

God's End-Time Purpose for Egypt: 5 Prophetic Decrees (Isa. 19:16-25)

I. WHY THE CHURCH NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S END-TIME PLAN FOR EGYPT

- A. Isa. 19 describes God's purpose for Egypt and her relationship to Israel and ancient Assyria (present day Iraq including areas of Syria, Jordan and Turkey). In Biblical End-Time prophecy, there is more info on Egypt and Iraq (Assyria and Babylon) than any other Gentile nation. The kings of the East also have a significant role in the End-Times (Rev. 16:12-14; Dan. 11:44).
- B. We must understand the End-Time drama around Israel, Egypt and Iraq and the armies of the Antichrist because it will affect all nations in a political (military), economic, and spiritual way. Also, God made these nations a prototype of His mercy for all nations (and individuals) so that we understand the mercy He is willing to give those who repent and call on His name.

II. THE CONTEXT FOR ISAIAH 19: THE ANTICHRIST'S REIGN OF TERROR IN ISRAEL

- A. Israel's governmental leaders will make a covenant with the Antichrist (*called the covenant with death and Sheol*), and will give their authority to him seven years before Jesus' Coming (Isa. 28:14-18; Dan. 9:27; 11:45; Zech. 11:16; Ezek. 38:11, 14; 39:26; 1 Thes. 5:3). The remnant of Israel will resist this decision. After the Tribulation Israel will repent.

¹⁴ Hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men (leaders of End-Time Israel), who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, ¹⁵ Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol (hell) we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge (Antichrist's reign of terror) passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge..." ¹⁸ Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand (Antichrist will betray Israel); when the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it... ¹⁹ It will be a terror just to understand the report." (Isa. 28:14-19)

- B. Gabriel spoke to Daniel about the final 7 years of this age before Jesus' return to rule the world (Dan. 9:24-27). Gabriel spoke of the final seven years as a week.

²⁷ He (Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant (peace treaty) with many (Israel and Middle East nations) for one week (7 year period); but in the middle of the week (after 3½ years) he shall bring an end to sacrifice (in the Jerusalem temple, thus breaking the covenant). (Dan. 9:27)

- C. The Antichrist will establish his palace and part of his headquarters in the land of Israel. A palace is a large and stately mansion used as the official residence of a king.

⁴⁰ At the time of the end the king of the South (Egypt) shall attack him (Antichrist); and the king of the North (Syria) shall come against him...He (Antichrist) shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through (Isa. 28:19). ⁴¹ He shall enter the Glorious Land...many countries shall be overthrown...⁴² The land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt...⁴⁵ He (Antichrist) shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas (Mediterranean Sea and Dead Sea) and the glorious holy mountain (Jerusalem)... (Dan. 11:40-45)

- D. Three groups in prophecy described as standing against the Antichrist are the kings of the East (coalition of Asian nations), the king of the south (Egypt) and the king of the North (Syria).
- E. Half of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity (Zech. 14:2). About 600,000 Jews currently live in Jerusalem, thus, as many as 300,000 Jewish people may be deported in this coming crisis.
² ***For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off... (Zech. 14:2)***
- F. Jesus will assemble Jewish refugees primarily from two nations, Egypt and Ancient Assyria (Iraq, Jordan, Syria; Isa. 11:11, 16; 27:13; Hos. 11:11; Mic. 5:6; 7:12; Zech. 10:10-11).
¹⁰ ***They shall walk after the Lord. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, then His sons...11 shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt ...from the land of Assyria... (Hos. 11:10-11)***
¹² ***The Lord will thresh, from the channel of the River (Euphrates) to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. 13 In that day: the great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord...at Jerusalem. (Isa. 27:12-13)***
¹⁰ ***I will bring them back from the land of Egypt and...into the land (Israel)... (Zech. 10:10)***
- G. Egypt has served God's purposes at strategic times in Israel's history include providing refuge for **Abraham** in a famine (Gen. 12:10), for **Israel in her infancy** as a nation in Joseph's day (Gen. 46), for **Jesus in his infancy** (Mt. 2:13-15), and for End-Time **Jewish refugees** fleeing from the Antichrist to Egypt.

