

Isaiah 17

- ✓ Isaiah is making a sweep of all the nations around and bordering Israel. Damascus represents the country of Syria (not to be confused with Assyria), basically occupied the area today that we know of as Syria with the same capital city. Syria was allied with the northern Kingdom at this time and together they were enemies of the Jews in Jerusalem. It moves from the conditions of the day to the final days when all the world will be in rebellion and under God's judgement, Isaiah 17:1-7. Respect for the "Holy One of Israel" will come back into vogue. It used to be fashionable in this country, but not anymore, we are in the post-Christian era. We still worship our own achievements and promote our successes as a reason to trust ourselves: our science, our medicine, space programs, breadth of understanding, we stand in awe of ourselves, this is equivalent to idolatry, Isaiah 17:8. The biggest cult in the world is the deification of mankind, secular humanism is the predominant religion of this country. The wicked and/or Gentiles are described often in the Scriptures as waters or rushing waters, Isaiah 17:9-12. This is a consistent metaphor in the Scriptures Isaiah 57:20-21; they are wishy-washy, unpredictable (praising Jesus on Sunday and then killing Him by Thursday). Out of the Gentile Sea of peoples arises this one we call the antichrist, Revelation 12:17-13:2. We become like them when we do not mature in our faith: Ephesians 4:13-14 with Isaiah 17:13-14.
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Isaiah 18

- ✓ Most of our Bibles title this section as referring to Ethiopia but that's not what this is referring to: Isaiah 18:1 "beyond the rivers of Cush" that is, past or on the other side of Ethiopia. What are the "Wings"? Ethiopia has a lot of insects and birds near the headwaters of the Nile, another reason that some feel this is that area. If this is Ethiopia, how do they send ambassadors to Israel by sea, Isaiah 18:2? In Acts 8 the Ethiopian eunuch was in a chariot traveling by land because Ethiopia was land connected at that time (prior to the opening of the Suez canal). This implies some nation beyond Ethiopia that has access to Israel only by sea. What nation is this? Some read the United States into these words. They also feared a nation who has people afraid everywhere and whose land is divided by many rivers, Isaiah 18:3-7.
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Isaiah 19

- ✓ At the time of this writing, Egypt was in alliance with the southern kingdom and the northern kingdom was allied with Syria, Isaiah 19:1-4. Egypt is the Nile essentially, and without it the land is a wasteland; today, Egypt is just a shell of its former self as if prophesied and depicted by these verses, Isaiah 19:5-11. These verses are strangely coming true today in modern Egypt because of what is called the Aswan dam. In the 1960s, the Soviet Union helped fund a project to "help" Egypt thrive by damming up the Nile at the ancient city of Aswan. This was to stop the annual flooding problems that plague the lower Nile and improve commerce on the river because its levels could then be regulated. It did do that, but it caused many more problems than it fixed. Flooding every year watered areas that now don't get flooded lessening the relative humidity and increasing pan evaporation everywhere, so, with less water they got a lot less water. It also meant that the richness of sediments that fertilized the soils of the lower Nile were eliminated causing crops to decrease unless they increased chemical fertilizers. Additionally, the floods would serve the purpose of washing away pests such as certain snails that have now caused crop failures in Egypt. Also, the Mediterranean has changed as a result of the lessened water flow from the Nile. In the past, when the Nile would overflow, tremendous amounts of nutrients would flow into the Mediterranean attracting an abundance of fish making the Egyptian coast the best fishery in the Mediterranean, this is not true anymore!
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"Isaiah Bible Study, Lesson 9, Isaiah 17-21"

