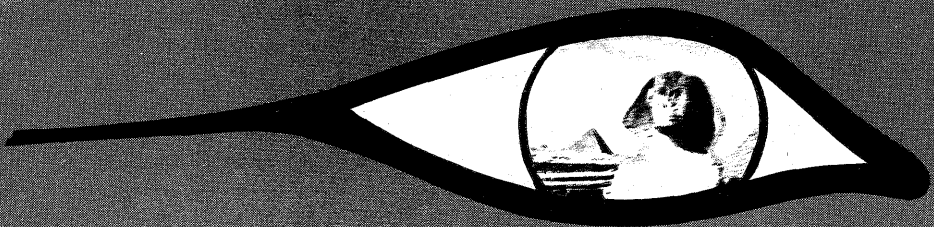
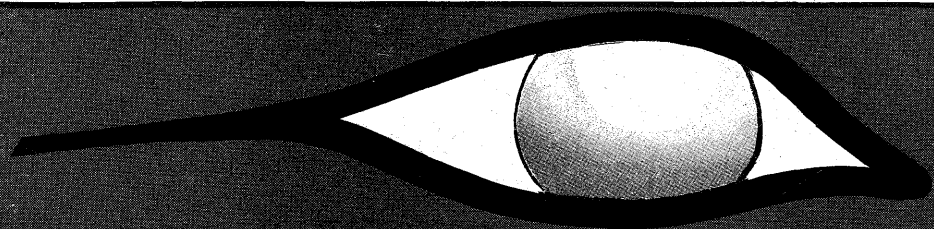


EGYPT'S FUTURE IN PROPHECY



by Ray Brubaker

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**God's News Behind the News
Commentator**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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LECTURE 1

Introduction

MOODY MONTHLY notes: "Many books have been written, and rightly so, about Israel in connection with Bible Prophecy. But little attention has been given to the Arabs."

Until recently the Arab nations have been isolated from Israel and the rest of the world due to geography, culture, and the Moslem religion.

Now, with Egypt seizing the initiative to promote peace and more cordial relations with Israel, it is only right that we take a closer look at what the Bible has to say about the future of this country.

Having been to Egypt as well as to Israel, I must admit my fascination for the land of the Pharoahs. While Israel holds the high esteem of all who love the land of the Bible, it must be realized that Egypt, too, is the land of the Scriptures.

Thus, this book should be of special interest as we discuss the future of Egypt as well as its past, seeking to answer the question, What's Ahead for Egypt?

May the Lord use this series of messages to inspire your heart with the true meaning of these days of prophetic significance. May you be encouraged to "Look up, and lift up your head, for your redemption draweth nigh."

Ray M. Brubaker
Commentator

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SADAT: MAN OF DESTINY



The signing of the "Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel" was an emotional scene as Prime Minister Begin and Pres. Sadat embraced.

It was also a reminder of an event we read about in Genesis, of Jacob and Esau, twin sons of Isaac. When Rebecca, Isaac's wife was with child, the Lord said unto her, "Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."

And so it was that when Jacob and Esau were born, they were two different personalities. Jacob liked to stay at home while Esau loved to roam the fields. The Bible says Esau was a cunning hunter. His father, Isaac, especially loved Esau because he was the first-born and he also loved to eat of his venison. But, we

read, Rebekah loved Jacob.

One day when Esau came home, apparently without success of getting any deer, he was quite hungry. Smelling the aroma of food that his brother Jacob was cooking, he said, "Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint."

And Jacob replied to the effect, "O.K., if you'll sell me your birthright, I'll give you some pottage."

Actually, what Jacob was asking for was that he might receive the benefits of the family inheritance which usually went to the firstborn. It also meant that he would be in direct line to succeed Abraham, his grandfather, and Isaac, his father, to help usher in the kingdom of the Messiah. And, he would become the heir to inherit the title of the "father of nations," who were faithful followers of Jehovah.

