



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

When God Calls Our Enemies "My People"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Isaiah 19:16-25; 30:1-3; Gen. 12:3; Hos. 6:1-3; John 3:16

When you look across Isaiah 19, you see something that reveals the very *heart of God*. By the time you reach the end of the chapter, what begins as judgment unfolds into mercy, what begins as shaking turns into healing, and what begins in fear ends in worship. It's one of the clearest pictures in all of Scripture that our God disciplines not to destroy but to *restore*.

God is showing His people—and even their enemies—that His goal has always been redemption. Israel was running to Egypt for help, seeking refuge from Assyria, but the Lord was saying, "No, I'm your refuge." And in the middle of judgment, He reveals a plan that no one could have imagined: not only is He going to save Israel, but He's also going to redeem Egypt and Assyria—their *enemies*!

1. WHEN GOD RAISES HIS HAND, IT'S TO AWAKEN, NOT TO CRUSH (19:16-17)

The passage opens with "*In that day, Egypt will tremble at the shaking hand of Adonai.*" God's raised hand looks terrifying, and Egypt is paralyzed with fear. But the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. His upraised hand isn't a symbol of hatred—it's an invitation to humility.

When God shakes the nations—or our lives—it isn't to destroy us; it's to awaken us. Egypt's fear will bring them to the end of their pride so they can finally see who He really is. And sometimes, that's exactly what He does with us. When He shakes what we've leaned on—our comfort, our resources, our plans—it's mercy in motion. He's saying, "Stop running to Egypt. Come back to Me."

2. GOD'S PLAN WAS NEVER JUST TO SAVE US BUT TO REACH THEM (19:18-22)

Then Isaiah says, "*In that day five cities in Egypt will speak the language of Canaan.*" Imagine that! Egypt—the very nation that enslaved Israel—now speaking the language of God's people and building an altar to Adonai right in the heart of their land. The oppressors become worshipers. The former enemies become brothers and sisters in covenant.

God promises that Egypt will cry out to Him in their oppression, and He will send them *a Savior and Defender*. That's the Hebrew word *moshia*—the same root for *Mashiach*, Messiah. The same God who delivered Israel from Egypt will one day deliver Egypt from sin and bondage. His heart has always been for the nations. Even those we think are too far gone or too opposed—He says, "They're Mine too."

This is what grace looks like on a global scale. The One who once struck Egypt now stretches out His hand to heal her. "*He will strike and heal; they will return to Adonai, and He will respond and heal them.*" His purpose has always been restoration.

3. A HIGHWAY OF WORSHIP WHERE THERE USED TO BE WALLS (19:23-25)

Then comes one of the most breathtaking prophecies in all the Bible: *“In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria, and they will worship together.”*

Do you see what He’s doing? The Lord is tearing down every wall that divides nations, cultures, and histories of hatred. He’s building a raised highway—a way of access—for enemies to worship together. And right in the middle stands Israel, no longer running from one oppressor to another, but standing as a *blessing in the midst of the earth*.

And then comes the climax: *“Blessed be Egypt My people, Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.”* The same language He once used only for Israel, He now speaks over the nations. That’s the gospel right here in Isaiah 19—the God who turns oppressors into family and enemies into worshipers.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 19 ends with a vision so big it takes your breath away—former enemies reconciled, former slaves standing in the center of blessing, nations worshiping the same God together. This is God’s heart. This is what He’s doing in our world, even when we can’t see it. Maybe today, the Lord has raised His hand in your life. Maybe He’s shaking what you’ve trusted in—not to punish you, but to wake you up. Maybe there are people or places you’ve written off as hopeless, but God hasn’t. He’s still building highways of grace, even through broken ground.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think people—including believers—often run back to their “Egypt” when life gets difficult?
2. How does God’s raised hand bring both fear and mercy at the same time?
3. What does it reveal about God’s heart that He calls Egypt “My people” and Assyria “the work of My hands”?
4. How can you personally become part of the “highway of worship” that connects people who were once divided?
5. What might it look like for you to trust God’s shaking as a step toward healing rather than judgment?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, we thank You for Your mercy that reaches farther than our understanding. You strike not to destroy but to heal. You shake us so that everything false will fall away and only Your truth will remain. Teach us to stop running to the Egypts of this world and to find our refuge in You alone. Lord, give us Your heart for the nations—Your heart for our enemies, for the broken, and for those who have yet to know You. Build in us a highway of reconciliation and worship. May our lives declare Your love to every tribe and tongue until all the earth says, *“Adonai is our God.”*

In Yeshua’s mighty name we pray, Amen.