- ✓ A country once rich in food both from the farm and from the sea, but they have lost all of that because of the Aswan dam. Importantly also, in being an enemy of Israel, the dam has made them vulnerable. In the past they swore to wipe out Israel and push every Jew into the sea, but now you hear none of that rhetoric because Israel has to send only one strategically placed cruise missile to the base of the Aswan dam and the land of Egypt is washed away within 24 hours! Because of all of this, Anwar Sadat made treaty with Israel in the 1978 Camp David Accords because he had 40 million people to feed and could not sustain a war with Israel. He, of course, paid for this with his life and was assassinated. It was suggested that these verses be typed up and sent as a report to the Soviet Union on the progress and benefits of the Aswan Dam!, Isaiah 19:11-13. Today, Egypt is a land of poverty, unrest and lawlessness, nothing like its former self, Isaiah 19:14-15. "Like Women," this is bad news in the context because Egypt, who had fierce and well-armed armies in the past would not have that now, Isaiah 19:16. There is a reason we send men into front line battles and it's not because men are tougher in a general sense (if men could have children, the mortality rate of men would go up exponentially!), but they are tougher in a battle sense. Men have many flaws: single minded, numb from the neck up on many subjects, but these flaws make them better suited for front line battle because they don't have the burden of thinking through an issue to weigh them down. Women, thankfully, are thinkers and feelers which makes them better suited for anything behind the frontlines. Egypt needed those who can fight like men, but they don't have that anymore. Modern Israel and the Battle of Yom Kippur brought sheer terror upon the Egyptians and Syrians even though they were vastly outnumbered, Isaiah 19:17. Ariel Sharon and his tank corps crossed over the Suez and encircled the entire Egyptian third army in that battle. "City of Destruction" with one vowel changed gives the City of Heliopolis or the city of the Sun, Isaiah 19:18. Things become very Millennial from here on. There is hope for this once powerful now impoverished land, Isaiah 19:19 and 20-25. Peace, but only when the Prince of Peace is present.
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- ✓ A strange thing to point out in the text that will not be obvious but needs mentioning. There is a strange relationship with these verses and the great pyramid of Giza. "Pillar" and "altar" are referring to same place because of Hebrew parallelism, Isaiah 19:19. Hebrew writers would state or describe something one way and then in another statement they describe it in another way but in parallel, and the reader is to understand that they are both true of what is being described. Here, the pillar and the altar are referred to singularly, again, this is the same thing referred to in two different ways, Isaiah 19:20. A great example of this is Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 which seem to describe two different creation accounts but they are in parallel describing the same event, and one augments the other. Much of this in the Psalms and Proverbs, see Proverbs 18:2-6.
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- ✓ How can there be a marker both on the border of Egypt and in the middle of it? Egypt has always been divided into upper and lower Egypt respectively and this was not just a regional but literal description of it. The Pharaohs wore a hat or headdress of two colors (red and white) that were each half of the hat and that represented the Pharaohs' title: King of upper and lower Egypt. The border of upper and lower Egypt was also the center of Egypt at the same time, guess what's right in the center of that border? The Great Pyramid of Giza. Honestly, the more you study the great pyramid the more mysterious it becomes, ancient Egyptians said it wasn't built by an Egyptian but rather a man or group of people from the Hyksos or the land of Mesopotamia who arrived and took over the country and built the pyramid (some believe it was Shem the son of Noah). The country was changed from polytheistic to monotheistic during this time period, and all the temples to the many gods were destroyed.
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"Isaiah Bible Study, Lesson 9, Isaiah 17-21"

- ✓ All other pyramids were built to be tombs, but not the Great Pyramid: no burial chamber in it, and is filled with corridors and passageways. This thing was built by someone with extreme intelligence: more aligned with true north than the Paris observatory (only 3 arc seconds of error whereas the Paris observatory has 6); 13 acres at its base and has temperature compensating joints at its corners; 6.5 million tons of stones some of which way 15 tons each and the accuracy of finished stones with joints of 1/50th of an inch; has passages through its interior that maintain an accuracy over 350 feet with a deviation of only ¼ inch; the 13 acre monument is level to within 1 inch; lined up exactly with the cardinal directions. It is a mathematical model of our solar system with the distance of the earth to the sun and the size of earth built into its design among other measurements in scale that are staggeringly accurate. The pyramid has its own system of measure called pyramid inches which is very close to our inch: 1.00106 inches. The pyramid is 5,449 pyramid inches which is super weird because the numerical value (gematria) of the verses 19 and 20 combined (when the numerical values of the letters are added together) is exactly that same number! 5,449 inches is also the length of the descending passage within it. Whoever built it had a profound grasp of astronomy and math, not to mention building skills. This is not to cause us to become pyramidions; some have fallen into this occultic view of the pyramid and have related it to the aliens. Many, including the Jehovah's witnesses, have built some of their predictions of the future off of the great pyramid (all of which have been proven false) so, be careful with delving too far. "If you torture the evidence long enough, it will confess," push on the wrong door long enough it might just open for you, be careful! Set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Jeremiah 32:17-20.
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Isaiah 20

- ✓ "Tartan" is a title meaning commander and chief, Isaiah 20:1-6. Be glad you are not a prophet!

Isaiah 21

- ✓ Prophecy about the fall of Babylon 100 years before Babylon was ever a country. He defines the Medes and Persians (Elam the name of Persia hadn't been invented yet) here who were the next great world rulers but not for another 200 years after this prophecy, Isaiah 21:1-3. Idiom of the tribulation is almost always referred to as a woman giving birth, same thread throughout all the prophets and the New Testament, Isaiah 21:3-4. Referring the incident of Daniel 5 where the king throws a party instead of defending Babylon and the hand writing on the wall comes and tells him he's done—again, this 100 years before the event, Isaiah 21:5. Jeremiah and Revelation 18 say the same thing "is fallen, is fallen," Isaiah 21:6-9. When Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon he did not destroy its idols; it was his style to worship the gods of the fallen peoples. Cyrus makes Babylon his headquarters as does Alexander the Great, neither destroying its idols.

We have to be careful not to confuse the destruction of Babylon with the fall of Babylon, two different things. It falls several times in the past, but is destroyed only once in the future, Revelation 17-19 are critical to understand for the end times. Another idiom of the end times, separation of wheat from chaff, Isaiah 21:10, Matthew 3:11-12; Psalm 1; and Ruth 3.