Esau, thinking of his hunger rather than his heritage, replied: "Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?" So Esau surrendered all of the benefits that would have been his as the firstborn for a cup of soup. Thus, the Bible says, "He despised his birthright."

Later, when it came time for Isaac to bless his sons, for he was now old and his eyes were dim, he called for Esau, saying: "I pray thee...go out to the field, and take some venison; and make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die." (Gen. 27:4)

Esau took his bow and quiver full of arrows and went out for a deer. At the same time, Rebekah said to Jacob words to this effect. She said: "Jacob, I overheard your father speaking to Esau to go bring him some venison and he would bless him before he dies." So, taking a couple of goats from the flock, Rebekah made a savoury meal. Then, knowing Jacob was of smooth skin while Esau was hairy, she put the skins of the goats upon his hands and on his neck. And Jacob proceeded to take the platter of food to his father who ate it eagerly, after which Isaac blessed Jacob, saying: "Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee. (Gen. 27:29)

Thus, you have Jacob, whose name was changed to ISRAEL, given not only the inherent birthright but also

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the promise of blessing.

By the time Isaac had eaten that luscious meal, Esau came in from the field bearing the venison. Taking the savoury meat that he had prepared, he came to his father, saying: "Let my father arise, and eat of the son's venison, that thy soul may bless me."

And the father said: "Who art thou?" And he said: "I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau."

Father Isaac trembled exceedingly, knowing he had been tricked to bless Jacob, so that Esau could only plead and cry, saying, "Bless me also, my father!"

And Isaac replied: "Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing."

Esau replied concerning his brother: "Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing."

As a result of that episode there was fierce hatred between Jacob and Esau. Knowing of Esau's design on the very life of Jacob, Rebekah sent her son away.

For many years they had been separated. Then there came a time when God had blessed Jacob, and he returned to his home not knowing whether his brother Esau would meet him with an army, or whether he would be glad to see him.

But as they met, the hostility suddenly melted away. We read how Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him. (Gen. 34:4)

Witnessing Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat embracing one another in the East Room of the White House, with President Carter looking on, reminded us of this scene that took place some 3,000 years ago.

History was repeating itself in the Middle East as blood-brothers again found themselves overlooking centuries of hate and hostility for hugs and handshakes that could spell peace and happiness.

If only the picture of Sadat and Begin embracing one another could replace scenes of arms blown off in a terrorist attack, or of bombs falling on helpless children, or tanks set afire, or planes falling from the skies in a time of war!

A favorite passage of Pres. Kennedy was Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 where we read: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a

time to be born, and a time to die: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted." And then, further down in the passage we read: "a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing." (v. 5)

The time to embrace came on a Sunday when churches found their people praying for peace. What appeared to end in disaster suddenly turned to discovery of hope. As President Carter recalled that when the Camp David summit began, he had called on "the people of the world to pray that our negotiations would be successful. Those prayers," said the president, "have been answered far beyond any expectations."

Sadat, originally somber, was almost reverential in his praise, declaring: "My hope is that the promise of this moment will be fulfilled." Begin, sounding the same note of praise, declared: "Peace now celebrates a great victory for the nations of Egypt and Israel and for all mankind."

We've heard of Chuck Colson and others who were "born again" as a result of prison experiences, so Anwar Sadat referred to eight months he spent in prison between 1947-1948 as the "happiest period of my life." This was at the time of the dawn of the Israeli nation, at which time Sadat was awaiting trial for complicity in a political assassination.

TIME magazine says at that time Sadat was "born again," a phrase that had come to mean any experience of a radical change of purpose and behavior.

While in a prison cell, Sadat came upon a copy of the READER'S DIGEST. An article by an American psychologist struck his attention which emphasized the need of having faith even in the midst of trying circumstances, and that no problem should ever be regarded as insolvable.

Wrote Sadat: "There are always solutions to everything. What makes us think in this way is our belief that God created men to play the roles assigned to them."

