

Egypt in Bible Prophecy

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The news is always filled with political uprisings, violence, and volatile situations occurring in other places of the world, such as the land of Egypt. Will radical Islam permanently overtake this African nation? What does the future hold for this nation? What significance and connection does Egypt have with Bible prophecy? For more than three thousand years before the birth of Christ, Egypt was one of the greatest civilizations of the ancient world. Today, Egypt still remains a strong nation and it is one nation, among others, which is mentioned in Bible prophecy. In this study, we want to consider the history and prophecy about this nation – the nation of Egypt.

A. Egypt's history

1. The table of nations

The first mention of Egypt is under its ancient name of Mizraim, one of the sons of Ham in the table of nations. This list refers to the peoples and nations which were formed following the days of the Genesis Flood (see Gen. 10:1). All nations today have their roots in the table of nations listed in Genesis chapter 10.

Genesis 10:32 records:

“These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

The Bible teaches that all the present-day races of peoples and nations have their origin in the sons of Noah, who repopulated the earth following the great deluge, or worldwide Genesis Flood. There are seventy of these “families of the sons of Noah” mentioned by name and it was “by these that the nations were divided in the earth after the flood.”

Genesis 10:6 gives us one specific name for our study:

“And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.”

“Cush” is the Hebrew name in the Bible which is translated elsewhere as “Ethiopia.” The Cushites apparently first migrated southward into Arabia, and then crossed the Red Sea into the land now known as Ethiopia

(modern Sudan – south of Egypt). This nation will be part of the Islamic invasion against Israel during the end times (Ezek. 38:5).

Phut (Put) in the Bible, is identified with modern-day Libya, and is applied to the region of North Africa west of Egypt. This identification was confirmed by Josephus. Canaan is the ancestor of the Canaanites and gave his name to the land of Canaan.

However, of interest for this study, is Mizraim, the second son of Ham, which is a reference to the ancient land of Egypt. The Hebrew origin of the name “Mizraim” is recorded as the name “Egypt” hundreds of times in the Old Testament. It is generally believed that Mizraim is a dual form, which originally signified upper and lower Egypt. The modern name of Egypt is believed to be from a king by the name of Egyptus who reigned in 1485 B.C.

The Bible teaches that Mizraim is the ancestor of the Egyptians and this same name is translated as “Egypt” hundreds of times in the Bible. So the progenitors of this land stem from Ham, one of the sons of Noah.

2. The territory of Ham

Egypt is also called “the land of Ham” suggesting that it is of Hamatic origin.

Psalm 105:23

“Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.”

Ham, the father of Mizraim, apparently accompanied his son into this region to begin populating it. Of course, Egypt is a country at the northeastern section of Africa, adjacent to Palestine, through which the Nile River flows. It has rich history.

3. The turning point of Abram

The first mention of Egypt, as a nation, is found in Genesis chapter twelve.

Genesis 12:10

“And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt (Hebrew - mitsrahyim) to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.”

This was a turning point for Abram's spiritual life. God wanted him to live by faith in His promise and not go down into the land of Egypt (a type of the world system). We too, begin to lose our spiritual edge, when we take a downward path into the world system.

Egypt was a strong nation that was rich in its history, customs, goods, and pagan religion adopted from the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9). It was a thriving nation when God called Abraham and gave him the Abrahamic Covenant.

Genesis 15:13-14

"And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."

The land of Egypt was "a land that is not theirs" but the land of Canaan was to be the land of the Jewish people. We do know that God did deliver the children of Israel from the nation and that God judged this nation with great plagues and problems which were directly sent by His mighty hand and power.

4. The terrible judgment of Egypt

Jeremiah records that Egypt was eventually taken down as a strong power by the Babylonians who would become the undisputed world power. The historical overthrow of Egypt by the Babylonians is recorded in Jeremiah's prophecies.

Jeremiah 46:1-2 records:

"The word of the Lord which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Gentiles; Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah."

