

Ezekiel

Book Study

Chapters 31 & 32

Chapters 31 & 32: (NKJV) with notes

31 Now it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third *month*, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ² “Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude:

“Whom are you like in your greatness?

³ Indeed Assyria *was* a cedar in Lebanon,
With fine branches that shaded the forest,
And of high stature;
And its top was among the thick boughs.

⁴ The waters made it grow;
Underground waters gave it height,
With their rivers running around the place where it was planted,
And sent out rivulets to all the trees of the field.

⁵ “Therefore its height was exalted above all the trees of the field;
Its boughs were multiplied,
And its branches became long because of the abundance of water,
As it sent them out.

⁶ All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs;
Under its branches all the beasts of the field brought forth their young;
And in its shadow all great nations made their home.

- Great nation states, or empires in the Bible, are described as strong trees with the birds of the air resting within the branches.
- Daniel 4
- Matthew 13:31-32

⁷ “Thus it was beautiful in greatness and in the length of its branches,
Because its roots reached to abundant waters.

⁸ The cedars in the garden of God could not hide it;
The fir trees were not like its boughs,
And the chestnut trees were not like its branches;
No tree in the ***garden of God*** was like it in beauty.

- “Garden of God” a term only used in Ezekiel and Genesis. Ezekiel 28 referenced the Garden of God as the place where Lucifer was placed. This seems to be spiritual place in God’s realms.

⁹ *I made it beautiful with a multitude of branches,
So that all the trees of Eden envied it,
That were in the garden of God.'*

¹⁰ "Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Because you have increased in height, and it set its top among the thick boughs, and its heart was lifted up in its height, ¹¹ therefore I will deliver it into the hand of the mighty one of the nations, and he shall surely deal with it; I have driven it out for its wickedness. ¹² And aliens, ***the most terrible of the nations***, have cut it down and left it; its branches have fallen on the mountains and in all the valleys; its boughs lie broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the peoples of the earth have gone from under its shadow and left it.

- "Terrible of the nations" a phrase that brought many times by the Spirit in Ezekiel. The armies of empires would build and gain in strength as they conquered surrounding nations and took for themselves their best more fierce warriors. Nebuchadnezzar, had subdued and built his army with the most terrible soldiers of the nations. Wicked.

¹³ 'On its ruin will remain all the birds of the heavens,
And all the beasts of the field will come to its branches—

¹⁴ So that no trees by the waters may ever again exalt themselves for their height, nor set their tops among the thick boughs, that no tree which drinks water may ever be high enough to reach up to them.

'For they have all been delivered to death,
To the depths of the earth,
Among the children of men who go down to the Pit.'

- In Chapters 31 and 32 there is a very unique discourse about the leaders and their nations being sent and residing in the Pit. It is one of the few vivid descriptions of Sheol, or Hell, in the Bible. Other ancient literary works, like Homer, describe warriors or soldiers who died living there in similar fashion in the underworld.

¹⁵ "Thus says the Lord God: 'In the day when it went down to hell, I caused mourning. I covered the deep because of it. I restrained its rivers, and the great waters were held back. I caused Lebanon to mourn for it, and all the trees of the field wilted because of it. ¹⁶ I made the nations shake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to hell together with those who descend into the Pit; and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the depths of the earth. ¹⁷ They also went down to hell with it, with those slain by the sword; and *those who were its strong arm* dwelt in its shadows among the nations.

¹⁸ 'To which of the *trees in Eden* will you then be likened in glory and greatness? Yet you shall be brought down with the *trees of Eden* to the depths of the earth; you shall lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with *those* slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude,' says the Lord God."

