

Mid-East Prophecy Update – December 2nd, 2012

- For today's prophecy update, we'll be picking it up from where we left off last week with the prophecy found in Isaiah 19 concerning Egypt.
- The reason being is that in concert with the first four verses coming to pass in real time, the next 11 verses are beginning to come to pass.
- Let me hasten to say, while our focus is chiefly on the happenings in Egypt, the geopolitical backdrop all over the Middle East is quite busy.

- This last week came packaged with UN's recognition of a Palestinian State, and an ever-worsening situation in Syria, which is Isaiah 17.
- Last week also brought with it the continuing economic predicament here at home in the U.S. with what's been dubbed "The Fiscal Cliff."
- Then to make matters even worse, Iran has seemingly diverted the attention of the world moving speedily towards their nuclear capability.

- Be that as it may, I'll have you turn to Isaiah 19, where we'll quickly revisit verses one through four, then look at verses five through fifteen.
- In verses one and two, we're told of an uprising that will come in the form of a civil war. I believe this began back in January of last year.
- In verses three and four we're told how that a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule Egypt. I believe this began when Mursi was elected.

- This brings us to verses five through ten, which tell us Egypt, will become even more oppressed, and impoverished than they already are.

Isaiah 19:5-10 (5) The waters of the river will dry up, and the riverbed will be parched and dry. **(6)** The canals will stink; the streams of Egypt will dwindle and dry up. The reeds and rushes will wither, **(7)** also the plants along the Nile, at the mouth of the river. Every sown field along the Nile will become parched, will blow away and be no more. **(8)** The fishermen will groan and lament, all who cast hooks into the Nile; those who throw nets on the water will pine away. **(9)** Those who work with combed flax will despair, the weavers of fine linen will lose hope. **(10)** The workers in cloth will be dejected, and all the wage earners will be sick at heart.

Back on October 7th Al Jazeera posted a news article with the headline reading, "Nile's drying waterways stall Egypt's growth," which read, "Stagnant canals are quickly turning into rubbish dumps." - For more than a century, a network of canals in Egypt has brought water from the river Nile to surrounding agricultural land. But now farmers are accusing the Ministry of Irrigation of diverting water to new neighborhoods, leaving them with stagnant canals that are quickly turning into rubbish dumps. On the outskirts of Cairo, the village of Abu Sir is suffering severe water shortages, making it hard for farmers to cultivate their crops while contributing to public health problems.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/10/201210711481252359.html>

- Then in verses eleven through fifteen, we're told how Egypt will be led astray by corruption and deception at the hand of this cruel master.

Isaiah 19:11-15 (11) The officials of Zoan are nothing but fools; the wise counselors of Pharaoh give senseless advice. How can you say to Pharaoh, "I am one of the wise men, a disciple of the ancient kings"? **(12)** Where are your wise men now? Let them show you and make known what the LORD Almighty has planned against Egypt. **(13)** The officials of Zoan have become fools, the leaders of Memphis are deceived; the cornerstones of her peoples have led Egypt astray. **(14)** The LORD has poured into them a spirit of dizziness; they make Egypt stagger in all that she does, as a drunkard staggers around in his vomit. **(15)** There is nothing Egypt can do— head or tail, palm branch or reed.

On Friday, November 23rd, Reuters News published an article with the headline, "Egypt's Mursi called "pharaoh" for seizing new powers." Here are a couple of excerpts, "Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi's decree exempting all his decisions from legal challenge until a new parliament was elected caused fury amongst his opponents on Friday who accused him of being the new Hosni Mubarak and hijacking the revolution. ... Leading liberal politician Mohamed ElBaradei, who joined other politicians on Thursday night to demand the decree was withdrawn, wrote on his Twitter account that Mursi had "usurped all state powers and appointed himself Egypt's new pharaoh".

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/23/egypt-president-idUSL5E8MN5ET20121123>

- Having said that, I think I'd be grossly remiss were I not to tell you the rest of the story for the Egyptian people, as they're saved in the end.

5. Egypt will be in fear of Israel because of the God of Israel (Isaiah 19:16-17)

6. Egypt will be delivered and come to salvation in the God of Israel (Isaiah 19:18-25) (It's thought that this is fulfilled in the Millennium.)

- I find it interesting that it takes the oppressive bondage under the hand of a cruel dictator to bring them to the place where they fear God.
- The Proverbs tell us that to fear the Lord is to hate evil and the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, in that it brings one to salvation.
- So too is this true for me and you by virtue of the bondage of sin propels us to call upon the savior in our fear of the Lord and hatred of evil.

- For those who've never called upon the name of the Lord, I'd like to share the gospel with you by way of what's called, The Roman Road.

1. There is none righteous, not even one (Romans 3:10)
2. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
3. Through one man, (Adam), sin entered the world separating us from God (Romans 5:12)
4. The judgment and wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life (Romans 6:23)
5. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)
6. If man will seek God, confess his sins, and believe in his heart, he will be saved (Romans 10:9-10)
7. All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13)