

Egypt ... Past, Present, and Future

Commentary for December 1, 2007 — Big Things Will Happen There

Egypt played a significant part in biblical history. It shall do so again in the future, fulfilling prophecies in the Bible. This month's article "The Coming Splendor of Egypt" tells about Egypt's return to greatness for a period of time before Christ's Second Coming. Read first the "[December 2007 Newsletter](#)" which introduces the article and gives additional information about the topic of Egypt

Egypt's Past

Abraham sojourned in Egypt before Israel became a nation from Abraham's descendants. Egypt played a significant role in Israel's early existence when a small number of Israelites came to the land of Egypt to escape famine during the time of Joseph, his brothers, and their father Jacob. The land was rich and lush for the Israelites to be prosperous in Egypt. The few members of Israel "**grew and multiplied in Egypt**" (Acts 7:17) to a great number, so that the people of Israel were perceived as a threat by the Egyptian king, endangering native Egyptian control over their own land:

"Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, 'Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there fall out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.'"

• *Exodus 1:8–10*

In spite of its pagan roots, there was great wisdom in Egypt, as there is in every human society, culture, and people. But the wisdom of Egypt is lacking. It does not come from God's revelation. Moses was fully taught and knew all that Egypt could teach:

"Learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds."

• *Acts 7:22*

God's judgment upon Egypt came by the plagues that crushed the power of Egypt, denigrated Egyptian gods, and forced Pharaoh to let God's people depart for the Promised Land.

Still later, God's judgment was pronounced upon Egypt by Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 46:1–26). That judgment was partially accomplished by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who conquered Egypt and all of North Africa. The Babylonian system was imposed upon Egypt, just as it was imposed upon all nations of the world. Read Dr. Martin's article "[Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization](#)" which shows from Scripture that the entire world came under the Babylonian rule of king Nebuchadnezzar (see Jeremiah 25:17–19). That Babylonian system is with us to this present day.

"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, ... and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him."

• *Jeremiah 27:5–7*

Not only did biblical texts predict that Nebuchadnezzar would force Egypt to submit to its power, but Josephus states that it actually occurred. See *Antiquities* 10.219–227 where Josephus cites the 4th century BC Greek author Megasthenes that Nebuchadnezzar conquers went to Libya and as far as present day Spain (10.227). In other words, he conquered all of North Africa. Daniel confirms that Nebuchadnezzar's dominion was indeed worldwide:

"It is you, O king, that are grown and become strong: for your greatness is grown, and reaches unto heaven, and your dominion to the end of the earth."

• Daniel 4:22

As Dr. Martin makes clear in this month's article, large portions of the prophecies in Jeremiah and Ezekiel have not yet been fulfilled. Another Nebuchadnezzar shall arise, the antichrist, who will complete the unfulfilled prophecies spoken against Egypt by the prophets.

There is much work to be done to study, discover, and understand which parts of those prophecies regarding Egypt are yet to have a future fulfillment, and in what manner they will be fulfilled. It will take time, perhaps decades, to learn, synthesize, and teach to the world the sequence of events, separating past from future fulfillments.

Egypt's Present and Near Future

The condition of the land and people of Egypt at present is that of extreme poverty. That will change, as Dr. Martin's presentation relates, to a period of great prosperity just before Christ's Second Coming. That poverty will soon change. Once prosperity begins in Egypt, the many expatriates (who are employed around the Middle East, in Europe, in America and in wealthy parts of Asia) will return to their Egyptian homeland to partake of the increasing affluence through hard work and productivity, using skills learned in foreign lands.

Egypt's Farther Future

Besides Jeremiah 46:1–26 noted earlier, look carefully at Ezekiel chapters 29–32. Some portions of Ezekiel's prophecies have occurred, other portions have not occurred. They are yet future to us.

After Christ's Second Coming, and after the end of 40 years of great devastation and desolation of the land when all of Egypt will be unoccupied (beginning near the time of Christ's return), after that time period, Egypt's future is to be glorious. It will become one of the three top nations of the world in prosperity, power, and influence along with Assyria, and the top nation of all, Israel (Isaiah 19:22–25).

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