The city of "Carchemish" was a city on the Euphrates where King Nebuchadnezzar defeated the Egyptians and their Pharaoh Neco (605 B.C.). This was the defining event that inaugurated the Babylonian Empire as the sole power of the known world. Carchemish was an ancient city-

state located in what is now southern Turkey, along the border with Syria. Carchemish lay on the west bank of the Euphrates River near the modern town of Jarābulus in northern Syria, and 38 miles southeast of Gaziantep, Turkey. It was a strategic crossing of the Euphrates River for caravans engaged in Syrian, Mesopotamian, and Anatolian trade.

Jeremiah 46:8-10 declares:

“Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof. Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians (“Cush” – area of modern Sudan) and the Libyans (“Put” – area of modern Libya), that handle the shield; and the Lydians (“Lud” - area in modern Turkey), that handle and bend the bow. For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord God of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.”

This was a historical judgment upon Egypt by the Babylonians. It is part of both Bible and secular history. God knows how to send judgment! When God decides to move in judgment, nothing will stop Him! All nations are under God’s providence and He establishes them and judges them according to His sovereign plan.

The prophecies of Ezekiel also refer to Egypt’s fall and judgment by the Babylonian Empire (Ezekiel 17; 19; 31-32). Egypt is compared to a young lion trapped with a net and destroyed (Ezek. 32:3).

Ezekiel 30:10 concludes:

“Thus saith the Lord God; I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon.”

We know from Scripture and secular history that Egypt was defeated by the Babylonians but this land with its inhabitants was not annihilated. It would live on as part of the Babylonian and Roman Empires and eventually develop into a world power once again. The Bible predicts that Egypt will be a player in the end times and will in a future day experience “the day of the LORD” (Ezek. 30:3) once again, which refers to His hand of judgment at the end of the age (Tribulation Period).

Like many Bible prophecies, the prophet envisions a near and far fulfillment. Ezekiel was no exception. Although the primary prophecy relates to historical fulfillment, the message of the “day of the LORD” has prophetic overtones which attach the ultimate fulfillment to the future and End Times when Egypt is judged once again at God’s hand during the Tribulation Period.

Ezekiel 30:19

“Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the Lord.”

B. Egypt’s Future

Of major importance and interest is the mention of Egypt in relationship to Bible prophecy. The nations in Bible prophecy are mentioned because of their close proximity to the land of Israel (Palestine) and it’s these nations that will be key players in the End Times (seven-year Tribulation Period), since they surround the immediate area of Palestine. Other world nations will also be involved, but these particular nations are mentioned because of their Islamic threat and historical relationship and significance to the land of ancient Israel.

If one would take a map and looks at the Middle East today, it would be revealed that radical Islamic nations are surrounding the nation of Israel. These radical Islamic nations continue to grow and thrive and they want to annihilate Israel from off the face of the earth. The aim of radical Islam is not to take more land from Israel, but to annihilate Israel completely and forever as a nation and people.

For the sake of this prophetic study, we will attempt to study only those verses that specifically mention the name “Egypt” during the End Times.

a. Egypt and the Antichrist

In the future, the Bible predicts that Egypt will be a powerful nation that also attempts to counter the Antichrist’s power in the Middle East. Today, Egypt has a powerful military thanks to the United States and the billions of dollars we sent them every year. The Armed Forces of Egypt are the largest on the African continent and one of the largest in the world (ranked

10th), consisting of the Egyptian Army, Egyptian Navy, Egyptian Air Force and Egyptian Air Defense Command.

Egypt has a formidable army and will one day use it in an attempt to destroy the power of the Antichrist and his European army in the Middle East. Daniel chapter eleven is a key chapter that explains Egypt's future role in the end times.

- The historical connection

Daniel 11:1-35, from our vantage point today, has been historically fulfilled. The days were in the inter-testament period (B.C. 320 – 198) between the Old and New Testaments (Malachi to Matthew) of the Bible. It reveals the era of time when Egypt (Dan. 11:6) was struggling with the lands to its north, mainly Syria. This prophecy was written by Daniel some 200 hundred years before its fulfillment. It reveals the wonder of predictive prophecy and its literal fulfillment.

Several kings of Egypt are mentioned in the ongoing struggle between these countries for power and prominence in the world. Eventually, Syria, identified as the king of the north, would overcome Egypt, identified as the king of the south.