- Jeremiah 9:25-26

- Ezekiel mentions the “trees of Eden” four times in three verses, as the original Garden of Eden was home of every tree that was good for food and pleasant to the sight. (see Gen 2:9– Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1279)
- Here Ezekiel presents an allegory of a large cedar tree representing the massive empire of Assyria, comparing it to Egypt’s greatness. Like Assyria; Egypt, Pharaoh, their princes, their alliances, and the general population will be cut down. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1279

Lamentation for Pharaoh and Egypt

32 And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him:

‘You are like a young lion among the nations,
And you *are* like a monster in the seas,
Bursting forth in your rivers,
Troubling the waters with your feet,
And fouling their rivers.

- Egypt and its Pharaoh had been feared like a lion on land and a crocodile in the water. The Egyptians were strong opponents on land and by sea until the Babylonians arrived and took possession of Egypt. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1280

³ Thus says the Lord God:

“I will therefore spread My net over you with a company of many people,
And they will draw you up in My net.

⁴ Then I will leave you on the land;
I will cast you out on the open fields,
And cause to settle on you all the birds of the heavens.
And with you I will fill the beasts of the whole earth.

⁵ I will lay your flesh on the mountains,
And fill the valleys with your carcass.

- The captivity of Egypt was similar to fish that fisherman catch in a great net and harvest. In this case, the net were the Babylonians. Fish caught in a net soon die because they are out of the water; Egypt would not survive the net. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1280

⁶ “I will also water the land with the flow of your blood,
Even to the mountains;
And the riverbeds will be full of you.

⁷ When *I* put out your light,
I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark;
I will cover the sun with a cloud,
And the moon shall not give her light.

⁸ All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you,

And bring darkness upon your land,”
Says the Lord God.

- Darkness that covers the land usually references the “day of the Lord” in the Old Testament. (see Isa 13:10, Joel 2:31, Amos 8:9) When the severity of God’s judgements brings darkness over the land. This judgment to Egypt is similar in nature, but also seems to refer to a spiritual darkness being set against them and not having light from heaven shining on them as well.

⁹ I will also trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring your destruction among the nations, into the countries which you have not known. ¹⁰ Yes, I will make many peoples astonished at you, and their kings shall be horribly afraid of you when I brandish My sword before them; and they shall tremble *every* moment, every man for his own life, in the day of your fall.

- The prophet describes in detail the outcome of the terrible results of the war and its impact upon the people and the nation, including the vexing feeling in the hearts of the surrounding nations. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1281

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: “The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon you. ¹² By the swords of the mighty warriors, all of them the most terrible of the nations, I will cause your multitude to fall.

“They shall plunder the pomp of Egypt,
And all its multitude shall be destroyed.

¹³ Also I will destroy all its animals
From beside its great waters;
The foot of man shall muddy them no more,
Nor shall the hooves of animals muddy them.

¹⁴ Then I will make their waters clear,
And make their rivers run like oil,”
Says the Lord God.

¹⁵ “When I make the land of Egypt desolate,
And the country is destitute of all that once filled it,
When I strike all who dwell in it,
Then they shall know that I *am* the Lord.

¹⁶ “This *is* the lamentation
With which they shall lament her;
The daughters of the nations shall lament her;
They shall lament for her, for Egypt,
And for all her multitude,”
Says the Lord God.’ ”

- A sorrow for Egypt came upon the nations of the empire, when they heard of her destruction.
-

Egypt and Others Consigned to the Pit

¹⁷ It came to pass also in the twelfth year, on the fifteenth *day* of the month, *that* the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

- Ezekiel penned his second funeral lamentation concerning Pharaoh about fourteen days after the previous vision. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1281

¹⁸ “Son of man, wail over the multitude of Egypt, And cast them down to the depths of the earth,

- This is a very interesting command of the Lord to Ezekiel, as a watchman called to tear down and pluck up, the Lord asks him to wail and mourn a Gentile nation. Then cast them down off the earth. The Lord does nothing without first revealing it to His prophets. (Amos 3:7) Ezekiel was taking the lamentation of the Lord before He enacted His judgment, God cares for all nations to be saved.