We're reminded of what we read in the Psalms where it is recorded: "God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another." (Psa. 76:7)

This was also the conclusion reached by another great statesman by the name of Daniel who said: "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might

are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings and setteth up kings..." (Dan. 2:20-21)

Sadat's autobiography can be found in a book entitled IN SEARCH OF IDENTITY, published by Harper and Row, in which he goes on to say: "My love for the universe is derived from my love for God. The Creator being my friend, I couldn't possibly be afraid of men...it is he who controls their life and the entire universe."

Wrote Sadat: "Time ceased to exist once my heart was taken over by the love of the Lord of all Creation: I came to feel very close to Him wherever I was."

Quite a revelation, isn't it?

Who is the Lord of all Creation?

Well, John writes concerning Jesus: "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3)

Now we are not saying that Sadat is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a devout Muslim and not a Christian. However, it is of interest to note that Sadat was born on Christmas Day--quite a coincidence.

Sadat continues his writing by saying: "My friendship with God changed me a great deal. Only in defense of a just cause would I take up arms, so to speak."

Sadat wrote: "Ideally the relationship between man and God should be based not on fear (or punishment and reward) but on a much loftier value (the highest) friendship. The Creator is merciful, just and loving; He is all-powerful because he created everything. If you have him for a friend, you will always have peace of mind under whichever circumstances."

Well, ANWAR SADAT, voted in 1977 by TIME magazine as the MAN OF THE YEAR, may become the MAN OF THE DECADE, reflecting on his ability to change the status quo in the Middle East.

He considers himself as a man of destiny, chosen to represent his fellow Arab brothers, and overseer of the land of Palestine, recognizing it was given by God.

Born along the Nile Delta, he observed his surroundings with religious interest. He wrote: "This big shady tree was made by God; He decreed it: it came into being. These fresh green plants whose seeds we had ourselves sown could never have been there if God had not decreed it. This land on which I walk; the running water in the canal; indeed, everything around me was

made by an overseeing God--a vast, mighty Being that watches and takes care of all, including me."

It is this land that has occupied the attention of President Sadat and Premier Begin as they seek to formulate a Middle East peace.

Will Almighty God look down with respect upon Sadat's peace initiative?

As President Carter quoted from the "Beatitudes": "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Could it be that God will bless Sadat? Will He greatly bless Egypt?

We think of ISRAEL as the apple of God's eye, reminded that "He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps."

However, looking ahead during the Kingdom Age, we see where EGYPT will once again be predominant among Mid-East nations. You may not believe it, but it is in the Bible.

In Isaiah 20:24-25 we read of Egypt's glorious future ... "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."

Is Sadat paving the way for Egypt to become reconciled to Israel's restoration to her land, and in doing so, will he reap the divine favor of the Almighty?

Although there will be trials and tragedies ahead, the end will be triumph. For Egypt will be considered the "people of God," and the blessing God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will spill out upon Egypt.

Indeed, it will be a glorious day when peace will be ushered in by the Lord Jesus Christ.

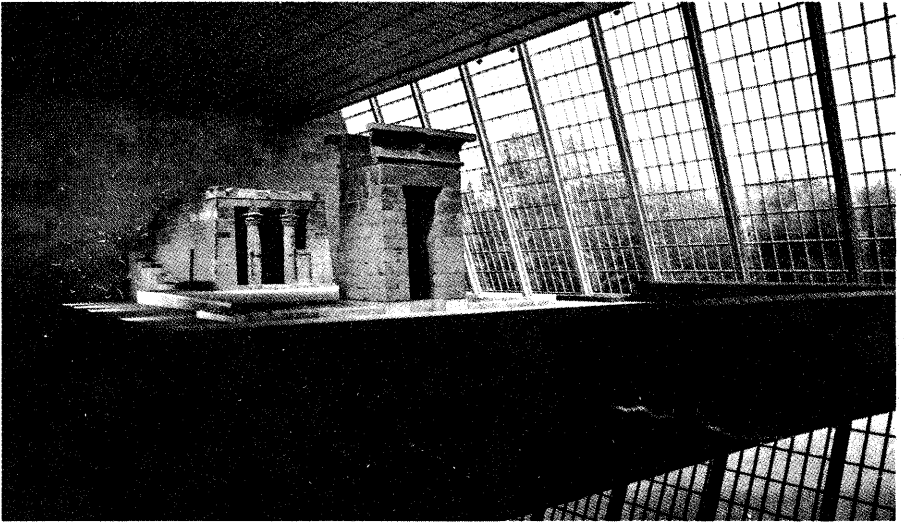
May we ask, When Christ appears, will you be ready for His coming? Are you ready were He to come today?

