

## There will come a Time when Egypt worships the Lord!

Isaiah 19:16-25

Facilitator: Stephanie Wyche

### I. Historical Background & Biblical Context

#### A. Historical Background

Isaiah was a prophet in Judah and Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:1). His messages addressed the spiritual and moral shortcomings of Judah as well as its neighboring nations - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Moab, and others (covered from Isaiah 13-23) - and communicated God's judgment and redemptive plan for all nations.

As we examine Isaiah 19, we find a prophecy concerning Egypt, a mighty nation known for its strength, wisdom, and idols, which would be humbled under God's hand. In verses 1-15, Isaiah describes how the Lord would come upon a swift cloud to judge the idols of Egypt, leading to:

- **Internal Conflict:** Egyptians against Egyptians.
- **Foolish Leadership:** Leaders seeking help from powerless idols and the nation would suffer under cruel rulers.
- **Economic Disaster:** The Nile River will dry up, causing widespread ecological, agricultural, and financial problems across the nation.
- **Weak Leaders:** Egypt's leaders will be revealed as foolish and incapable of managing or understanding the calamity.

However, God's judgment is not the end; it opens the door for restoration and redemption, which we will explore in today's lesson. Ultimately, Egypt will worship the Lord. This lesson is relevant to us as Christians because, like Egypt, we may sometimes rely too heavily on our own abilities, resources, or wisdom. Egypt's downfall serves as a warning that pride and self-reliance can distance us from God. Yet, just as Egypt was given a chance for restoration, we too receive God's grace when we humble ourselves and turn to Him. He is always ready to forgive, heal, and restore us.

## **B. Biblical Context**

Isaiah's prophecy concerning Egypt is one of many examples where God shows us that no nation, no matter how powerful, can resist His sovereign will. In Isaiah 13-23, several nations are addressed for their idolatry and pride. However, what sets Isaiah 19:16-25 apart is the vision of Egypt's future repentance and restoration. This prophecy proves that even through judgment, there is hope for redemption. Egypt, once a nation serving idols, will one day acknowledge the Lord and be transformed into a nation that serves Him. This prophecy reminds us that God's plan extends beyond Israel. He desires all nations to know Him, as He is sovereign over all people. God's redemptive plan is to get our attention, restore what is broken, and bring nations and individuals into a relationship with Him. As Christians, this challenges us to recognize that God's grace is not limited to those who seem close to Him or who have lived perfectly. Just as God planned to restore Egypt, He offers restoration to each of us, no matter how far we may feel from Him.

## **II. The Lesson: There will come a Time when Egypt worships the Lord! (Isaiah 19:16-25)**

After Egypt has staggered and fallen under God's hand of judgment, there will come a time when Egypt worships the Lord. God had a plan to transform Egypt from a nation that worshiped idols to one that acknowledged and worshiped Him. In these scriptures, we witness Egypt's remarkable transformation from judgment to restoration:

### **A. Egypt's Fear of the Lord (vs. 16-17)**

Egypt trembled at God's judgment, revealing that human strength and power are meaningless without God. As individuals, we may experience moments when we feel the weight of our own failures or the consequences of our decisions. We need to be confronted with our own weaknesses before we turn to God in humility. Like Egypt, we may come to realize that our own efforts are not enough. However, this realization doesn't lead to despair but rather to a new understanding of God's power and our need for Him. This fear or recognition of our limitations is the first step toward repentance.

**B. Egypt Repents and Turns to the Lord (vs. 18-22)**

Isaiah illustrates a significant transformation for a nation heavily immersed in idolatry. The nation will turn away from its idols and false gods, and five cities will swear allegiance to the Lord. They will build an altar at the center of Egypt and a monument at the border as a public declaration of their genuine repentance and worship of the one true God. Only God has the power to transform even the most unlikely of people and nations and bring them closer to Him. When Egypt put its full trust in God, God responded with correction, deliverance, and healing.

We experienced this personally when God called us to Him, extending His grace and forgiveness despite our past mistakes and failures. He welcomed us into His love, not because of anything we had done, but because of His grace and mercy. Even in our walk with Him, we sometimes face God's discipline, but these times of difficulty are meant to refine us and draw us back to His heart. This ongoing redemption is why we must continually examine our hearts and lives. It's not enough to recognize God's grace once; it requires continual repentance and renewal.

Just as Egypt turned away from their idols, we must regularly turn away from anything that competes for God's rightful place in our lives, whether it be material wealth, power, or self-reliance. True transformation happens when we let go of these distractions, fully surrender to God, allow Him to reshape our priorities, and deepen our relationship with Him - just as Egypt did when they turned to the Lord.

**C. Egypt in God's Redemptive Plan (vs. 23-25)**

Isaiah concludes by describing Egypt's future role in God's plan. Egypt, Assyria, and Israel will worship together. No more divisions between the nations. Former enemies will come together in peace and unity under God. All nations will serve the Lord.

Additionally, God will extend His blessing to Egypt, calling them "my people." This title, once reserved solely for Israel, is now given to Egypt. Egypt, historically known as a land of oppression and idolatry, will be transformed and welcomed into God's family.

As Christians, this prophecy calls us to view God's plan as universal. God's redemptive plan extends beyond Israel and beyond just our personal relationship with Him. In Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8, God calls us to advance His Kingdom by spreading the gospel, reaching people from every nation and background, and inviting them into His Kingdom. His blessing challenges us to be ambassadors of reconciliation and peace in our world, breaking down barriers and extending God's love to all people.

## **II. Conclusion**

The prophecy in Isaiah 19:16-25 reveals that God's judgment is not an end, but a means to restoration and redemption. Egypt's story is a reminder that no one is beyond God's reach and grace. There will come a time when Egypt worships the Lord.

The application of this lesson calls us to be humble and dependent on God, recognizing that we can't rely solely on our own strength or wisdom. It encourages us to practice daily repentance and worship, continually seeking a closer relationship with God. We are also reminded to embrace His correction, trusting that it leads to healing and growth. As peacemakers, we should follow God's example of reconciliation by encouraging harmony in our relationships. Lastly, we are called to extend God's love and grace to everyone we encounter, regardless of their background or past, reflecting His unconditional love in our actions.