2:15)*  
*<sup>4</sup>The mystery of Christ...<sup>6</sup>that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs... (Eph. 3:4-6)*
- E. We pray, “Lord, unify Arab and Jewish believers as first-fruits and cause all to see Your calling on each of these nations, that they might serve You together with joy.” (Eph. 1:17-18).
- F. **Summary of 19:16-25:** There is a progression in the Lord’s plan here. It starts with fear, being filled with fear. Next, five cities or communities in Egypt become deeply devoted to Jesus. They will learn to speak Hebrew to help and relate to the Jewish people who are refugees in their land. An altar including a robust prayer movement and a pillar to the Lord will be erected in the land as a sign and a witness to Jesus who will deliver them from the oppression of the Antichrist. The Egyptians will know the LORD. This is followed by deep international relationships among Arab brothers in Christ in Assyria. The blessing from this unity will impact the earth.
- G. If the Lord will show such extravagant grace to Egypt, then we can ask Him show the same extravagant grace to other nations too.
- H. Isaiah 19 is thematic more than chronological. The ultimate fulfillment of the events in 19:1-15 will occur at the same time that the events of 19:16-25 occurs.
- I. Some events occur **before** Jesus returns, some **after**, and some may occur in **both** time frames.
  - 1. Events that will occur **before** Jesus’ returns—include all those described 19:1-17, five cities who will speak Hebrew and swear by the Lord (19:18), Egypt establishing an altar and a pillar to the LORD (19:19), crying to the Lord because of oppressors (19:20), and the Lord striking Egypt, and Egypt returning to the Lord and entreating Him and being healing by Him (19:22).

2. Events that will occur **after** Jesus returns—include the Lord sending a Savior (Jesus) to deliver them (19:20), the Egypt's national salvation in knowing the Lord and making sacrifice and offering and performing their vow to Him (19:21), the establishing of a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Egyptians serving God with the Assyrians (19:23), Israel being unified with Egypt and Assyria and together blessing the earth (19:24) and the Lord saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance" (19:25).
3. Events that may occur **before and after** He returns—include establishing an altar and a pillar to the Lord (19:19), returning to the Lord and entreating Him and being healing by Him (19:22).

*Well, amen and amen. Now I realize, if this is the first time you have ever read Isaiah 19, you think, "Yeah, I am stuck back on Ethiopia. What? What is happening?" Again, it is not that hard. It really is not. A lot of the chapters have the same general storylines, just some different nuances. As you get more comfortable with them, you really, really can get this.*

*Anyway, let's just stand before the Lord. Let's ask the Lord for a miracle of reconciliation somewhere in our own life. Let's ask Him for a miracle. If God can do this with Egypt—turn Egypt around—God can turn you around. If God can bring Egypt and Assyria—these are animosity enemies—and then Israel together, He can restore your friendships that are broken.*

*So, Lord, we are asking You even tonight, God, I am asking You for restoration. I am asking You for a spirit of restoration. Lord, if You can release a prayer movement in Egypt, You can release one here. You can release one there. Whatever nation is on Your heart, there is a prayer anointing. Even in the midst of chaos and darkness, nothing stronger than the prayer anointing that God is going to release at the end of the age.*

*I am going to pray for people again for reconciliation. If there is a relationship that is really dear to you that is wounded, and you think, "Man, it is really stuck"—it might be here, it might be far away—and you would like prayer for that, I want to invite you forward. There is a spirit of reconciliation that is in the grace of God in Isaiah 19. I just want to take that and apply it to your life.*

*Lord, I say, if You can do this in Israel and Egypt, You can do it in our life. Father, I ask You for reconciliation. Lord, if You can reconcile the nations, we know You can reconcile families and friends.*