

Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas

Bible study: Ezekiel chapter 32 on 1/2/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. SureshKumar Nelson

Ezekiel 32 is a prophetic chapter consisting of two lamentations over Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and his people. It vividly describes Egypt's downfall, using poetic imagery to illustrate God's judgment. Below is a detailed exegesis of the chapter.

Context and Background

- **Historical Setting:** Written during the Babylonian exile (~585 BC), this prophecy speaks of Egypt's impending defeat by Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. Egypt, once a powerful nation, is portrayed as arrogant and destructive, deserving of divine judgment.
- **Purpose:** The chapter emphasizes God's sovereignty over nations, His power to humble the proud, and His role as the ultimate judge.

Key Themes in Ezekiel 32

1. **God's Sovereignty:** God controls the rise and fall of nations. Egypt's defeat is not random but part of His divine plan.
2. **Judgment on Pride:** Pharaoh's arrogance and Egypt's reliance on its own power lead to their downfall.
3. **The Reality of Sheol:** The imagery of Sheol illustrates the finality of God's judgment and the equalizing power of death.
4. **Universal Justice:** Egypt's fate serves as a warning to other nations and leaders who exalt themselves against God.

Structure of Ezekiel 32

1. Verses 1–10: The first lamentation over Pharaoh as a fallen predator.
2. Verses 11–16: Egypt's destruction by Babylon.
3. Verses 17–32: The second lamentation: Egypt's descent to Sheol.

Verses 1–10: The First Lamentation

Verse 1

“And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first day of the month, that the word of the Lord came to me, saying:”

- **Timing:** This prophecy is dated to 585 BC, shortly after the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC). Egypt is next in line for judgment.

- “Word of the Lord”: The prophecy is divinely revealed, underscoring its authority.

Verse 2 “Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him: ‘You are like a young lion among the nations, and you are like a monster in the seas, troubling the waters with your feet, and fouling their rivers.’”

- “Son of man”: A title emphasizing Ezekiel’s humanity and prophetic role.
- “Lamentation”: A dirge mourning Egypt’s downfall.
- “Young lion”: Pharaoh is portrayed as a predator, strong but reckless.
- “Monster in the seas”: Symbolizes chaos and Pharaoh’s disruptive influence over other nations.

Verses 3–4 “Thus says the Lord God: ‘I will spread My net over you with a company of many people, and they will draw you up in My net. Then I will leave you on the land; I will cast you out on the open fields, and cause to settle on you all the birds of the heavens. And with you I will fill the beasts of the whole earth.’”

- “Spread My net”: God’s judgment is likened to catching Pharaoh like a fish.
- “Birds of the heavens”: Carrion birds symbolize disgrace and defeat.
- “Beasts of the earth”: Represents the complete humiliation of Egypt.

Verse 7–8 “When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, and bring darkness upon your land,’ says the Lord God.”

- Cosmic Imagery: Reflects the cataclysmic nature of Pharaoh’s fall. The darkening of celestial bodies symbolizes the end of Egypt’s power and influence.
- Theological Significance: Demonstrates God’s control over both earthly and cosmic realms.

Verses 11–16: Egypt’s Judgment by Babylon

Verse 11 “For thus says the Lord God: ‘The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon you.’”

- “Sword of Babylon”: Nebuchadnezzar is identified as God’s instrument of judgment.

Verse 13 “I will destroy all its animals from beside its great waters; the foot of man shall muddy them no more, nor shall the hooves of animals muddy them.”

- Economic Collapse: Egypt’s agricultural and economic systems, symbolized by its animals and rivers, will be devastated.
- “Waters clear”: Egypt’s disruptive influence will cease, bringing peace to the nations.

Verse 15 “When I make the land of Egypt desolate, and the country is destitute of all that once filled it, when I strike all who dwell in it, then they shall know that I am the Lord.”

- “Desolate”: Egypt’s destruction is a testament to God’s power and justice.
- “They shall know that I am the Lord”: A recurring theme in Ezekiel, highlighting God’s ultimate authority.

Verses 17–32: The Second Lamentation (Egypt in Sheol)

Verses 17–18 “Son of man, wail over the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down to the depths of the earth, her and the daughters of the famous nations, with those who go down to the Pit.”

- “Pit”: Refers to Sheol, the realm of the dead. Egypt is condemned to join other fallen nations.

Verses 19–21 “Whom do you surpass in beauty? Go down, be placed with the uncircumcised. They shall fall amid those slain by the sword; she is delivered to the sword, drawing her and all her multitudes.”

- “Uncircumcised”: A term of disgrace, representing those outside God’s covenant.
- Humiliation in Sheol: Egypt joins other defeated nations in disgrace.

Verses 22–32: This section lists nations in Sheol (Assyria, Elam, Meshech, Tubal, and others). Egypt joins their ranks, emphasizing that even powerful nations cannot escape God’s judgment.

- Verse 30: “All the Sidonians, who have gone down with the slain, shameful with the slain by the sword; and they bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit.”
- Egypt’s fate is shared with other nations, symbolizing the universal scope of God’s judgment.

Applications for Today

1. **Humility Before God:** Nations and individuals must recognize their dependence on God.
2. **God’s Justice:** Trust in God’s ultimate justice, even when evil seems to prevail.
3. **Mortality and Eternity:** Reflect on the reality of death and the importance of living in alignment with God’s will.