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The Oracle Concerning Egypt 19: 1-25



Now **Isaiah** goes north of Ethiopia to **Egypt**. **Chapter 19** focuses on **Egypt**; **Chapter 20** concerns both **Egypt** and **Cush**. As in the other oracles, the historical situation, the impending Assyrian advance throughout the whole region, serves as a backdrop for the prophecies. As seen in **Chapters 30** and **31**, the leaders of **Judah** were tempted to rely more and more upon **Egypt** as the eighth century drew to a close and the threat of Assyrian invasion became greater and greater. However, **Isaiah's** message remained the same: Anything that we trust instead of **God** will eventually turn on us and destroy us. **He** asks, "Why, trust **Egypt** when **she** has nothing to offer you that you do not already have (**Chapter 19**)? Why trust **Egypt** when recent history shows **she** will betray you (**Chapter 20**)? Why not trust **the LORD** who holds **Egypt** in the palm of **His** hand and to whom **she** must one day turn?"