

Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel 30 on 12/12/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. SureshKumar Nelson

Ezekiel 30:1–26 (Key Words and Their Exegesis)

Verses 1–5: The Imminence of Judgment

1. “The word of the LORD” (v. 1):

- Hebrew *dābār* YHWH, signaling direct divine communication. This formula emphasizes that the message is authoritative, not Ezekiel’s thoughts.

2. “Wail, ‘Woe for the day!’” (v. 2):

- *Hēlāl* (wail) calls for lamentation. *Hôy* (woe) expresses impending disaster. This reflects the gravity of the coming “Day of the LORD.”

3. “The day of the LORD is near” (v. 3):

- *Yôm* YHWH represents a day of divine judgment and intervention. The repetition of “near” (*qārôb*) stresses urgency.

4. “A day of clouds, a time of doom” (v. 3):

- *‘ānān* (clouds) symbolizes divine presence and judgment. *‘ēt rā‘āh* (time of doom) underscores that this is a predetermined period of catastrophe.

5. “Cush, Put, Lud, all Arabia, Libya” (v. 5):

- These names represent nations allied with Egypt, showing that God’s judgment will extend to Egypt’s entire sphere of influence.

Verses 6–9: Collapse of Egypt’s Strength

6. “The helpers of Egypt will fall” (v. 6):

- *‘ezrāh* (helpers) refers to Egypt’s allies, both politically and militarily. Their fall demonstrates the futility of human alliances against God’s will.

7. “From Migdol to Syene” (v. 6):

- These locations represent the northernmost and southernmost parts of Egypt, indicating total devastation.

8. “They will know that I am the LORD” (v. 8):

- A recurring phrase in Ezekiel, emphasizing that judgment reveals God’s sovereignty and identity.

9. “Messengers will go out from me” (v. 9):

- God sends “messengers” (mal’ākîm) to announce judgment, possibly referring to divine agents or the invading armies.

Verses 10–12: The Instrument of Judgment

10. “By the hand of Nebuchadnezzar” (v. 10):

- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, is described as God’s chosen instrument (yād, hand). This affirms God’s control over human history.

11. “Her multitude will be brought down” (v. 11):

- Hāmôn (multitude) refers to Egypt’s large population or military forces. Their downfall highlights the comprehensive nature of the judgment.

12. “I will dry up the canals” (v. 12):

- Refers to the Nile and its irrigation system, the lifeblood of Egypt’s economy. This act symbolizes economic and agricultural devastation.

Verses 13–19: Judgment Against Egypt’s Idols and Cities

13. “I will destroy the idols” (v. 13):

- Gilûlîm (idols) signifies Egypt’s false gods. Their destruction symbolizes the powerlessness of Egypt’s religion against YHWH.

14. “Pathros, Zoan, Thebes” (v. 14):

- These are major regions and cities of Egypt. The naming of specific places makes the prophecy concrete and emphasizes the thoroughness of judgment.

15. “A day of wrath” (v. 15):

- Yôm chemah (day of wrath) emphasizes the intensity of God’s anger and justice.

16. “Fire will be set in Egypt” (v. 16):

- ’ēš (fire) often symbolizes destruction, purification, and divine judgment.

17. “Young men of On and Pi-beseth will fall by the sword” (v. 17):

- On (Heliopolis) and Pi-beseth (Bubastis) were prominent religious centers. Their mention underscores the judgment on both Egypt’s people and religious institutions.

Verses 20–26: The Broken Arms of Pharaoh

18. “I have broken the arm of Pharaoh” (v. 21):

- Zerōa' (arm) is a metaphor for strength and power. The breaking of Pharaoh's arm symbolizes the loss of Egypt's military and political might.

19. "I will break both his arms" (v. 22):

- The breaking of both arms (zerō'āyw) emphasizes complete incapacitation and humiliation.

20. "The sword will fall from his hand" (v. 22):

- Pharaoh's inability to hold a sword symbolizes Egypt's defeat and inability to defend itself.

21. "I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations" (v. 23):

- Reflects exile and dispersion, a fate similar to that of Israel and Judah. This shows that Egypt, too, is subject to divine justice.

22. "I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon" (v. 24):

- Nebuchadnezzar's rise is attributed to God's sovereign will, reinforcing the theme of God's control over world powers.

23. "They will know that I am the LORD" (v. 26):

- The refrain that concludes the chapter emphasizes the purpose of judgment: to reveal God's identity and sovereignty to all.

Summary of Themes in Ezekiel 30

1. God's Sovereignty:

- The chapter consistently portrays God as the ultimate authority over nations, using Nebuchadnezzar as His instrument of judgment.

2. Judgment on Egypt and Allies:

- The prophecy highlights the downfall of Egypt's political, military, and religious systems, symbolizing the futility of human pride and alliances.

3. Revealing God's Identity:

- The repeated phrase "They will know that I am the LORD" underscores the theological purpose behind the judgment: to make God's power and justice known.

4. Destruction of False Security:

- Egypt's reliance on its idols, wealth, and allies is shown to be futile in the face of divine judgment.