

ISAIAH 19 Introduction

This chapter is about Egypt. "Egypt is characterized in the Book of Isaiah as a politically blundering world power, as a victim of defeat, and for a time, of foreign rule – that of Assyria. These things reflect historical realities. Having no historical basis, however, is the coming of the Lord to Egypt, the conversion of the Egyptians to the Lord, and their deliverance from subjection by a Savior sent by the Lord. Egypt in Isaiah is contrasted with Assyria. Assyria is cast in the political role of invader and world conqueror, while Egypt is looked to as a refuge and source of protection (albeit an "Arm of Flesh") against Assyria by the weaker nations of the world. Assyria and Egypt are used as Politically Contrasting Types in Isaiah." (The Apocalyptic Book of Isaiah pg. 194-197)

Egypt is often symbolic of the Tribe of Ephraim. Ephraim was born and raised in Egypt (Son of Joseph). The Northern Kingdom of Israel was also sometimes called the Kingdom of Ephraim (which was the largest and most prominent tribe), or simply "Samaria" after the Capital City of the Ephraimite province. The Northern Kingdom was taken captive by Assyria in 722-721 B.C. and many important princes, mighty men of valor, craftsmen and smiths were carried away "North" and lost. (2 Kgs. 17:6, 2 Kgs. 18:9-12). In the last days, the first of the "Lost Tribes" to be gathered by the Gentiles will be that of the "Tribe of Ephraim" and they will commence the gathering of the other Tribes of Israel. (Jer. 16:14-21, 23:7-8). Many, including Prof. Gileadi see Egypt here as a type of America, the creation of the Bering Strait and its crossing, the New Jerusalem, and even Moroni blowing his trumpet to usher in the New Covenant/New and Everlasting Gospel. (D&C 133: 26-40) We, as Latter-Day Saints, may see our role as descendants from Ephraim, in helping to fulfill this prophecy by Isaiah. (Israel's "Other Tribes" Ensign 1982, Vern G. Swanson)





ISAIAH 19

Verse 1-15 Poetry
Verses 16-24 – Prose

Verse 1		The Burden of Egypt.
	(Behold)	(When) the Lord come(s) into Egypt, rid^(ing) upon swift cloud(s):
	(and)	The idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence,
	(and)	The heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.
Verse 2	(And)	I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians:
	(and)	They shall fight every one against his brother,
	(and)	They shall fight every one against his neighbor.
		City against city,
	(and)	Kingdom against kingdom.
Verse 3	(And)	The spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof,
	(and)	I will destroy the counsel thereof.
	(and)	They shall seek to the idols,
	(and)	They shall seek to charmers.
	(and)	They shall seek to them that have familiar spirits,
	(and)	They shall seek to the wizards.
Verse 4	(And)	The Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord,
	(and)	A fierce king shall rule over them.
		Saith the Lord,
		The Lord of Hosts.
Verse 5	(And)	The waters shall fail from the sea.
	(and)	The rivers ^(stream beds) shall be wasted and dried up.

- Verse 6 (And) They shall turn the rivers far away. (rivers shall turn foul)
 (and) The brooks of defense shall be emptied and dried up.
 (and Egypt's waterways recede and dry up.)
- Verse 7 The reeds and flags (rushes) shall wither,
 The paper reeds by the brooks and by the mouth of the brooks.
 (Vegetation adjoining canals and estuaries.)
 (and) Everything sown by the brooks,
 Shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.
- Verse 8 **The fishers shall also mourn:**
 (and) All they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament.
 (and) They that spread bad news (cast nets) upon the waters shall
 languish.
- Verse 9 (Moreover) They that work in fine flax shall be confounded,
 (Manufacturers of combed linen and weavers of fine fabrics.)
 Verse 10 (and) They that weave networks shall be broken in the purposes thereof.
 (The textile workers will know despair and all who work for wages suffer distress.)
- Verse 11 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools,
 (and) The counsel of the wise counselors of Pharaoh is become brutish.
 (Zoan - political capital of Egypt)
- How say ye I am the son of the wise?
 How say ye I am the son of ancient kings (first rulers)?
- Verse 12 Where are they?
 Where are thy wise men?
 (and) Let them tell thee now,
 (and) Let them know what the Lord of Hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.
- Verse 13 The princes of Zoan are become fools,
 The princes of Noph are deceived.
 (Noph-Moph-Memphis: Same, Capital of Lower Egypt)

They have also seduced Egypt,
Even that they are the stay of the tribes thereof.
(The heads of state have led Egypt astray.)

Verse 14 **The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof:**

(and) They have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof,
Egypt is as a drunken man that staggereth in his vomit.

Verse 15 Neither shall there be any work for Egypt
 which the head (Leaders) or tail (Slaves) may do.
Neither shall there be any work for Egypt
 which the branch or rush (defenses) may do.

Verse 16 **In that day:**

Egypt shall be like unto women,
Egypt shall be afraid and shaking because of the hand of the
 Lord of Hosts which he shaketh over it.

Verse 17 (And) The land of Judah (Palestine) shall be a terror unto Egypt,
Everyone that maketh mention of Judah shall be afraid in
himself because of the counsel of the Lord of Hosts, which
he hath determined against it.

Verse 18 **In that day:**

Five cities in the land of Egypt
 shall speak the language of Canaan,
Five cities in the land of Egypt
 shall swear to the Lord of Hosts.

(5 Hebrew-speaking cities in the land of Egypt will swear loyalty to the Lord of Hosts.)

One shall be called the city of destruction.
(One shall be known as the City of Righteousness.)

(MT reads "City of Destruction", 1QIsa –Dead Sea Scrolls reads "City of the Sun")

Verse 19

In that day:

There shall be an alter to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt,
There shall be a pillar (monument) at the border thereof to the Lord.

Verse 20

And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of Hosts in the land of Egypt. For they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a Savior, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

Verse 21

(And)

The Lord shall be known to Egypt,

(And)

The Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day.

(Know the Lord – Covenant Knowledge)

(And)

The Egyptians shall do sacrifice and oblation,
Yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it.

Verse 22

(And)

The Lord shall smite Egypt,
He shall smite and heal it.

(And)

They shall return even to the Lord,

(and)

He shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them.

Verse 23

In that day there shall be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria:

(And)

The Assyrian shall come into Egypt and the Egyptian shall come into Assyria,

(And)

The Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

Verse 24

In that day:

Israel shall be the third with Egypt and Assyria,
Israel shall be a blessing in the midst of the land.

Verse 25

Whom the Lord of Hosts shall bless saying:

Blessed be Egypt *My* People,
(And) Blessed be Assyria the work of *My* Hand,
(And) Blessed be Israel *Mine* Inheritance.

(Covenant Formula – I am Your God, You are My People)