

A Trek Through Isaiah 16 - 19:1 - 20:6

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Oracle of Egypt 19:1 – 20:6

	One-world Government	Davidic Monarchy	Collective Security and Self-sufficiency	The People of God	Triumphant End
1	13:1 – 14:27 Oracle of Babylon	14:28-32 Oracle of Philistia	15:1 - 16:13 Oracle of Moab	17:1 – 18:7 Oracle of Damascus	19:1 – 20:6 Oracle of Egypt

Last oracle in first series

Q: Where is true security? A: Yahweh's triumphant end: One World, One People, One God

Structure

- 19:1-15 Egypt smitten
- 19:16-25 Egypt Healed
- 20:1-6 Egypt-Ethiopian Example

Egypt Smitten 19:1-15

Egypt shaken 19:1

Isaiah 19:1 (LSB)

1The oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, Yahweh is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt; The idols of Egypt will shake at His presence, And the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

- Yahweh is riding on a swift cloud
 - Personified.
 - Coming to Egypt.
- The idols of Egypt will shake at His presence
 - Same word as Is 7 Ahaz trembling.
 - Defeated by Yahweh before at the Exodus
- the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them
 - As the gods, so the people

Social collapse 19:2-4

Isaiah 19:2-4 (LSB)

2“So I will incite Egyptians against Egyptians; And they will each fight against his brother and each against his neighbor, City against city and kingdom against kingdom.

3“Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be emptied to destruction within them; And I will confuse their counsel, So that they will seek idols and ghosts of the dead And to mediums and spiritists.

4“Moreover, I will deliver the Egyptians into the hand of a cruel master, And a strong king will rule over them,” declares the Lord, Yahweh of hosts.

- Failure in relationships, enterprise, religion, government.
- V2
- I will incite.
 - Provoked by Yahweh.
- they will each fight against brother...neighbor...City ...kingdom.
 - Disunity at all levels
- V3
- spirit of the Egyptians will be emptied to destruction.
 - Lose heart.
- Confuse their counsel.
 - Make futile.
- they will seek idols and ghosts of the dead And to mediums and spiritists.
 - Egyptian response. They do not seek Yahweh.
- V4
- Cruel master, and a strong king.
 - Tyranny.
 - Using force to control chaos.
 - As Mt 10:25 ...the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them

Economic collapse 19:5-10

Isaiah 19:5–10 (LSB)

5The waters from the sea will dry up, And the river will be parched and dry.

6The rivers will emit a stench, The streams of Egypt will thin out and dry up; The reeds and rushes will rot away.

7The bulrushes by the Nile, by the edge of the Nile And all the sown fields by the Nile Will become dry, be driven away, and be no more.

8And the fishermen will lament, And all those who cast a line into the Nile will mourn, And those who spread nets on the waters will languish.

9Moreover, the manufacturers of linen made from combed flax And the weavers of white cloth will be ashamed.

10And the pillars of Egypt will be crushed; All the hired laborers will be grieved in soul.

- V5
- river.
 - Nile river.
- Parched and dry
 - Drought
 - Basis of the economy removed.
- V6-9
- Four industries listed to be destroyed: farming, fishing, manufacture of linen, manufacture of cotton cloth.
- V10
- pillars of Egypt will be crushed....All the hired laborers will be grieved in soul.
 - From the highest to the lowest
 - Feeling hopeless

Failed government 19:11-14

Isaiah 19:11–14 (LSB)

11The princes of Zoan are merely ignorant fools; The counsel of Pharaoh's wisest counselors has become senseless. How can you men say to Pharaoh, "I am a son of the wise, a son of the kings of old"?

12Well then, where are your wise men? Please let them tell you, And let them understand what Yahweh of hosts Has counseled against Egypt.

13The princes of Zoan have acted as ignorant fools, The princes of Memphis are deluded; Those who are the cornerstone of her tribes Have led Egypt astray.

14Yahweh has mixed within her a spirit of distortion; They have led Egypt astray in all that it does, As a drunken man strays into his vomit.

- V11
- The princes of Zoan are merely ignorant fools.
 - Chief city of northern Egypt.
 - Prominent in the kingdom.
- How can you men say to Pharaoh, "I am a son of the wise...?"
 - Speaking to the counselors.
- V12
- Where are your wise men?
 - Speaking to Pharaoh
- let them understand.
 - Egypt was attempting to counter the Assyrian threat with an alliance of Palestinian states. They did not have even the beginning of wisdom: the fear of Yahweh.
 - If truly wise they would know Yahweh and the coming judgment, and would counsel repentance. Especially since Egypt had first-hand experience of the hand of Yahweh of Hosts
- V13
- Deluded.
 - Thinking themselves wise they became fools.
- Cornerstone.
 - The ones depended upon.
- V14
- Yahweh has mixed within her a spirit of distortion
 - Unable to perceive reality.
 - Supernatural action.
- As a drunken man strays into his vomit.
 - Simile of drunkenness
 - Loss of self-control. Unable to function
 - Sick
 - Stumbles into his own mess.