III. HOW TO INTERPRET ISAIAH 19

- A. When interpreting End-Time prophecies, we use the law of double reference. Prophecies concerning Israel and the nations often have two fulfillments. First, a partial fulfillment in history. Second, a complete fulfillment at the end-of-the-age. We use the literal method of interpretation (**grammatical-historical**) which understands the Scripture in its most plain sense (i.e., face value). We look for the meaning which the author intended that his audience receive.
- B. The two most likely partial fulfillments of Isa. 19:2-15 in history are when Israel sought Egypt's help in conspiring against Assyria (724-721 BC) or when the Philistines did (713-711 BC). First, when the northern kingdom of Israel conspired against Assyria (724-721 BC), Israel's King Hoshea sent messengers to Egypt's King to gain support (2 Kings 17:4). Isaiah's prophecy was intended to keep Hezekiah out this conspiracy with Egypt. The Egyptians were defeated by Assyria at Raphia (720 BC). Second, is when the Philistines sought Egypt's help in resisting Assyria (713-711 BC). The Egyptians were of little help. Again, one of Isaiah's goals was to keep Hezekiah out of this resistance. The civil and political strife in Egypt was far greater in 724-720 BC than in 713-711 BC. Sargon did not invade Egypt again after 720 BC but rather established economic relationship with Egypt.

IV. GOD'S GLORY RELEASED IN EGYPT IN THE END-TIMES (ISA. 19:16-25)

- A. God's glory will be released in Egypt in judgment against those who refuse Him and in deliverance for those who call on His name (Isa. 19:16-25). Isaiah declared five "in that day" prophetic decrees that will be released by intercession (v. 16-17; 18; 19-22; 23; 24-25).
- B. The praying Church applies Isaiah 19:16-25 in intercession for Egypt as well as other nations.
 - 1. **Perseverance**: we are encouraged to persevere when we know that victory is certain
 - 2. **Proclamation**: we openly declare the truths of Isaiah 19 to the Church and the nations
 - 3. **Intercession**: we pray for the release of these five decrees in Egypt and the nations

V. PROPHETIC DECREE #1: TO RELEASE GOD'S HAND (ISA. 19:16-17)

- A. The ungodly in Egypt will fear the release of God's hand which will release His power on the Church but His judgments on the wicked (v. 16). Egypt will fear in hearing the report of God's power as well as the Antichrist's reign of terror in the land of Judah (v. 17). We can pray, "Lord, release Your "hand of power" over the house of prayer and apostolic leaders and political government and prophetic Church, etc. Stop ungodly leaders who resist Your purposes".
16 In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He waves over it. 17 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)
- B. Jesus will wave His hand to help the prophetic Church and stop the unrighteous.
29 Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Spirit... (Acts 4:29-31)
- C. The Two Witnesses will release the plagues of Moses in Israel, Egypt and the nations.
3 I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days...5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies...6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues...10 These two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. (Rev. 11:3-10)
- D. Jesus will wave His hand over nations to release His power to break all resistance against Him. He will release the seven bowls of wrath (Rev. 16) including pestilence and fever.
4 His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden. 5 Before Him went pestilence, and fever followed at His feet. (Hab. 3:4-5)

- E. Jesus will wave His hand to destroy the tongue of Egypt and cause the Euphrates dry up.
¹⁵ The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams... (Isa. 11:15)
²² I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons (Israel's captives) in their arms...²³ Kings shall be your foster fathers...they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD... (Isa 49:22-23)
- F. The ungodly in Egypt's government will be terrified and humbled by God's power.
¹⁶ The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall put their hand over their mouth...¹⁷ They shall lick the dust like a serpent; they shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God... (Mic 7:16-17)
- G. Isaiah prophesied that what was happening in Judah would cause terror in Egypt. Why? The Antichrist will establish his palace and part of his headquarters in Israel (Dan. 11:45). His reign of terror is described as a scourge going through the land (Isa. 28:14-19).
¹⁸ When the overflowing scourge (of the Antichrist) passes through, then you will be trampled down by it. ¹⁹ As often as it goes out it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass over, and by day and by night; It will be a terror just to understand the report. (Isa. 28:18-19)

VI. PROPHEPIC DECREE #2: TO RAISE 5 CITIES FULLY DEDICATED TO JESUS (ISA. 19:18)

- A. God's glory will rest on five cities in Egypt before Jesus' Coming to such a degree that the entire city will make a special vow to follow Jesus (v. 18). We can pray, "Lord, release a spirit of revival in five cities until even the political leadership fully honors Your leadership".
¹⁸ In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction. (Isa. 19:18)
- B. The City of Destruction is often translated as the City of the Sun. It is a reference to the ancient city of Heliopolis or On which was located in what is today a suburb of Cairo (Masr al-jidedah). In ancient times it was the principal seat of sun worship, thus it is called the "city of the Sun".
- C. Some Egyptian believers will be led by the Holy Spirit to learn Hebrew in preparation for the Jews seeking refuge from the Antichrist in the land of Egypt.