Daniel 11:11

“And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.”

We discover that the Syrian general of Alexander the Great, Antiochus Epiphanes, would eventually overtake Egypt's bid for power in the Holy Land. He would eventually win the ongoing battle with Egypt for control of the Holy Land (see Daniel 11:13-16) and become a tyrant over the Jewish people by persecuting them and defiling the temple (see Daniel 11:31). Some historical records indicate that on December 25, B.C. 168 this wicked Syrian ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, offered a pig on the Jewish altar in mockery against the Jews and Israel's God. The temple worship was forbidden and the people were compelled to eat swine's flesh. This resulted in the Maccabean revolt with the Jews gaining back possession of Jerusalem in 165 B.C. before the Roman conquest took place under Pompey in 63 B.C.

- The prophetic connection

Now, in dramatic fashion, what happened historically will one day happen prophetically, during the end times, when Israel is once again back in the land as a nation. The prophecy of Daniel predicts that another man, who is typical of Antiochus Epiphanes, will one day overtake Egypt's quest for power in the Holy Land and the Middle East and also persecute the Jewish people of God. History will repeat itself.

Daniel 11:36-45 moves from a historical fulfillment to a prophetic fulfillment. It leaps the centuries to the end of the age, the seven-year Tribulation Period, and the events associated with this time period. Some suggest that this is Antiochus IV Epiphanes and that these verses continue to describe additional historical statistics of this man. However, the details given in these verses, regarding these campaigns of war, were not fulfilled by Antiochus. In fact, there is no historical record of these events being fulfilled by the end of the days of Antiochus (164 B.C.); therefore, they are future events yet to be fulfilled.

The end-time scenario takes place "at the time of the end" (Dan. 11:40). Daniel 12:1 links Daniel 11:36-45 to a time of trouble which has never occurred in the world. It's the same time when Daniel's people, as a nation, will begin to be severely persecuted (Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 12:6). Jesus places this fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy immediately preceding the Second Coming (Matt. 24:21-22, 29-31). Therefore, Daniel 11:36-45 envisions prophetic events that will be fulfilled during the end times of the seven-year Tribulation Period. During this specified time, Antichrist will conquer all his opponents, break his treaty with the Jews, erect his blasphemous image (Dan. 9:27), persecute the Jewish people (Revelation 12) and establish a strategic military base in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45).

The expression "the time of the end" (Dan. 11:40) includes the middle of the Tribulation Period (Dan. 12:1) and a chain of events that eventually leads to Antichrist's world dictatorship. The "time of the end" is when the Antichrist begins his move to take political control of the world. The Antichrist's rise to world power will not come easy. Apparently the world leaders will attempt to overthrow the charismatic leader's ability to rule his European empire (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7; Rev. 17:12) by controlling the major oil reserves in the world. A confederacy of world nations will attempt to

overtake the Antichrist's powerful war machine (Dan. 11:38) near the middle of the Tribulation Period.

Some of the surrounding countries will not like his ascendancy to world power and contest his push for worldwide dictatorship. However, their attempts will fail, as Daniel 11:40-45 clearly reveals. The Antichrist will defeat the invading armies, rise to world dictatorship, declare himself to be the only true god (Dan. 11:37; 2 Thess. 2:4), stop the Jewish sacrifices in Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27), become the undisputed ruler and power over planet earth (Rev. 13:4 – “who is able to make war with him?”), and demand all mankind to worship him (Rev. 13:4, 8, 14-15).

The Antichrist will do battle with those nations who are seemingly at odds with his rise to world dictatorship, including Egypt, and eventually enter the glorious land (Jerusalem), which sets the stage for the abomination of desolation to occur (Dan. 9:28; Matt. 24:15). At this time, he will break his seven-year covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27), attack the invading nations, and become the undisputed power of the world (Rev. 13:4-8). By this time, everyone in the world will say, “Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” (Rev. 13:4). His defeat and alleged return from the dead (reincarnation), as a popular military figure, or leader of the past, will seal his worldwide dictatorship.

