



The Book of EZEKIEL

Chapters 29 - 32

“Prophecy against Egypt, Surrounding Countries, and Pharaoh!”

Chapter 29 - “Prophecy Against Egypt!”

(v1-12) Egyptians to be judged & scattered (The date is 587 B.C.)

(v13-16) A lowly kingdom of Egypt

(v17-21) Egypt to be wages & spoil for Babylon

Chapter 30 - “Egypt & Surrounding Countries Shall Fall!”

(v1-16) Prophecy Against, Surrounding Countries, and Pharaoh.

- Nothing shall escape God's wrath (Ezek 30:13-19). Ezekiel has told us what would happen and how it would happen, and now he reveals the vast scope of God's wrath.

(v17-21) Note the repetition of the phrase "I will" as the Lord describes His work of judgment in both Lower Egypt ("Noph" = "Memphis," v. 13) and Upper Egypt (Pathros). Instead of a land of pride, Egypt will be a land filled with fear. "Zoan" is "Rameses," "No" is "Thebes," and "Sin" is "Pelusium." The verbs used make it clear that the Lord will permit total devastation: destroy, make desolate, set fire, pour fury, cut off, the day darkened.

The Jews were led out of Egypt by a bright cloud (Ex 13:21), but the Egyptians who once enslaved them will be under a dark cloud. As a result of God's judgment, the power and pride of Egypt will be destroyed, and the nation would never rise to its former heights again. The young men would be slain, and the young women taken into slavery, so the future generation would be given into the hands of the enemy.

Nations never seem to learn that God is serious about what happens to His people Israel. The devastating judgment that God sent to Egypt before the Exodus should have taught the Egyptians a lasting lesson, but apparently, they forgot it. In opposing God's purposes for Israel, Egypt invited God's judgments on their own nation, for the Lord always keeps His covenant promises. (from The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament.)

(Sidenote: verse 17 - *Pi-beseth* - The city was on the NE branch of the Nile where cats were mummified in honor of the cat-headed goddess, Ugastet.)

- In *Japan and Hawaii*, we have *Maneki Neko*:



What is Maneki Neko?

Maneki Neko is a cat figurine. However, it is not just any kind of cat figurine. The one which sits and has its front paw raised as if it is calling for someone is the only one that can be called a "Maneki neko".

It just sits in your house or in your store. But it does bring the luck, the fortune and the customers into your store. It does invite the happiness to your home!

- **LEFT PAW**- Brings customers, welcomes guests into your home.
- **RIGHT PAW**- Brings personal good fortune, money, and other liquid assets.
- **BLACK "MANEKI NEKO"**- Brings good health and well-being.
- **GOLD "MANEKI NEKO"**- Brings wealth and prosperity.

The Charm of Maneki Neko - Japanese merchants are very superstitious. They always keep some kind of lucky charm at the front or back of their stores hoping for lots of customers and thriving business. There are lots of lucky charms in Japan. For example, *the Seven Deities of Good Fortune which include Ebisu and Daikoku. Fuku Suke, Dharma, Otafuku, Tanuki* are extremely popular, also. Even a snake can be considered a lucky charm in Japan. Among so many lucky charms, Maneki Neko is the most popular. Every Japanese knows its existence. Why is it so popular? The reason may lie in its lovely character. Men and women, young and old, everyone falls in love with its round face and big eyes; at first sight. This is the reason Maneki Neko appears in lots of corporate advertisements. Many different small products borrow the design of Maneki Neko. At the same time, an Angel Maneki Neko which has a ring on the head and two tiny wings on the back, shows the design of Maneki Neko itself has been changed in various ways in order to fit into the modern Japanese society.

- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10:19-22 - *What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?*

(v20-26) God strengthens Babylon and breaks Egypt!

- This oracle was delivered on April 29, 587 B.C., and refers to God's crushing the Egyptian military power. The arm is a symbol of power, but God would break both of Pharaoh's arms and leave Egypt helpless. Nobody would apply splints or even bandage up the wounds to promote healing.

The first "breaking" took place at Carchemish in 605 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar defeated Pharaoh Necho (2 Kings 24:7; Jer 46:2). It was also at Carchemish that godly King Josiah was slain. The second "breaking" occurred when Pharaoh Hophra tried to help Judah when Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem (37:5 ff). With both arms "broken," Egypt would not be able to wield a sword, and that would put an end to the battle. Pharaoh Hophra had a second title, "The Strong-Armed," but that title would not apply anymore. (from The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament.)

Chapter 31 - "A Parable for Pharaoh's Pride"

(v1-9) Parable of the cedar of Lebanon

(v10-18) Pharaoh and his multitude to be judged

(Sidenote: Jesus talks of life after death judgment for the godless and unrighteous sinners in Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15.)

Chapter 32 - "A Lamentation for Pharaoh"

(v1-10) Pharaoh's destruction among the nations

(v11-16) Babylonian Empire to conquer Egypt

> Nebuchadnezzar invaded and plundered Egypt 572 and 568 B.C. Egypt never recovered its former glory, and ever since has played a very minor part in world history, fulfilling in a very real sense Ezekiel's prophecy that it would be "*the basest of kingdoms*" (29:15).

(v17-32) Lamentation over Egypt and surrounding natio