19:15 Summary

Isaiah 19:15 (LSB)

15 There will be no work for Egypt Which its head or tail, its palm branch or bulrush, may do.

- No work.
 - No useful occupation.
- head or tail, its palm branch or bulrush.
 - Two metaphors for the entire nation.

Egypt Healed 19:16-25

- A day is coming when the Egyptians will fear Yahweh and the land of Judah.
- Change in style from poetic parallelism to prose.
- Five sections starting with "In that day".
- Show a progression of Egypt coming to Yahweh, from terror before Him to being in the fellowship of His people.

Fear of Yahweh 19:16-17

Isaiah 19:16–17 (LSB)

16 In that day the Egyptians will become like women, and they will tremble and be in dread because of the waving of the hand of Yahweh of hosts, which He is going to wave over them.

17 And the land of Judah will become a terror to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in dread of it because of the counsel of Yahweh of hosts which He is counseling against them.

- From superpower to cowering.
- Here is preparation for conversion: realizing the power of the true God.
- V1-15 described how their fear came about.
- V16
 - Tremble and be in dread.
 - Genuine fear of Yahweh.
 - Contrast Pharaoh's attitude in Ex 5:2 ...Who is Yahweh, that I should obey his voice?
- Because of the waving of the hand of Yahweh of hosts.
 - True consciousness of impending judgment.
- V17
 - the land of Judah will become a terror.
 - Perhaps because of what Egypt had done to Israel in the past.

Complete conversion 19:18

Isaiah 19:18 (LSB)

18In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will be speaking the language of Canaan and swearing allegiance to Yahweh of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.

- Describing the extent of conversion of the nation
- Five cities speaking the language of Canaan.
 - Noted to indicate the extent of the conversion: amazing that five cities even went so far as to identify with the people of God by adopting their language.
 - Isaiah starts with speech, as in Is 6 he was convicted of unclean speech.
- swearing allegiance to Yahweh of hosts.
 - Turning away from their pantheon of false gods.
- City of destruction
 - May be City of the Sun: Heliopolis, center of worship of the sun god. Another indicator of the extent of the conversion.

True religion 19:19-22

Isaiah 19:19–22 (LSB)

19In that day there will be an altar to Yahweh in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to Yahweh near its border.

20And it will become a sign and a witness to Yahweh of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to Yahweh because of oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will deliver them.

21Thus Yahweh will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know Yahweh in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make a vow to Yahweh and pay it.

22And Yahweh will smite Egypt, smiting but healing; so they will return to Yahweh, and He will be moved by their entreaty and will heal them.

- A picture of a complete change of religion.
- V19 Altar and pillar
 - altar to Yahweh in the midst of the land of Egypt.
 - A place of reconciliation with Yahweh. As Gen 12:8 Abraham erected an altar at Bethel when he called on the name of Yahweh.
 - A sign and a witness that Yahweh is worshiped in the land. As Josh 22:10ff the tribes on the east side of the Jordan River erected an altar as a sign and witness that they too were Yahweh's people.
 - a pillar to Yahweh near its border.
 - Marking the land as belonging to Yahweh
 - As Gen 28:16-22 Jacob erected at Bethel a stone to acknowledge that the land belonged to Yahweh.
 - May be at the border to indicate that Egypt is Yahweh's land also.

- V20 Answered prayer
 - Sign and witness. Of their allegiance to Yahweh.
 - they will cry to Yahweh because of oppressors.
 - As in Judges: the people will cry out because of oppression and Yahweh will send a Deliverer
 - Ultimately fulfilled in Christ.
- V21 Relationship
 - Yahweh will make himself known
 - Revelation
 - the Egyptians will know Yahweh in that day
 - Through an ongoing relationship.
 - As Ph 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in full knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and without fault until the day of Christ, having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
 - worship with sacrifice and offering
 - Rituals performed with a right heart
 - Not like the present Israel in Is 1:13 “Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of convocation— I cannot endure wickedness and the solemn assembly.
 - they will make a vow to Yahweh and pay it
 - Living out their profession of faith.
- V22 Discipline
 - And Yahweh will strike Egypt, smiting and healing
 - Yahweh’s providential discipline. Treating them as sons.
 - The Egyptians respond by returning to Him.
 - He hears their pleas and heals them.

World-Wide Worship 19:23-25

Isaiah 19:23–25 (LSB)

23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

24 In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, 25 whom Yahweh of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.”