- The Assyrian connection

Although Antichrist is not a member of the Seleucid family line, he is a future leader over a future empire (Revived Roman Empire) that encompasses the land of Syria. Therefore, he could be seen as a mighty king backing and controlling Syria, a leader that rules over many lands in the Middle East and Europe during the end times (For more details see the author's study – “The Time of the End” - Daniel 11:40-45).

In the future, the Bible predicts that the Antichrist will come from the same geographic region of the Old Roman Empire, and more specifically, from the land of Assyria. Therefore, he could qualify as a northern invader of Egypt that is governing the land of Syria, which is part of his vast, growing empire.

Micah 5:5-6

“And this man (*Messiah*) shall be the peace (the promise of coming peace during the Millennial Kingdom), when the Assyrian (Antichrist and his world armies) shall come into our land (Palestine): and when he shall tread in our palaces (*during Armageddon and the end time when the armies of the world surround Jerusalem – Zech. 12:9; 14:1-3*), then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod (*a synonym for Assyria – modern day Iraq*) in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian (*Antichrist and his end time armies*), when he cometh into our land (*Palestine*), and when he treadeth within our borders.”

The connection of the future “king” to the land of Assyria is important when one considers the origin and identity of the future Antichrist. Therefore, a “king of the north” emphasis in Daniel 11:40 would certainly be appropriate, since Syria, where Antiochus ruled during his era, was part of the ancient land of Assyria. The emphasis on a terrible king, who ruled in the same ancient area of the Seleucid/Assyrian/Roman dynasties, will be a player during the end times. Therefore, Antichrist can appropriately be identified with a northern Syrian ruler, who is once again ruling in the same geographic area of these ancient empires, a ruler that will become a world power over many countries in his geographical region, and fight against Egypt and many countries during the end times.

Syria was the capital of the Seleucid Empire (312-64 B.C.) but it was also part of the Assyrian and Roman Empires. It will also be part of the future Revived Roman Empire which will be formed during the end times (Rev. 17:12). Therefore, Syria can prophetically represent a power to the north that the Antichrist controls and which will be an extension and representative of his military arm. As a result, the Antichrist, who controls Syria, is called the king of the north in Daniel 11:40. Syria is seen to be a familiar participant in the ancient past empires of world history and it also becomes a player in the end times, since it is part of the Antichrist’s end-time kingdom, over which he rules.

From the perspective of Egypt (“king of the south”), Antichrist’s kingdom can then be viewed as a kingdom to the north, a vast powerful kingdom in Europe and the Middle East, which Syria will once again be part of during the end times. In short, since Syria will be an extension of Antichrist’s military power during the future Tribulation Period, the Antichrist can be

viewed as a northern Syrian power coming down to conquer Egypt, since Antichrist's war machine will back Syria (Dan. 11:38). As a result, Syria, representative of Antichrist's Revived Roman Empire to the north, will crush all enemies that rise up against him.

William Newell suggests that the king of the north is the Antichrist: "In reading Daniel 11:40, it may be well to interpolate slightly in order to establish the identity of the willful king as the last 'king of the north' which it seems apparent he must be, in order to fulfill completely the typical foreshadowing of Antiochus."

The more popular understanding of these verses by fellow dispensational writers is summarized by John Whitcomb: "Although agreeing that three distinct kings are seen in Daniel 11:40-45, most premillennialists understand the pronoun he in these verses to refer to the Antichrist, not the king of the north." However, this popular conclusion seems to break with what the Bible is actually teaching in verse 40 and the previous narrative. There is an alternate and better understanding of these key verses of Daniel that is prophetic, dispensational, and more accurate to the understanding of the text.

In the second view, the understanding of Daniel 11:40 would be like this: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south (Egypt) push at him (king of the north): and the king of the north (Syria backed by the Antichrist) shall come against him (king of the south and African coalition) like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."

This understanding of this text sounds reminiscent of the previous explanations of battle between the south and north (Dan. 11:11). In this scenario, it's the Antichrist who is the "king of the north" and he is seen attacking the invaders from the south. A brief outline will give us some insight on what will occur during these end time battles.

- His path of plunder

Daniel 11:41 reads:

"He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon."

