

# Isaiah

## The Revelation within Isaiah

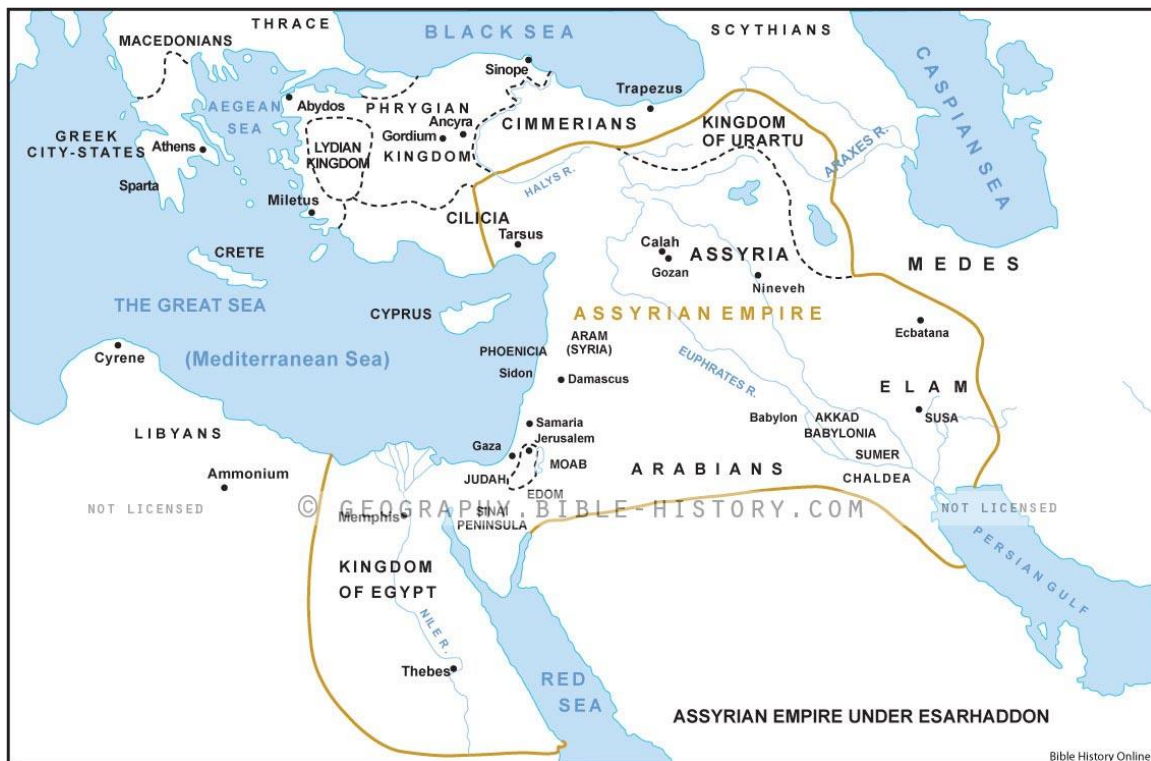
### Chapters 18, 19

As we continue in the “prophecies of countries” section in Isaiah. We arrive at two very different visions by Isaiah, one for a people and nation group still unknown to modern scholars in Chapter 18 and a power packed prophesy with one of Israel’s original adversary, Egypt, in Chapter 19.

In this section we have elaborated on the fact Isaiah is prophesying to each nation surrounding, or close to, the Kingdom of Judah. The Lord gives counsel and grave warnings to His people to not look to any other nation for an alliance against your enemies. But instead to rely and trust in the Lord God’s providence and protection. As always the Lord was after His people’s hearts.

Maps of the region in Isaiah’s day and currently today. In this lesson, Isaiah’s prophecies focus on the region to the kingdom of Judah’s south and west.

Ancient Map of Middle East in Isaiah’s Day:



Modern Day Map of Middle East:



**Read Isaiah Chapter 18 & 19, New King James Version:**

**Chapter 18 & 19: The Passion Translation:**

**A Prophecy regarding Cush**

**18** Ah, the land of whirring wings,  
that is beyond the rivers of Cush,  
<sup>2</sup> sending their messengers by the way of the Nile  
in papyrus vessels gliding on the water!  
Go, you swift messengers,  
to a tall, smooth-skinned people feared far and wide,

