

Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel 31 on 12/19/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. SureshKumar Nelson

Ezekiel 31 (metaphor of a mighty tree to convey great nations' pride, downfall, and judgment).

Themes in Ezekiel 31:

- 1. Pride and Downfall:** The cedar tree represents nations that grow proud and are judged for their arrogance.
- 2. Divine Sovereignty:** God controls the rise and fall of nations.
- 3. Warning to Egypt:** Egypt's fate is linked to Assyria's, serving as a cautionary tale.
- 4. Symbolism of Trees:** Trees represent nations or kingdoms, with their height and grandeur reflecting their pride

Verses 1-2: Introduction and Address

1. "In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month"
 - This specifies the date of the prophecy, around 587 BCE.
2. "Son of man"
 - A title for Ezekiel, emphasizing his humanity in contrast to God's divinity.
3. "Say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and his multitude"
 - The prophecy is directed at Pharaoh and the Egyptian people.
4. "Whom are you like in your greatness?"
 - A rhetorical question comparing Pharaoh to other powerful rulers, emphasizing pride and arrogance.

Verses 3-9: The Cedar of Lebanon

1. "Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon"
 - Assyria is compared to a grand cedar tree, symbolizing its former power and majesty.
2. "With beautiful branches and forest shade"
 - Describes the vastness and influence of Assyria.
3. "It's top among the clouds"
 - Reflects pride and reaching toward heaven.

4. “The waters nourished it”

- Symbolizes blessings, such as fertile land and resources.

5. “It towered high above all the trees of the field”

- Assyria’s dominance over other nations.

6. “The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it”

- Hyperbolic imagery of unmatched greatness.

Verses 10-14: Judgment on the Proud

1. “Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds”

- Pride is identified as the reason for judgment.

2. “I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations”

- God declares He will allow a stronger nation to bring Assyria down.

3. “Foreigners, the most ruthless of nations, have cut it down”

- Reference to the Babylonians who conquered Assyria.

4. “So that no trees by the waters may grow tall”

- A warning to other nations not to follow Assyria’s prideful example.

Verses 15-17: The Tree’s Descent to Sheol

1. “I made the deep mourn for it and restrained its rivers”

- Even nature mourns the fall of such a great nation.

2. “I cast it down to Sheol with those who go down to the pit”

- Assyria’s fall leads to its place among the dead in the underworld.

3. “All the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, were comforted in the earth below”

- Even other powerful nations are relieved or take note of Assyria’s demise.

Verse 18: The Conclusion

1. “Who are you like in glory and greatness among the trees of Eden?”

- A direct challenge to Pharaoh, reminding him that Egypt’s fate will be no different from Assyria’s.

2. “You shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the world below.” • Pharaoh and Egypt will face the same judgment and humiliation as Assyria.