- The view expands to a picture of the world-wide worship to come.
- highway.
 - A raised causeway visible to all.
 - A metaphor for the removal of alienation and separation between enemies
- the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.
 - The two former superpowers worshipping as one. Covered the known world of that time.
 - One world, one people, one God.
 - Yahweh is the basis of their unity.
- Israel will be the third party
 - Co-equal with the superpowers
- a blessing in the midst of the earth
 - Israel had been the bone of contention between Egypt and Assyria.
 - Now a blessing to both, and to the world. Fulfilling the promise to Abraham in Gen 12:3 in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- Egypt my people and Assyria the work of My hands
 - Terms formerly applied only to Israel.
 - Contrast Ex 5:1 Let My people go. Now Egypt is His people.

Egypt-Ethiopian Example 20:1-6

- Here is a short prophecy about an interim fulfillment of God's word concerning Egypt. Egypt was to be attacked and those who put their trust in her confounded.

The sign 20:1-2

Isaiah 20:1-2 (LSB)

1 In the year that the commander came to Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him and he fought against Ashdod and captured it,

2 at that time Yahweh spoke by the hand of Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go and loosen the sackcloth from your hips and take your shoes off your feet." And he did so, going naked and barefoot.

- V1 Campaign against Ashdod.
 - Ashdod was a Philistine city on the Mediterranean Sea at the same latitude as Jerusalem.
 - In 713 BC Ashdod rebelled against Assyria. The Assyrians replaced its king Azuri with his brother Achimit.
 - In 711 BC the Philistine cities revolted again. Achimit was deposed and Jamani reigned in his place. Judah was invited to join the revolt but apparently did not.
 - The Assyrian king Sargon sent his commander-in-chief (the Tartan) to quell the rebellion. He laid siege to Ashdod and captured it. Jamani fled to Egypt. When the Assyrian army approached Egypt, Pharaoh Shabako imprisoned him and handed him over to the Assyrians.
 - In 675 BC the Assyrian king Esarhaddon invaded Egypt. He destroyed the royal city of Memphis and many other cities and towns.
- V2
 - At that time.
 - A general statement: during this period.
 - The command was given when the Philistine revolt began, at least 14 months prior to the fall of Ashdod.
 - Go...going naked and barefoot
 - Isaiah was commanded to portray a captive.
 - Probably dressed only in a loincloth to make a statement while maintaining propriety.
 - And he did so
 - Note the obedience of the prophet.

The interpretation 20:3-6

Isaiah 20:3–6 (LSB)

3And Yahweh said, “Even as My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot three years as a sign and wonder against Egypt and Ethiopia,

4so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Ethiopia, young and old, naked and barefoot with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

5“Then they will be dismayed and ashamed because of Ethiopia their hope and Egypt their boast.

6“So the inhabitants of this coastland will say in that day, ‘Behold, such is our hope, where we fled for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria; and we, how shall we escape?’”

- V3
 - And Yahweh said
 - This word likely given after the fall of Ashdod
 - Three years.
 - Plenty of time for everyone to see.
 - Sign and wonder
 - To demonstrate the truth of Isaiah’s words
 - Against Egypt and Ethiopia
 - Who Judah was depending on
 - Not what Judah's leaders wanted to hear.
- V4
 - The captives of Egypt and the exiles of Ethiopia
 - Just as Ashdod had been defeated, so Egypt and Cush would be defeated.
- V5
 - They will be dismayed and ashamed
 - Speaking of Judah.
 - Because they had trusted in Egypt.
- V6
 - The inhabitants of this coastland will say
 - Isaiah portrays the people themselves as speaking.
 - Judah is included with the pagan peoples.
 - Behold, such is our hope
 - Visible proof of the folly of trusting in alliances for security when God intends to use Judah to bring the whole world together to worship Him.

Application

The oracle of Egypt describes how Yahweh will deal with a pagan nation to achieve His purpose:

Afflicted

- Hearts melted
- Strife at all levels
- Confused counsel.
- Oppressive government
- Economic collapse
- Failed government
- Unable to avoid the consequences of their choices
- No purpose or meaning
- All from Yahweh

Response

- Seek answers from idols and ghosts.

Healed

- Fear of the true God
- Identification with the people of God
- Acceptable sacrifices
- Public monuments to their faith
- Oppression and a Deliverer
- Knowledge of the true God
- Smitten and delivered.

Outcome

- Worship alongside all peoples

What caused the change in Egypt?

- Holy Spirit. John 16:8 (LSB): And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

Where is our country in this progression?

- Afflicted, placing their trust in self and idols

What should the believing remnant do in our situation?

- Is 8:11-22 Isaiah speaking to the believing remnant
 - V12 Not fear what unbelievers fear
 - V13 Regard Yahweh as holy. Fear Him.
 - V17 Wait for Him. Hope for Him
 - V19 Pray
 - V20 Look to His word

References

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