Once leaving Babylon, his political headquarters, and on his way to the south (Egypt), the Antichrist will pass through Palestine. The Bible predicts that many will fall prey to his war effort except some ancient lands which are reserved for a special judgment in connection with Christ's Second Coming (Isa. 11:11-14; Ezek. 25:12-14). They are the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon - the people who are the ancient enemies of Israel (vs. 41). On a modern map, we would identify these counties with the country of modern Jordan, where many Jews will be hiding to wait for the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 12:6, 14; Matt. 24:16). It is not luck or chance that the Antichrist bypasses these countries on his way to destroy the southern invaders. God will preserve a remnant of Jews in this land for His Second Coming.

As we are about to note, the Antichrist will then seek to systematically destroy all those nations ("shall enter into the countries" – vs. 40) who oppose his world kingdom and dictatorship (Dan. 11:40) at the midway point of Daniel's 70th week, or in the middle of the seven years (Dan. 9:27). On his journey to the south (Egypt), the Antichrist will destroy many people and overthrow nations (vs. 40). This is brought out in the prophetic text.

- His push for world power

As the Antichrist moves to world power he defeats three armies.

- ❖ He defeats the southern invaders.

Daniel 11:42-43 reveals this about Egypt:

"He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans (modern-day Libya) and the Ethiopians (modern-day Sudan) shall be at his steps."

Since "the king of the South" in Daniel 11:5-35 referred to a king of Egypt, there seems to be no reason to relate this king of the South (v. 40) to some other nation. In fact, Egypt is mentioned twice in verses 42-43. The Antichrist will defeat Egypt (vs. 42) and her allies in his southern invasion, such as Libya and Ethiopia, who are said to be placed under his feet, which is an expression of their surrender and submission to him (vs. 43).

❖ He defeats the eastern invaders.

Daniel 11:44

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”

In addition to the southern threat, an eastern army will also challenge the Antichrist's power (“tidings out of the east” – vs. 44) will combine their forces together to try and overthrow the world rule and kingdom of the Antichrist. At this point, the invaders of the east no doubt include Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan which are nations immediately east of Israel and which have not yet consolidated with his world kingdom. They will merge on the Antichrist's territory, the Holy Land, in an attempt to overthrow his power and bid for the world's oil reserves.

❖ He defeats the northern invaders.

A northern invader is once again mentioned (Dan. 11:44 – “out of the north”). This northern invader is the subject of much debate. One possibility is that this is a northern nation, which is moving southward to Egypt, the location or place where the Antichrist has just conquered (Dan. 11:43). This northern threat may very well include another Arab nation or collation of nations that are trying to denounce their part with His Assyrian and Roman Empire. One cannot be dogmatic regarding the identity of these countries. Perhaps they are countries such as Lebanon or Turkey, which are poised north of Egypt, and which protest the Antichrist's rise to world power in the European arena. Some northern nation or allied countries will try and place their bid for a place of prominence and power in the Middle East.

Others suggest this northern army may be a reference to Russia and some of her allies, who after suffering defeat in the mountains of Israel (Ezek. 38-39), at the very onset of the Tribulation Period, three and one half years prior to this invasion, will have time to lick her wounds, reassemble an army, and join in this mid-tribulational battle. Of course, Russia could fit this picture, which elsewhere is said to be from “the north parts” (Ezek. 38:15). However, it must be noted that Russian is never called “king of the north” in relationship to Egypt. Furthermore, this cannot be referring to Russia's invasion in Ezekiel 38-39, since the invaders from the north are destroyed by God in the mountains of Israel (Ezek. 38:19-23; 39:1-12), whereas in

this case, the implication is that the Antichrist goes about to destroy the invading northern soldiers and accomplishes his task, as in the previous campaigns.

It's clear from Daniel 11:44 that this coalition of eastern and northern powers is yet another attempt to overthrow Antichrist's end-time power as a new Caesar of the Roman Empire. It's also obvious that the warfare mentioned in this section of Scripture extends over a period of time and that more than one battle is involved.