Her and the daughters of the famous nations,
With those who go down to the Pit:
¹⁹ ‘Whom do you surpass in beauty?
Go down, be placed with the uncircumcised.’

²⁰ “They shall fall in the midst of *those* slain by the sword;
She is delivered to the sword,
Drawing her and all her multitudes.

²¹ The strong among the mighty
Shall speak to him out of the midst of hell
With those who help him:
‘They have gone down,
They lie with the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.’

- Ezekiel laments the slain in battle, including Egypt and other nations that would also fall to the Babylonians, saying they will be brought down to the “*nether parts*” or the pit... The Hebrew word for *nether parts* is *tachtiy* and refers to the lowermost part of the depths; in this reference, it means the lowest part of hell itself. In the New Testament, the Greek word Peter uses for *hell* in 2 Peter 2:4 is *tartarus*, a word used to identify the lowest chamber of hell, where the worst fallen (angelic) being are confined.

Ezekiel says these uncircumcised nations would go into the “pit,” which is a word often used in the Old Testament to refer to the low chamber under the earth. The nations that Pharaoh and the Egyptians would join in hell were Assyria, and all her company, Elam and her multitude, and Meshech and Tubal along with their multitude; they all are “gone down to hell” and into the pit. Later, the prophet warns Edom and the Sidonians, who also end up slain and going down to the pit.

Ezekiel 32:21 reads, (KJV) “The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell with them that help him: they are gone down, they lie uncircumcised, slain by the sword.”

Some suggest this is a metaphor. However, in the New Testament account of the rich man

in hell and the beggar named Lazarus, the former wealthy estate owner carries on a conversation with Abraham from the nether parts of the earth. (see Luke 16:19-31) In Ezekiel's description, Pharaoh would eventually meet the very strong leaders of the nations, who would see him in hell and communicate with him. This only add to the facts of Luke 16, that although a soul and spirit of a person departs the body upon death, the soul and spirit have a form of all the senses that operate. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote p. 1280

²² “**Assyria** is there, and all her company,
With their graves all around her,
All of them slain, fallen by the sword.

²³ Her graves are set in the recesses of the Pit,
And her company is all around her grave,
All of them slain, fallen by the sword,
Who caused terror in the land of the living.

²⁴ “There is **Elam** and all her multitude,
All around her grave,
All of them slain, fallen by the sword,
Who have gone down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth,
Who caused their terror in the land of the living;
Now they bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit.

²⁵ They have set her bed in the midst of the slain,
With all her multitude,
With her graves all around it,
All of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword;
Though their terror was caused
In the land of the living,
Yet they bear their shame
With those who go down to the Pit;
It was put in the midst of the slain.

²⁶ “There are **Meshech and Tubal** and all their multitudes,
With all their graves around it,
All of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword,
Though they caused their terror in the land of the living.

²⁷ They do not lie with the mighty
Who are fallen of the uncircumcised,
Who have gone down to hell with their weapons of war;
They have laid their swords under their heads,
But their iniquities will be on their bones,
Because of the terror of the mighty in the land of the living.

²⁸ Yes, you shall be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised,
And lie with *those* slain by the sword.

²⁹ “There is **Edom**,
Her kings and all her princes,
Who despite their might

Are laid beside *those* slain by the sword;
They shall lie with the uncircumcised,
And with those who go down to the Pit.
³⁰ There *are* the princes of the north,
All of them, **and all the Sidonians,**
Who have gone down with the slain
In shame at the terror which they caused by their might;
They lie uncircumcised with *those* slain by the sword,
And bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit.

³¹ **“Pharaoh will see them
And be comforted over all his multitude,**
Pharaoh and all his army,
Slain by the sword,”
Says the Lord God.

³² “For I have caused ***My terror in the land of the living;***
And he shall be placed in the midst of the uncircumcised
With *those* slain by the sword,
Pharaoh and all his multitude,”
Says the Lord God.