

# ISAIAH 18, 19, & 20

APRIL 19, 2023



ISAIAH 18:1-2 NKJV

WOE TO THE LAND SHADOWED WITH BUZZING WINGS, WHICH IS BEYOND THE RIVERS OF ETHIOPIA, [2] 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."



- Ethiopia (Cush) —> southern Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Sudan
- Apparently are sending envoys to Judah
  - Papyrus boats are swift and fast
  - Sea instead of land gives the idea of haste
  - Most commentators believe this was to propose an alliance against Assyria
- Go back to your land (of tall, smooth skinned people) who are terrible and aggressive



## ISAIAH 18:3-5 NKJV

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. [4] 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." [5] 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.



## ISAIAH 18:6-7 NKJV

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. [7] 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.



- Judah does not need alliance because the Lord Himself would act against Assyria at the appropriate time. (Cf. 10:12, 10:25)
  - When God acts it will be unescapable (i.e. heat or dew)
  - God will act at the right time (like pruning suckers from a grape vine)
- The carnage will be great (the birds and beasts will devour the carcasses)
- After God's victory all the heathen nations will pay tribute and worship at Zion (millennial implications)



ISAIAH 19:1-4 NKJV

THE BURDEN AGAINST EGYPT. 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. [2] "I WILL SET EGYPTIANS AGAINST EGYPTIANS; EVERYONE WILL FIGHT AGAINST HIS BROTHER, AND EVERYONE AGAINST HIS NEIGHBOR, CITY AGAINST CITY, KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM. [3] 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. [4] 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.



- There were probably many in Israel urging for alliances with anyone they thought might help them stave off the Assyrians
  - Ethiopia would not save them
  - Nor would Egypt because Assyria was God's instrument of judgment against Israel
  - Yet they too would be judged when God was ready
- Notice that Egypt too would experience helplessness when God's hand was against them (resistance is futile)
  - Civil war
  - Civil upheaval



## ISAIAH 19:5-10 NKJV

THE WATERS WILL FAIL FROM THE SEA, AND THE RIVER WILL BE WASTED AND DRIED UP. [6] THE RIVERS WILL TURN FOUL; THE BROOKS OF DEFENSE WILL BE EMPTIED AND DRIED UP; THE REEDS AND RUSHES WILL WITHER. [7] 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. [8] 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. [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.



ISAIAH 19:11-15 NKJV

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. [15] NEITHER WILL THERE BE ANY WORK FOR EGYPT, WHICH THE HEAD OR TAIL, PALM BRANCH OR BULRUSH, MAY DO.



- God's judgment upon Egypt would not only be in the military realm (Noph in Hebrew= what we know as Memphis)
  - They would experience drought and pestilence
  - All of which would be catastrophic to their economy
- Their counselors will give foolish advice
- Then they will consult foolish idols who are no gods at all
  - They should, if they know their own history, already know how this ends
  - Yet God will bring delusion on their pagan, prideful hearts to fall again



ISAIAH 19:16-18 NKJV

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. [17] 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. [18] 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.



ISAIAH 19:19-25 NKJV

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. [20] 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. [21] 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. [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."



- As is common through Isaiah, prophecies seem to go from imminent to millennial fulfillments
- These verses seem to refer to the millennial
  - Judah will control Egypt
  - Egypt will fear Judah and their God, Jehovah
  - Worshipping their God and learning the language of the Hebrews
    - Five cities speaking Canaan
    - City of Destruction (some translate as city of Sun)
      - This would refer to Heliopolis
      - Major city in Egyptian economy (Nile Delta)



- (Vv 19-25) Speaks of a time when peace is achieved (future fulfillment in the millennial kingdom) Egypt, Assyria, and Israel (the Promised Land)
- The world will worship the Lord someday (future) yet the Christian church is present in Egypt today (although the majority Egypt are muslim)
- Great highways will allow for all to come to Israel



## ISAIAH 20:1-6 NKJV

IN THE YEAR THAT TARTAN CAME TO ASHDOD, WHEN SARGON THE KING OF ASSYRIA SENT HIM, AND HE FOUGHT AGAINST ASHDOD AND TOOK IT, [2] AT THE SAME TIME THE LORD SPOKE BY ISAIAH THE SON OF AMOZ, SAYING, "GO, AND REMOVE THE SACKCLOTH FROM YOUR BODY, AND TAKE YOUR SANDALS OFF YOUR FEET." AND HE DID SO, WALKING NAKED AND BAREFOOT. [3] THEN THE LORD SAID, "JUST AS MY SERVANT ISAIAH HAS WALKED NAKED AND BAREFOOT THREE YEARS FOR A SIGN AND A WONDER AGAINST EGYPT AND ETHIOPIA, [4] SO SHALL THE KING OF ASSYRIA LEAD AWAY THE EGYPTIANS AS PRISONERS AND THE ETHIOPIANS AS CAPTIVES, YOUNG AND OLD, NAKED AND BAREFOOT, WITH THEIR BUTTOCKS UNCOVERED, TO THE SHAME OF EGYPT. [5] THEN THEY SHALL BE AFRAID AND ASHAMED OF ETHIOPIA THEIR EXPECTATION AND EGYPT THEIR GLORY. [6] AND THE INHABITANT OF THIS TERRITORY WILL SAY IN THAT DAY, 'SURELY SUCH IS OUR EXPECTATION, WHEREVER WE FLEE FOR HELP TO BE DELIVERED FROM THE KING OF ASSYRIA; AND HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?'"



- In three years judgment would commence
- In the meantime, Isaiah would be an object lesson to Israel as to what would happen to Egypt and Assyria
- They would be led away barefoot and naked



# APPLICATION

- Trust in the Lord!
- The world will fail you!
- Governments will fail you!
- People will fail you!
- But the Lord Jesus Christ never fails!!!