- to a mighty conquering nation whose land the rivers divide.
- <sup>3</sup> Everyone everywhere, all who dwell on the earth,  
when a signal flag is raised on the mountain, take notice!  
When the shofar is blown, listen!
- <sup>4</sup> Here is what the Lord Yahweh said to me:  
“I will rest calm and confident as I look from my dwelling place,  
serene as on a pleasant summer day  
or a cool, refreshing cloud in the heat of harvest.”
- <sup>5</sup> Before the harvest, when the bud is ripening  
and the flower finishes, he will take his pruning hooks  
and cut off the shoots and remove them.
- <sup>6</sup> They will all be left for the birds of prey on the mountains  
and for the wild animals *to devour*.  
Birds will eat them throughout the summer,  
and the animals will *gnaw on the bones of the fallen* all winter.
- <sup>7</sup> At that time, a tall, smooth-skinned people will bring gifts of tribute  
to the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies.  
They are a people feared far and wide,  
a mighty conquering nation whose land the rivers divide.  
They will bring their gifts to Mount Zion,  
the place of the name of the Lord Yahweh,  
Commander of Angel Armies.

## **A Prophecy concerning Egypt**

### **19** A prophecy concerning Egypt?

- Behold! The Lord Yahweh is riding on a swift-soaring cloud!  
He is on his way to Egypt!  
The god-idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence,  
and the hearts of the Egyptians will melt within them!
- <sup>2</sup> “I will stir up *civil strife*  
and cause the Egyptians to fight against one another—  
one against the other, neighbor against neighbor,  
city against city, kingdom against kingdom.
- <sup>3</sup> The spirit of the Egyptians will be in panic,  
and I will confuse their strategies.  
They will seek guidance from their idols  
and by the spirits of the dead  
and consult with mediums and wizards.
- <sup>4</sup> I will give over the Egyptians into the hands of a cruel master;  
a brutal king will rule over them,” says the sovereign God,

the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies.

- <sup>5</sup> The Nile delta will dry up  
and the riverbed will become parched and dry.
- <sup>6</sup> Its canals will become stagnant and stink with rotting reeds,  
and the streams of Egypt will dry up, from a trickle to nothing.
- <sup>7</sup> All that is planted by the mouth of the river will dry up,  
and the fields along the brooks will wither  
and turn to dust blown away by the wind.
- <sup>8</sup> Fishermen will mourn. All who cast a fishhook into the river  
and those who cast their nets will catch nothing.
- <sup>9</sup> Those who make clothing from combed flax will despair,  
and the weavers of linen will be distressed.
- <sup>10</sup> The pillars of Egypt's foundations will be shattered  
and every worker grieved.

### **The Wisdom of Egypt Is Foolishness to God**

- <sup>11</sup> The elite of Zoan are nothing but fools,  
and the wisest of Pharaoh's counselors gives foolish advice.  
How in the world can you say to Pharaoh,  
"I am a brilliant sage and a descendant of the ancient kings"?
- <sup>12</sup> Where, oh where, are all your sages?  
*If they're so wise*, let them discover and tell you  
what the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies,  
has planned for Egypt.
- <sup>13</sup> Zoan's elite have become utter fools;  
the nobles of Memphis are utterly deceived,  
and Egypt has been led astray by her tribal chiefs.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord Yahweh has mixed up their minds  
and poured into them a distorted spirit  
that will make Egypt dizzy and act like a drunk  
who staggers around in his own vomit.
- <sup>15</sup> There is nothing anyone in Egypt can do—  
neither head nor tail, nor anyone of high or low position.
- <sup>16</sup> In that day, the Egyptians will become like women who tremble in fear because the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, shakes his fist at them. <sup>17</sup> The land of Judah will become the dread of the Egyptians. They will quake whenever anybody even mentions it to them, because of what the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, has in store for them!

## **Divine Grace for Egypt**

<sup>18</sup> In that day, there will be five Egyptian cities that speak the language of Canaan and swear their allegiance to the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, and one will be called the City of the Sun.

<sup>19</sup> In that day, there will be an altar to the Lord Yahweh in the middle of Egypt and a sacred monument to honor him on its border. <sup>20</sup> It will be a sign and a visible reminder in the land of Egypt of the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies. And they will cry out to him when they are oppressed, he will send a mighty deliverer and champion to their rescue!

<sup>21</sup> The Lord Yahweh will reveal to them who he really is, and the Egyptians will know him *intimately*. They will worship him with sacrifices and burnt offerings. They will make vows to the Lord Yahweh, and they will keep them.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord Yahweh will wound the Egyptians, but *when they turn back to him*, he will heal them. Yes, the Lord Yahweh will listen to their hearts' cry, and he will heal and restore them.