Daniel 11:45 then goes on to say:

“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

In order to have a more strategic military location in the Middle East, the Antichrist will, at some point, plant himself in Jerusalem, which is “between the seas” (the Mediterranean and Dead seas – vs. 45). He will establish his military palace and position in this strategic location for the rest of the Tribulation Period (three and one half years) and control the major oil reserves of the world which are linked with his Revived Roman Empire in Europe and the Middle East. His military location in Jerusalem will also set the stage for the Antichrist to begin His persecution of the Jewish People (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 12). One thing is certain; Jerusalem will become his military palace or headquarters (Dan. 11:45), while Babylon will be his political and economic palace or headquarters (Zech. 5; Rev. 17-18).

❖ His peril at the Second Coming

The Bible says “he shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (Dan. 11:45). This will occur after the divine time clock of the seven years has run its course (Matt. 24:29). This means the Antichrist will eventually be destroyed along with all the armies of Armageddon with the brightness of Messiah's return (Rev. 19:17-21). Although no other world power could defeat him, the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS will defeat him at His Second Coming.” Later revelation reveals that Jesus Christ will return from heaven and destroy him (Rev. 19:19–20; Zech. 14:1–4).

b. Egypt and the Millennial Kingdom

The prophet Isaiah is the Millennium prophet. He spoke of a future time of blessing that will upon planet earth (Isaiah 11-12; 24-26; 32:1; 35; 43:19-20; 51:3, 11; 52; 61; 65-66). The Millennial Kingdom or 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ over the earth (Rev. 20:1-6) is comparable to a new heaven and earth (Isaiah 65:17-18) but there will still be death that will occur during this time (Isa. 65:20). Therefore, Isaiah is not talking about the eternal state, where there will be no more death (Rev. 21:4-5), but another state or period of time upon earth when peace and prosperity will abound. This time is none other than the Millennial Kingdom that is promised to Israel in the covenants and it's a time of blessing which will come to pass in a one-thousand-year reign of Christ over planet earth.

The prophet Isaiah reveals some important prophecies regarding Egypt during the Millennial Kingdom. As in most prophecies, there is a near and far view, regarding the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. In other words, there is a historical fulfillment that has already occurred, but there is also a future fulfillment that will yet occur in the distant future. In fact, many verses can only be explained in their future fulfillment during the end times and prophetic day of the Lord.

Isaiah 19 is one of these examples. In Isaiah 19 we see the fall of Egypt to the Assyrian invaders but also a future blessing of Egypt in the glorious Golden Age of the Millennial Kingdom. In a similar way, Egypt will one day be judged by God but be restored to a place of millennial blessing.

➤ The past (Isaiah 19:1-15)

The language of Isaiah 19:1-15 portrays Egypt's defeat by the Assyrians. Some of the Jews wanted to look to Egypt for protection against the Assyrian threat. But Isaiah pointed out that Egypt would be no help, because she too, would be overwhelmed by God's impending Assyrian judgment.

Isaiah 19:4

“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.”

This refers to the past historical judgment at the hands of the Assyrian Empire and king. The Assyrian king was Esarhaddon, who conquered Egypt in 671 B.C.

➤ The prophetic (Isaiah 19:16-25)

The message of Isaiah 19:16-25 portrays Egypt's blessings during the Millennial Kingdom. The prophetic phrase "in that day" appears five times in this passage (vv. 16, 18-19, 21, 23). This phrase often refers to judgment followed by blessing in the Millennial Kingdom. Friend, this old war-stricken world is headed toward a better day! In Isaiah 19:16-25, Isaiah envisions judgment on Egypt; however, eventually Egypt will fear the Lord and realize that He is the true God. This will only happen during the Millennial Kingdom. After Egypt has been judged by God, during the Tribulation Period, and at the Second Coming, she will return to God and actually experience revival. What an amazing revelation this is!

Joel 3:19 prophesied judgment on the land of Egypt:

"Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land."

This seems opposite of the blessing that was predicted to come upon Egypt, which Isaiah spoke about in chapter 19. However, Joel 3:19 is also a prophetic announcement regarding the lands of Egypt and Edom (modern Jordan). They will receive a special initial judgment for their mistreatment of God's chosen people. The lands of Israel's long-standing enemies, represented by Egypt and Edom, will be infertile and a desert waste, as a result of Christ's judgment upon them. In contrast to Egypt's judgment, God will give immediate abundance to Israel, during the Millennial Kingdom (Joel 3:18). However, Egypt's desolation will not last throughout the entire 1,000 years (Zech. 14:17-19). God has promised to eventually bless Egypt during the Millennial Kingdom because of her desire to worship the true God of Israel. Egypt's judgment will be reversed to a time of prosperity and blessing, a similar incident which occurred in Egypt's past.

