

WHEN GOD JUDGES EGYPT, IT WILL STAGGER & FALL

DATE: SUNDAY SEPT 1, 2024 SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 19:1-15

FACILITATOR: MARSHA CARTER

BACKGROUND: The nation of Israel lived in Egypt for 430 years, much of the time as slaves, before leaving in the Great Exodus. Abraham, the patriarch of Israel, had a son, Isaac who had Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons, the last being Joseph. Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph and sold him to some Midianite traders who then sold him to an official of the Pharaoh of Egypt. God blessed Joseph who became the second in command of Egypt under Pharaoh. Then famine came, The ancient Israelites ended up in Egypt for two main reasons: to reunite with family and to have adequate food during a famine in their native land.

Before moving to Egypt, the Israelites (decedents of Abraham and Sarah) were living in the land of Canaan (what is now Israel). During a long famine, Jacob (one of the patriarchs of the Israelites) sent his sons to Egypt in order to purchase food. While in Egypt, the brothers reunited with their estranged brother, Joseph. Because of his respect for Joseph, the Pharaoh of Egypt invited Joseph's extended family (close to 70) to live on choice land in Egypt.

The Israelites became slaves when a new Pharaoh came into power who did not know Joseph. Joseph's administrative abilities and God's blessing caused Joseph to help Egypt become a powerful nation. When a new Pharaoh came into power, he enslaved the people fearing that they were becoming too numerous.

Just as in previous lessons we learned that even though God's chosen people lived a constant cycle of sin and disobedience that led to judgment and harsh punishment.(ie exile & captivity). However the nations He used to accomplish those punishments always went overboard. They got big headed boastful and full of pride. Proverbs tells us that pride comes before a fall. There are 7 things that God hates,(Prov 6:16-19)

I. BEHOLD I COME SWIFTLY (ISA 19:1)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen1:1)

**I'll just ride in on one of my clouds O Pharaoh king of Egypt and show you who is mightier. You boast of your power and control of the Nile.
"You say the Nile belongs to me; I made it for my self"**

PS 148 JN 1:3

As for your idols they don't stand a chance.

·The LORD knocked down the god *Khnum*, the guardian of the Nile, the god *Hapi*, the spirit of the Nile, and the god *Osiris* (who had the Nile as his bloodstream) when the waters were turned to blood.

·The LORD knocked down the goddess *Heqt*, the frog-goddess of fertility, with the plague of frogs.

·The LORD knocked down the goddess *Hathor*, a cow-like mother goddess, with the plague on livestock.

·The LORD knocked down the god *Imhotep*, the god of medicine, with the plague of boils.

·The LORD knocked down the god *Nut*, the sky goddess, with the plague of hail.

·The LORD knocked down the whole system of Egyptian worship of their gods with loathsome lice and swarms of insects.

·The LORD knocked down the god *Seth*, thought to be the protector of crops, with the plague of locusts.

·The LORD knocked down the god *Ra*, thought to be the sun god, with the plague of darkness.

·The LORD knocked down *Osiris*, the Egyptian god thought to be the giver of life, and the supposed deity of Pharaoh himself, with the plague against the firstborn.

In the days of the Exodus, God made all the idols of Egypt to totter at His presence.

**Surely He can do it again! And the hearts of people are fickle
SO.....**

II. CIVIL WAR AND EXILE (VS 2-4)

The Egyptians shall be embroiled in endless dissensions and quarrels among themselves

As these divisions and animosities are their sin, God is not the author of them, they come from men's lusts; but God, as a Judge, permits them for their punishment, and by their destroying differences corrects them for their sinful agreements. Instead of helping one another, and acting each in his place for the common good, *they shall fight every one against his brother and neighbour, whom he ought to love as himself—city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.* Egypt was then divided into twelve provinces, or dynasties; but Psammetichus, the governor of one of them, by setting them at variance with one another, at length made himself master of them all. A kingdom thus divided against itself would soon be brought to desolation.

III. TAKE AWAY YOUR PRIZED POSSESSION (VS 5-10)

The Nile River was the key to Egypt's agriculture and economy. For it to suffer a severe drought or lowering would have a devastating effect on the lives of Egyptians. God promises this will happen as a judgment against Egypt. Because of this ecological disaster, the workers of Egypt would cry out.

IV. FOOLISH COUNSEL (VS 11-15)

As the LORD strikes Egypt, not only does He give them cruel rulers, but He also gives those cruel rulers foolish counsel. The LORD reminds us of what true wisdom is. It is knowing what the LORD of hosts has purposed. True wisdom isn't knowing all kinds of facts and plans and strategies. *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* (Proverbs 9:10)

Conclusion: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.