<sup>23</sup> In that day there will be a highway all the way from Egypt to Assyria. *Like long-lost brothers*, the Egyptians and the Assyrians will be joined together and they will worship and serve the Lord Yahweh! And in that day, Israel will become the third partner with Egypt and Assyria as a blessing to all the earth. For the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt, my people! Blessed be Assyria, my handiwork! And blessed be Israel, my inheritance!"

## **Notes on Chapters 18 and 19:**

**18** Woe to the land shadowed with *buzzing wings*, ( or "locusts")

Which is beyond the rivers of **Ethiopia**,

- The Hebrew word *kuwsh* (Ethiopia, or modern-day Sudan) means "burned" or "darkened." -The Passion Translation, footnotes

<sup>2</sup> Which sends ambassadors by sea,  
Even in vessels of reed on the waters, *saying*,  
"Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth *of skin*,  
To a people terrible from their beginning onward,  
A nation powerful and treading down,  
Whose land the rivers divide."

<sup>3</sup> All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth:  
When he lifts up a banner on the mountains, you see *it*;  
And when he blows a trumpet, you hear *it*.

<sup>4</sup> For so the Lord said to me,

“I will take My rest,  
And I will look from My dwelling place  
Like clear heat in sunshine,  
Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.”

<sup>5</sup> For before the harvest, when the bud is perfect  
And the sour grape is ripening in the flower,  
He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks  
And take away *and* cut down the branches.

<sup>6</sup> They will be left together for the mountain *birds of prey*  
And for the *beasts of the earth*;  
The *birds of prey* will summer on them,  
And all the beasts of the earth will winter on them.

-Scripture often mention birds of prey and wild animals as symbols of demonic powers. - The Passion Translation, footnotes

<sup>7</sup> In that time a present will be brought to the Lord of hosts  
From a people tall and smooth *of skin*,  
And from a people terrible from their beginning onward,  
A nation powerful and treading down,  
Whose land the rivers divide—  
To the place of the name of the Lord of hosts,  
To Mount Zion.

- Some prophetic teachers contend that the land beyond Ethiopia in verse 1 cryptically refers to America. They point out that the nation of Isaiah’s vision was a land “shadowing with wings”, or literally a land with buzzing wings (v.1), which those who subscribe to this theory believe alludes to America’s national symbol (the eagle) and to the military and governmental emblems of winged eagles. The prophesied nation sends “ambassadors by the sea” (v.2). Certainly the United States, along with many other countries, commissions ambassadors who travel the oceans to other nations. The nation that Isaiah saw in his vision was “scattered and peeled” (v.2,7). The Hebrew word for scattered means “to stretch” or “to be tall”. The word for peeled in Hebrew alludes to being “smooth or bright”. Therefore, Isaiah see a people who are smooth-skinned and of light complexion. Those in Northern Africa, such as Ethiopia, are dark-skinned; therefore this nation must be outside of Africa, as the prophet writes it is beyond the land of Ethiopia.

Isaiah continued to explain that this nation is “meted out and trodden down”. A literal translation would be “mighty and conquering”. Other Bible translations read:

“A people dreaded near and far that conquers and treads down...” (Berkeley translation)

“A terror far and near; a sturdy race of conquerors...” (Moffat translation)

“Terrible from the beginning onwards, a nation mighty...” (Rotherham Translation)

Since this nation is located “beyond” Ethiopia and is well watered by rivers, it is uncertain which nation the prophet would be referring to in his day. If one continues to read, a warning is given to this nation (v.4-6)...

Modern Bible interpreters, after examining this entire passage, are still uncertain of whom Isaiah was speaking about in this prophecy. It would be taking needless space to spend time trying to prove this is a reference to the United States. Any attempt to “prove” this refers to America would simply be speculation. – The Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, p. 1057

## **Proclamation Against Egypt**

### **19** The *burden* against Egypt.

- In Isaiah, the prophet uses the word *mas'a*, the Hebrew word for *burden* (or an oracle) thirteen of the sixteen times. This word does not mean a load one carries but indicates coming disasters or calamities.

Behold, ***the Lord rides on a swift cloud,***  
And will come into Egypt;  
The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence,  
And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.

- The motif here of “the Lord riding on the clouds” is eschatological in nature and a phrase to signify the Messiah. Jesus himself even uses it when questioned by the High Priest before His crucifixion.

“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!...” Daniel 7:13

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him...” Revelation 1:7

“Jesus said to him, “*It is as you said.* Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the

Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”  
Matthew 26:64

This phrase in Isaiah 19 indicates this prophecy is looking to a probable end-time fulfillment. Another end-time clue we receive is the phrase later in chapter 19 of “in that day”.

