

Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel Chapter 29 on 12/5/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.)

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Ezekiel 29

Historical and Literary Context

- Ezekiel delivers this prophecy during the exile in Babylon (ca. 593–571 BCE).
- The chapter critiques Egypt's pride and reliance on its perceived strength, showing God's sovereignty over nations.

Ezekiel 29:1-2

“In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me:”

- **Tenth year:** Likely refers to 587 BCE, placing it in the final years before Jerusalem's fall.
- **Word of the Lord:** Reflects divine authority; Ezekiel claims to speak directly on behalf of Yahweh.
- **Son of man:** A frequent title for Ezekiel, emphasizing his human nature in contrast to God's divinity.
- **Set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt:** A direct command to Ezekiel, targeting the Pharaoh as Egypt's representative.

Ezekiel 29:3 “Speak, and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies during his streams, that says, ‘My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.’”

- **Great dragon (יָרֵב):** Symbolizes chaos and power, often associated with ancient Near Eastern mythological creatures. Egypt is metaphorically likened to this beast.
- **Nile (יְרֵד):** Central to Egypt's economy and culture; symbolizes national pride and self-reliance.

- **I made it for myself:** Highlights Pharaoh's arrogance, claiming divine creative power.

Ezekiel 29:4-5 "I will put hooks in your jaws, and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales; and I will draw you up out of the midst of your streams, with all the fish of your streams that stick to your scales."

- **Hooks in your jaws:** An image of divine control over Egypt, often used for capturing wild animals or large fish.

- **Fish of your streams:** Refers to Egypt's people or allies, dependent on the Pharaoh.

- **Cast you into the wilderness:** Indicates defeat and humiliation; Egypt's power will be broken.

Ezekiel 29:6-7 "Then all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the Lord. Because you have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel,"

- **Staff of reed:** A weak and unreliable support. Egypt is rebuked for failing to aid Israel during crises.

- **Know that I am the Lord:** A recurring theme in Ezekiel, emphasizing God's ultimate sovereignty.

Ezekiel 29:8-9 "Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will bring a sword upon you, and will cut off from you man and beast;"

- **Sword:** Symbol of divine judgment, often signifying military defeat.

- **Desolation:** Egypt's land will become barren, symbolizing divine wrath and the removal of life and fertility.

Ezekiel 29:10-12 "I will make the land of Egypt utterly desolate, from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Cush."

- **Migdol to Syene:** Indicates the full extent of Egypt, from the north (Delta) to the south (Upper Egypt).

- **Border of Cush:** Refers to modern-day Sudan, highlighting Egypt's regional influence.

- **Forty years:** Symbolic or literal period of judgment, echoing Israel's wilderness wandering.

Ezekiel 29:13-16 “For thus says the Lord God: At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered.”

- **Gather the Egyptians:** A future restoration, showing God's control over both judgment and mercy.

- **A lowly kingdom:** Egypt's reduced status is part of its punishment, ensuring it no longer dominates.

Ezekiel 29:17-21 “In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me:”

- **Nebuchadnezzar:** Babylon's king is described as God's instrument of judgment against Egypt.

- **Wages for his army:** Babylon receives Egypt as spoils for its labor against Tyre, reflecting God's governance over history.

- **Horn for the house of Israel:** Symbolizes strength and restoration for God's people after judgment.

Key Themes

- **God's Sovereignty:** Yahweh asserts His authority over Egypt, Babylon, and all nations.

- **Judgment and Restoration:** While Egypt is judged, its future restoration points to God's mercy.

- **False Security:** Egypt's reliance on its resources and pride leads to its downfall.

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