VII. PROPHETIC DECREE #3: TO RELEASE PRAYER AND REVIVAL (ISA. 19:19-22)

- A. The spirit of prayer leading to a great revival will be released in Egypt before Jesus returns (v. 19-22). This will result in deliverance from the oppression of the Antichrist and judgment on the wicked leaders who resist Jesus. The prayer movement will also release the healing of the land.
- ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² 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)*
- B. They will build an altar and a pillar as a witness of their encounter with Jesus (v. 19-20a). The pillar or monument at the border will testify of their commitment to Jesus and His deliverance for them. Jesus will come as a deliverer as Moses did. Some suggest that the pillar may mark the place Jesus enters Egypt to bring deliverance.
- C. Egypt will know Jesus to such a degree that they follow through on their vows to Him (v. 21).
- D. A mighty prayer movement will be raised up that will cry out for God to strike Egypt so as to remove wickedness until the nation repents and is fully healed (v. 22).
- E. The Antichrist will function as an End-Time Pharaoh. He will oppress Egypt as the Pharaoh in Moses' day oppressed Israel. As Israel cried out for deliverance from oppression so also the End-Time prayer movement in Egypt will cry out against the oppression of the Antichrist. Egyptians will cry out for deliverance from an oppressor.
- ⁷ I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry...⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land...⁹ 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)*
- F. God will strike the wicked leaders of Egypt to remove them so that He may heal the land that it may enter its original destiny and redemptive gift as a nation. The prayer movement will continue to entreat the Lord until God fully heals the land.
- ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people...will humble themselves, and pray... then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chr. 7:13-14)*
- G. The End-Time prayer movement in Egypt will release the grace of God to prevent the political leaders of Egypt from joining the Antichrist. They will not yield to his seduction and threats.

VIII. PROPHETIC DECREE #4: TO RELEASE A HIGHWAY AND UNITY (ISA. 19:23)

- A. A highway will be built starting in Egypt and going to Assyria or the regions of Iraq, Syria and Jordan (v. 23). This is a literal highway that is emphasized often in End-Time prophecy (Isa. 11:16; 19:23; 35:8; 49:11; 62:10). We pray, "Lord, fully reconcile Egypt and Iraq so they fully cooperate in Your purpose.
- ²³ *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)*
- B. This highway will serve various purposes. One possibility is in being similar to the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem. People will travel from Egypt to Assyria tracing the saving steps of the Lord Jesus. In the Millennium the nations may bring their children to retrace the steps of Jesus' conquest from Egypt to Jerusalem.
- C. The relationship between the people of these areas will be deeply reconciled. Israel's two longest standing enemies will be fully reconciled to Jesus then to Israel.
- ¹⁵ *So as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace... (Eph. 2:15)*
- ⁴ *My knowledge in the mystery of Christ...6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel... (Eph. 3:4-6)*
- ²¹ *That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 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. Egypt and Iraq will be the first Gentile nations to walk in Millennial Kingdom glory.

IX. PROPHETIC DECREE #5: TO RELEASE THE NATIONAL DESTINY (ISA. 19:24-25)

- A. God's blessing of the land will unify Israel, Egypt, and Assyria and bring them into their full national identity and destiny (v. 24-25). The names once reserved only for Israel will be given to Egypt and Assyria. We pray, "Lord, cause all to see who these nations are in Your eyes and thus to serve together with joy. Nations will relate together based on the identity that God gives them.
- ²⁴ *In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria-- a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 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)*
- B. We pray for the identity of Egypt to be made manifest to the Egyptians and the nations of the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas so that all see it and rejoice.
- C. Each of the five decrees is a significant intercessory cry. There is a progression from Jesus' power and judgment releasing fear on ungodly leaders who persecute righteousness to five cities recognizing Jesus with a revival spirit to the entire nation officially worshipping Jesus and then establishing international relationship with Assyria.