When God’s presence comes upon Egypt at this time, it is to totter and fall all the spiritual gods and powers over her one last time. God already did this once in the Exodus of His people.

<sup>2</sup> “I will set Egyptians against Egyptians;  
Everyone will fight against his brother,  
And everyone against his neighbor,  
City against city, kingdom against kingdom.  
<sup>3</sup> The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst;  
I will destroy their counsel,  
And they will consult the idols and the charmers,  
The mediums and the sorcerers.  
<sup>4</sup> And the Egyptians I will give  
Into the hand of a cruel master,  
And a ***fierce king will rule over them,***”  
Says the Lord, the Lord of hosts.

- This is the “woe” section of Isaiah 19, verses 2-17 reveal the calamity and destruction of Egypt internally. Civil strife and war cause the Egyptians to turn to divinations and demonic counsel which in turn lead into the hands of a cruel master of bondage. Many believe this master is the coming antichrist man and his kingdom in the Middle East.

<sup>5</sup> The waters will fail from the sea,  
And the river will be wasted and dried up.  
<sup>6</sup> The rivers will turn foul;  
The brooks of defense will be emptied and dried up;  
The reeds and rushes will wither.  
<sup>7</sup> The papyrus reeds by the River, by the mouth of the River,  
And everything sown by the River,  
Will wither, be driven away, and be no more.  
<sup>8</sup> The fishermen also will mourn;  
All those will lament who cast hooks into the River,  
And they will languish who spread nets on the waters.

- The river referenced here is the mighty Nile River. This isn’t the only time God prophesies the Nile River drying up. See Ezek 30:12-13, Zech 10:10-11, Isa 11:15-16, Ezek 29:3



- A source of major conflict in modern day Egypt is the construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam upon the Blue Nile tributary in Ethiopia. The completion of the dam is feared by the Egyptians to cause massive drops in the Nile River levels and possible ramifications of being cutoff of 80% of the Nile River's water if future tensions arise.

- Some scholars note that according to the histories of Herodotus, this may have actually happened in some level within Egypt.

"as it follows. "Tremellius," says Lowth, "shows out of Herodotus, that this was literally fulfilled under the government of the twelve petty tyrants who ruled Egypt after Sethon." -Benson Commentary, Isaiah 19

**9** Moreover those who work in fine flax  
And those who weave fine fabric will be ashamed;  
**10** And its foundations will be broken.  
All who make wages *will be* troubled of soul.

**11** Surely the princes of Zoan *are* fools;  
Pharaoh's wise counselors give foolish counsel.  
How do you say to Pharaoh, "I *am* the son of the wise,  
The son of ancient kings?"

**12** Where *are* they?  
Where are your wise men?  
Let them tell you now,  
And let them know what the Lord of hosts has purposed against Egypt.

**13** The princes of Zoan have become fools;  
The princes of Noph are deceived;  
They have also deluded Egypt,  
*Those who are* the mainstay of its tribes.

**14** The Lord has mingled a ***perverse spirit*** in her midst;  
And they have caused Egypt to err in all her work,  
As a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

- This is the Bible's only reference to a "perverse spirit". A perverse spirit is a spirit of perversion; and this spirit will be mingled among the leaders. A spirit of perversion is someone whose ethics and morals have fallen so low that no type of sin, iniquity, or moral perversion is wrong, and they live a life of no restraint. This leads to a reprobate mind of total spirit and moral darkness. (see Rom 1:28-32) – The Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, p. 1058

**15** Neither will there be *any* work for Egypt,  
Which the *head or tail*, (-The head represents leaders; the tail, lying prophets. See Isa. [9:14-15](#).)  
Palm branch or bulrush, may do.

**16** In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the ***hand*** of the Lord of hosts, which He waves over it.

- Or "fist." The hand with its five fingers can be a metaphor for the five-fold ministry (Eph. [4:11](#)). -The Passion Translation, footnotes

<sup>17</sup> And the land of Judah will be a terror to Egypt; everyone who makes mention of it will be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts which He has determined against it.

### **Egypt, Assyria, and Israel Blessed**

<sup>18</sup> In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the Lord of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.