Ezekiel 29:8-14

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee. And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it. Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia. No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass

through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years. And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. Yet thus saith the Lord God; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered: And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom.”

The Bible Knowledge Commentary gives this note concerning the Biblical record: “No archeological finding has yet confirmed an Egyptian deportation similar to the one experienced by Israel. However, it is unwise to dismiss a clear statement of Scripture on the basis of incomplete archeological data. Nebuchadnezzar did attack Egypt (29:17-21; cf. Jer. 43:8-13; 46:1-25). Assuming that he conquered the country, one would expect him to deport people to Babylon as he did others he conquered. Presumably, then, the Egyptian captives would have been allowed to return home in the reign of Cyrus of Persia, who defeated Babylon in 539 b.c. (ca. 33 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s attack).”

In other words, the forty years may have already had an historical fulfillment under Babylon’s judgment. Forty years after Babylon’s judgment of Egypt, the people of Egypt returned to their own land as promised. However, this section of Scripture may also have prophetic overtones attached to it since there is no exact record of this occurring in history. Perhaps something similar will take place in the future Millennial Kingdom regarding Egypt’s personal judgment and blessing.

For forty years, after the Tribulation has expired and during the Millennial Kingdom, God will send a specific judgment upon Egypt, because of her historic persecution of God’s people. Israel’s land will be blessed during the Millennium (Joel 3:18) and Egypt’s land will be judged during this time (Joel 3:19). Both of these verses occur simultaneously together and are referring to the prophetic time period of the Millennium. However, after the forty years has expired, Egypt may once again be able to return to her own land and be blessed by God during the Millennial Kingdom. Isaiah 19:16-25 envisions this time of blessing in the Kingdom after a time of judgment.

In Isaiah 19:16-25, the future blessing of Egypt is described in a three-fold way:

- ✓ Egypt will honor the Jews (vv. 16-18).

Isaiah 19:16-18

“In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel (purpose, plan) of the Lord of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.”

Imagine this! During the Millennial Kingdom, Egypt will recognize Judah (God’s chosen people – the Jews) as the dominant force in the world and they will honor the Jews as God’s chosen people. This envisions a day when Israel would actually rule over the Egyptians. A reversal will take place of the ancient past when the Egyptians ruled over the Jews. In the coming Millennium, the Egyptians will be like scared women, which means, Egypt will be in terror of Judah (God’s chosen people) because they will realize that Judah is under the blessing of God. To dishonor the Jews is to dishonor God and be placed under His hand of judgment. Egypt will know that God’s shaking hand of judgment rests over them if they dishonor the Jews in any way.

It’s interesting that the fear of the Jews was inflicted upon Egypt in the past at the time of the Exodus (Exod. 10:7; 12:33; Deut. 2:25) and the same will be true in the future. Therefore, out of fear and respect for the Jews, the Egyptians will someday honor the Jews, as God’s special people, and five of their major cities will even speak their Hebrew language in sacrificing to God (“speak the language of Canaan” - vs. 18). They will exchange Arabic for Hebrew language in honor of the Jews and their God. This certainly was not the situation in Isaiah’s day and it’s not the situation in our world today. Therefore, there must be a future fulfillment attached to it. It will take place during the coming Millennial Kingdom.

- ✓ Egypt will honor God (vv. 19-22).

Isaiah 19:19-22

“In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord. 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 saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it. And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.”

