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I Am Going to Give Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon Ezeki'el 29: 17-21

I am going to give Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon DIG: Earlier in this commentary ADONAI depicted Tyre as a ship. How does He depict Egypt? Why is it appropriate? For what two things does God punish Pharaoh? How reliable was Egypt as a military ally (Second Kings 18:19-21)? How will ELOHIM punish Egypt? When will God re-gather her? How does this compare with the fate of Ammon (Ezeki'el 25:7)? Tyre (Ezeki'el 26:14)? Or Isra'el (20:36-38)? Why might the horn in Ezeki'el 29:21 symbolize power (First Samuel 2:1 and **Psalm 92:10)?**

REFLECT: Does God work in your life without you knowing it? On hindsight, when do you recall this happening? How does YHVH reveal His actions and plans to you? How can you better understand and fit in with His purposes? Is it good to rely on others or is it wiser to be as independent as possible? How would you define: (a) Dependence? (b) Independence? (c) Inter-dependence? Do you think Nebuchadnezzar attacked Egypt, and later Tyre, out of a conscious obedience to God? How do you see that playing out in the world today?

The prophecy was fulfilled in Nisan, 571 BC

The outcome of this conflict is silent, but the passage reveals that the conquest of **Egypt** was literally carried out by **Nebuchadnezzar**. Although reference is made to **the Babylonian emperor**, the prophecy is, in fact, addressed to **Egypt** and in substance it's related intimately to **the prophet's** earlier prophecy addressed to **Tyre (Ezeki'el 26:1** to **28:19)**.[384]

Ezeki'el's fifth near historical prophecy against Egypt came **on the first day of the first month of the twenty-seventh year** of **Nebuchadnezzar's** reign**, the word of ADONAI came to me (Ezeki'el 29:17).** This **near historical prophecy** was fulfilled in 571 BC sixteen years after it had been given in 587 BC.

Many years earlier **he** described **Egypt's** coming judgment, and now **the prophet** indicates exactly who would bring the judgment.

Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon drove his army in a hard campaign against Tyre; every head was rubbed bare and every shoulder made raw (see the commentary on **Isaiah, to see link click Eq – The Timeline for Tyre**)**. Yet he and his army got no reward from the campaign he led against Tyre (Ezeki'el 29:18).** The thirteen-year siege **against Tyre** had not been materially successful. The army, wearing helmets and carrying materials for the siege, had no reward for their arduous labors. The Tyrians were able to send off their wealth, according to the statement of Jerome, out of the reach of the **Babylonian** army. Without the booty **he** could not pay **his** army, so **he** turned to **Egypt** to take its wealth. **Nebuchadnezzar** was thus unconsciously the instrument of **God** against **Egypt**.[385]

Therefore, this is what Adonai ELOHIM says: **I am going to give Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon** the spoils of **Egypt and he will carry off its wealth. He will loot and plunder the land as pay for his army.** Not only was **the wealth of Egypt** taken, but **the Egyptians** themselves were taken as slaves back to **Babylon**. These were the wages for **his army**. **I have given him Egypt as a reward for his efforts because he and his army did it for Me** by destroying **Tyre,** declares **Adonai ELOHIM (Ezeki'el 29:19-20). God** will use pagan kings and leaders, as well as the Adversary and his demons, to fulfill **His** goals and desires.

It is true that **Nebuchadnezzar** imposed a stunning and devastating defeat on **Egypt** at the battle of Carchemish. Although he did not occupy the entire nation of **Egypt**, his victory over **Egypt** at Carchemish made him the major power in the region, and **Egypt** was subject to him through tribute. Then, much later in 568 BC **Nebuchadnezzar** did in fact actually invade **Egypt** proper. A fragmentary historical document indicates that Nebuchadnezzar actually campaigned in **Egypt** himself, subjugating parts of the country during the rule of Amasis. Naturally, during this campaign, **Nebuchadnezzar** took massive amounts of treasure, as prophesied by **Ezeki'el**.[386]

When that day comes I will cause a horn to grow, for power to return to the house of Isra'el. Here **Ezeki'el** is using the well-known figure of the budding forth of **a horn**, in short, the ancient glory of a nation would come back to life. With the fall of **Egypt**, the affairs of **Isra'el** would rise again. **And I will enable you [Ezeki'el] to open your mouth among them.** The ceremonial muteness of **Ezeki'el** will end. This was promised in **Ezeki'el 24:26-27** and will finally be fulfilled in **Ezeki'el 33:22**. **Then they will know that I am ADONAI (Ezeki'el 29:21 CJB).**[387]

Egypt's failure to live up to the hopes of **Isra'el** is what we all feel when we try to "help God out" either physically or spiritually. Our efforts to please **ADONAI** are doomed to failure because, no matter how alluring, they will all turn out to be just **a [broken] walking stick**, a mockery instead of a support. Only one sure foundation exists through the ages; it is the rock of ages. All other ground is quicksand – **Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the rock eternal (Isaiah 26:4)**.[388]