- Most Hebrew manuscripts have "the City of Destruction," but the Dead Sea scroll 1QIsaa and a few medieval Hebrew manuscripts, along with the Targum and Vulgate, have "the City of the Sun (Hierapolis)." The other four Egyptian cities could be Leontopolis, Daphne, Migdol, and Memphis. – The Passion Translation, footnotes
- ...the "city of the sun" was called Heliopolis. ('heli': sun; 'polis': city) The interesting thing is that 150 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea there were five cities in Egypt that had more Jews than Egyptians and where Hebrew was the official language of the city. One of them was Alexandria, where the Old Testament was first translated into Greek. One of those five cities was Heliopolis. Bear in mind that between Isaiah 19:18 and the events which fulfilled them to the letter there was a period of at least 550years..." – Pawson, Come With Me Through Isaiah, p 98
- The main language of Egypt is presently Egyptian Arabic. Because Israel possessed Canaan, the chief language there is Hebrew. The five cities are not named, except for one named the "city of destruction". Some suggest that four of the five may be: Tahpanhes, Noph, Migdol, and Pathros, based on Jeremiah 44:1 as Jews were living there. However, this passage in Isaiah uses the term "in that day" and reveals the five cities will "swear to the Lord" or will wholly follow the Lord, which was not the case in ancient times when Jews were living among the pagans of Egypt in the time of Jeremiah. Others believe this will be fulfilled in the millennial reign, when the Egyptians turn to the Lord and Jews will have access to Egypt. – The Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, p. 1059

<sup>19</sup> In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. <sup>20</sup> And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the Lord because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. <sup>21</sup> Then the Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, **they will make a vow to the Lord and perform it.**

- In response to the plagues (Ex. 7–10), Pharaoh promised to let the children of Israel go but then took back that promise. Isaiah proclaims that this spirit of broken promises will be broken off Egypt. – The Passion Translation, footnotes

**22** And the Lord will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal *it*; they will return to the Lord, and He will be entreated by them and heal them.

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

**24** In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, **25** whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.”

- “This is the first time God ever says of Egypt and Assyria ‘my’, together with His own people Israel.” – Pawson, Come With Me Through Isaiah, p 99

### **End Time Prophecy: Isaiah 19**

Many of the things spoken about in Isaiah 19 are reiterated in Ezekiel 29. And many of those have been fulfilled but not in its entirety leading us to believe much of Isaiah 19 is still to be done in the future.

Isaiah 19 begins with the Lord “coming on the clouds”, a very end-time type motif, and at the end of the chapter we find the phrase, “in that day” six times. Referencing back to the day the Lord came riding on the clouds would allude to the day of the Lord, day of judgment. When we look at all the “in that day” prophecies we see the goodness and severity of the Lord.

- v.16 *In that day* Egypt will be like afraid fearful women. Because of the fist of God.
- v.18 *In that day* five cities shall speak the language of Canaan and swear by the Lord of hosts.
- v. 19 *In that day* there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land and a pillar at its border.
- v.21 *In that day* the Lord will be known to Egypt and Egyptians will know the Lord.
- v. 22 *In that day* there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, for the people to worship
- v.24 *In that day* Israel will be the third of the three, Egypt Assyria and Israel, a blessing in the midst of the land.

The amazement of the prophecy, even in today's world, is the obvious hatred of the region between one another between these three entities. These people groups have coexisted but never been one relational network. The symbolic entities of Egypt and Assyria also take this prophecy further as Egypt was the first spiritual master and oppressor of God's children of Israel. Assyria/Babylon represent the last and the future antichrist kingdom with "the Assyrian". But yet here Egypt is no longer under the control of it's ancient princes and idols, but wholly serving the Lord. This is why many see Isaiah 19 as not yet been fulfilled totally. And it's hard to imagine it coming to pass without the King Jesus ushering in His Millennial reign. The question arises, wouldn't all the cities in Egypt worship the Lord then? Not just five?

Another aspect to the story is the Lord's definition of the land He allotted to Abraham and his descendants was from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates in the first place.

"On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying:

"To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—" Genesis 15:18

Currently most of Abraham's descendants do occupy this territory. Many Arab nations of modern times are descendants of Abraham, but not descendants of Isaac who received the blessing of Israel. So Isaiah 19 opens up the amazing heart of God to show he loves all Abraham's descendants, even to the entire world. They are His handiwork, His people, His inheritance. The blessing of Abraham, through Jesus, is for them all.

For more information on Isaiah 19, go to our ATC Lesson in our Kingdom 3 class.

**["A Brief Overview of Isaiah 19 – Lauren Caldwell"](#)**

**<http://thegardenstc.org/k3>**

Ask us for the password and jump in for more study on the Highway currently healing nations of the people in modern day, Assyria, Egypt and Israel.