Someday in Egypt, an altar will be built to the Lord, along with a monument at Egypt's border. Egypt will openly avow that she is worshiping the God of Israel and no longer worship the false god of Islam. This will be national policy. Egypt will be blessed by God during these days because of her acknowledgment of the true Lord. In fact, when the Egyptians call out to God for help and salvation, He will send them a Savior and a Champion, who is none other than the Messiah (v. 20). The Lord revealed Himself to the Israelites and brought them into a saving relationship with Himself through bitter defeat in the Exodus (Exod. 7:5; 9:29; 14:4). He will do the same to the Egyptians in that future day (Isa. 19:21; Jer. 31:34; Zech. 14:16–18). Through difficulty and defeat Egypt will turn to God during the Millennial Kingdom and respond with appropriate worship.

One could never imagine a bulletin coming out of Egypt today that says, “We've turned to the God of the Jews and the Bible. We will worship and honor Him only from this day forward.” This is almost comical to think about today, but the Bible envisions a time when this will actually happen, throughout the land of Egypt that was once pagan and God-defying. This definitely has a future fulfillment attached to it. Only God can bring these two Arab and Jewish nations together and unite them in peace and unity. The Egyptians will be involved in the restored sacrificial system of worship during the Millennial Kingdom, which will be for memorial purposes (“and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation”).

Zechariah 14:16-19 reveals this amazing prophetic revelation about Egypt and her Millennial worship: “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from

year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

God will keep order throughout the millennial earth. Nations which were once enemies of God will be required to worship Him. If they fail to honor Him then penalty will come. The Bible once again envisions Egypt’s people coming to Jerusalem to worship God. The situation of Egypt worshipping God must have sounded unbelievable for the people of Judah during Isaiah’s day. Imagine Egypt, this pagan nation, who worshipped pagan gods, will someday turn around completely and openly vow to worship the true God of Heaven. Of course, with the present situation in Egypt, a nation that follows Islam, this occurrence seems impossible. But God reveals that someday Egyptian hearts will be changed and they will worship the Messiah, who will one day return and establish His Millennial Kingdom, over planet earth.

✓ Egypt will honor enemies (vv. 23-25).

Isaiah 19:23-25

“In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.”

Of course, Syria conquered Egypt. Historically, the two were bitter rivals and enemies. The same will be true during the coming Tribulation Period (Daniel 11:40). However, in these verses, we discover that the former enemies of Egypt will sit down together and worship the Lord as one people. This is another amazing prophetic revelation! A literal “highway” will be built and pass from Egypt (through Israel) to Assyria with unrestricted passage. This will be the King’s highway. The nations will unite in the worship of Jehovah. The highway will aid in their unity and worship together

(Isa. 35:8). Remarkably, in the Millennium, these three powers who were once bitter rivals and enemies (Assyria, Egypt, and Israel) will have a harmonious, unified, and peaceful relationship under God's hand of blessing. They will share the same worship, highway, and blessing of God. Traffic will flow from Egypt and Assyria through the land of Israel and there will be economic, political, and spiritual unity among these bitter rivalries and enemies of Israel. Peace among these lands will be restored and the borders opened.

The Bible predicts that someday the Jewish people will flow out of Egypt to worship with the Egyptians in the city of Jerusalem. The once pagan and persecuting cities of Jewish people will be inhabited by Jews who will travel to Jerusalem (Micah 7:12).

Zechariah 14:9

“And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.”

Isaiah 19:24-25 bears repeating:

“In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.”

These verses prophetically anticipate that there will be a national salvation for Egypt even as there is a national salvation for the Jews. However, they also predict that there will be a national salvation for Assyria, which is present-day modern-day northern Iraq. God has some glorious plans for these nations in the days ahead.

In conclusion, Egypt's future is clearly outlined in the Bible. We can know what is going to take place with this ancient country and presently pagan nation that exists in our world today. Egypt will experience an outbreak of regeneration, revival, and be richly blessed by God in the days that lie ahead. Yes, it's unbelievable, but God will bring about these great marvels, during the Golden Age of the Millennial Kingdom. In fact, the entire earth will be blessed during the coming earthly theocracy “when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

Beloved, let us take heart today. There are better days ahead for planet earth. The King is coming! Someday He is going to return and set things straight and all will be well with this world. God will do a marvelous work throughout the earth and bless Egypt and the nations throughout the one thousand years (Rev. 20:1-6). The Lord will reverse the fortunes of the pagan nations and bring them to a place of blessing and respectability once again within the world. The best is yet to come!