

Small Group Guide: Ezekiel 29-32; God's Judgment on Egypt and Pride



Summary:

In this exploration of Ezekiel's prophecies against Egypt, we're reminded of the dangers of pride and the sovereignty of God. The central message revolves around God's judgment on Egypt and its Pharaoh for their arrogance and self-deification. We see how even the mightiest nations can fall when they exalt themselves above God. The vivid imagery of Egypt as a great tree being cut down echoes the fall of Assyria, serving as a stark warning to all who place their trust in earthly power rather than in God. As we reflect on this, we're challenged to examine our own hearts. Where do we place our confidence? In our own strength, or in God's unfailing power? This message calls us to humble ourselves before the Lord, recognizing that true security comes not from our own achievements, but from a right relationship with our Creator.

Key Takeaways:

1. God used Babylon as a tool of judgment against Egypt and other nations.
2. Egypt's pride, particularly Pharaoh viewing himself as a god, led to their downfall.
3. Nations that relied on their own strength rather than God were judged.
4. There's a parallel between God's judgment on Egypt and His judgment on other nations, including Israel.
5. The importance of humbling oneself before God rather than living in pride and self-reliance.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon discusses Egypt's pride and how it led to their judgment. Can you think of examples in your own life where pride has led to negative consequences?
2. God used Babylon as a tool for judgment. How do you see God using circumstances or even difficult people in your life to shape and refine you?
3. The sermon mentions the concept of "uncircumcised attitudes" - living in the flesh rather than submitting to God. What does this look like in modern life? How can we guard against this?
4. Egypt was once a powerful nation but fell due to pride. How can this serve as a warning for nations, organizations, or individuals today?
5. The sermon draws parallels between God's judgment on Egypt and other nations. How does this demonstrate God's consistency and fairness?
6. How does the fall of Egypt and other powerful nations demonstrate the futility of trusting in worldly power rather than in God?
7. The sermon mentions "circumcision of the heart" as described by Paul. What do you think this means practically in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice identifying moments of pride in your life. When you notice them, consciously humble yourself before God.
2. Reflect on areas where you might be relying on your own strength rather than God's. Make a plan to surrender these areas to Him.
3. Look for ways God might be using challenging circumstances or people in your life to refine your character. Journal about what you observe.
4. Choose a verse about humility (e.g., James 4:10, Proverbs 11:2) to memorize and meditate on this week.
5. In your prayer time, focus on praising God for His sovereignty and power, acknowledging your dependence on Him.

Closing Prayer

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: The Danger of Pride

Reading: Ezekiel 29:1-9

Devotional: Pride is a subtle yet dangerous sin that can creep into our hearts, much like it did with Pharaoh of Egypt. He saw himself as a god, claiming ownership over what God had created. How often do we fall into this same trap, thinking our accomplishments, talents, or possessions are solely our own doing? Today, reflect on areas in your life where pride might be taking root. Ask God to help you cultivate a humble heart that acknowledges Him as the source of all good things. Remember, true greatness comes from serving God and others, not exalting ourselves.

Day 2: God's Sovereignty in Judgment

Reading: Ezekiel 30:1-19

Devotional: God's judgment can seem harsh, but it's important to remember that He is ultimately just and sovereign. In this passage, we see God using Babylon as an instrument of judgment against Egypt and its allies. While this may be difficult to understand, it reminds us that God is in control of history and nations. How does knowing God is sovereign impact your faith, especially during challenging times? Take time to surrender your fears and concerns to God, trusting in His perfect plan and timing for your life and the world around you.

Day 3: The Fall of the Mighty

Reading: Ezekiel 31:1-18

Devotional: The metaphor of Assyria as a mighty cedar tree serves as a powerful reminder that even the greatest earthly powers are subject to God's will. No matter how impressive or invincible something may seem, nothing can stand against God's purposes. This should both humble us and give us hope. Reflect on the temporary nature of worldly success and power. How can you invest more in eternal things that truly matter to God? Consider ways you can use your influence, no matter how small, to further God's kingdom rather than your own.

Day 4: The Consequences of Rejecting God

Reading: Ezekiel 32:1-16

Devotional: The vivid imagery of Egypt's downfall illustrates the serious consequences of rejecting God and trusting in false idols. While we may not worship literal idols today, we often place our trust in things other than God – money, status, relationships, or our own abilities. What "idols" might you be tempted to rely on instead of fully trusting God? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you've been seeking security or significance apart from God. Recommit to making God your ultimate source of hope and strength.

Day 5: God's Invitation to Repentance

Reading: Ezekiel 33:10-20

Devotional: Despite the heavy judgments pronounced against Egypt and other nations, God's heart is always for repentance and restoration. This passage reminds us that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but desires that they turn from their ways and live. This is a powerful testament to God's mercy and grace. No matter how far we've strayed, God always offers a path back to Him. Is there any area of your life where you need to turn back to God? Take time to confess any sins, receive God's forgiveness, and ask for His help to walk in obedience. Thank Him for His unfailing love and the opportunity for a fresh start each day.