As the lightning flashes from one end of the sky even to the other, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. Your faith in the shed blood of Jesus for your sins entitles you to be caught up at the rapture.

Are you truly born again? Have you been changed within so that you are eagerly looking for His coming?

For His return is near and hastening. And He has urged us, saying: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

EGYPT: The Old and the New



Gateway and temple loom behind the glass wall reflected in the moat simulating the Nile

An Egyptian temple built 2,000 years ago now stands gleaming in a glass pavilion which has been newly erected at the north end of Manhattan's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The temple narrowly escaped drowning when Egypt decided to build a high dam at Aswan. An Egyptian team carefully dismantled the temple, and the numbered blocks were stored on an island in the Nile. Then, in 1965 the Egyptian government offered the temple to the United States in gratitude for the U.S.'s \$16 million contribution to try to save the monuments that would become inundated for 300 miles along the Nile River--resulting from the building of the Aswan Dam.

Altogether some 640 tons of stones arrived in Manhattan aboard a freighter and were painstakingly reassembled.

The temple is unlike a church in that it was not designed for worshippers. Rather, Egyptian temples were

built for their gods.

Concerning this temple, it was originally dedicated to two young Nubian princes who had drowned in the River Nile. Two carved lions guard an entrance, while the doorway itself is flanked by two goddesses.

The nation of Egypt and her people, the Egyptians, are mentioned in the Bible approximately 700 times.

When we think of Egypt's glorious past, we think of Joseph who was sold into slavery but bought by Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and was made an overseer in the king's house.

Although thrown into prison when tempted by Potiphar's wife, by refusing to surrender his moral integrity and purity, he later became ruler over all of the land of Egypt. The title Pharaoh gave him was Zaphnath-paaneah, meaning "preserver of the world."

As God preserved Joseph, so He can preserve us and make us the "salt" to preserve the world in which we live. Witnessing our world given over to wickedness of all kind would make us wonder how effective is our witness.

When Joseph died, he was embalmed and put in a coffin. From finding a mummy encased in gold dating to Joseph's time, it was ascertained that great pains were taken to care for the dead. A ring of pure gold and a seal which turned on a swivel and contained two engraved tablets which were worn around the neck give evidence of the grandeur that was Egypt.

Egypt's greatest achievement was her pyramids. The Great Pyramid at Gizeh contained about 2,300,000 stones, with each block weighing about 5,000 pounds. Workmen shaped each stone so carefully that the blocks fitted together within hundredths of an inch.



The pyramids were designed to emphasize the belief that a person does not die, but lives forever.

It was also from the Egyptians that we got our 365-day calendar, with each day of 24 hours. No other people of the antiquity has left, in the form of pictures, the written word, statues and buildings, such a comprehensive and objective depiction of itself as has the Egyptian race.

THE EVANGEL states: "Egypt, for 5,000 years, has been the cardinal point, or hub in the wheel of Bible prophecy. No other country, other than Israel, has been so closely interwoven into the intricate pattern of Bible prophecy as has Egypt."

Harold Wildish, British writer and evangelist, notes Egypt is referred to 20 times in Isaiah 19. Read through this chapter and you'll have a revelation of God's purpose for Egypt. "Judgment," he notes, "will eventually be followed by blessing; but before she is blessed, Egypt must face civil war (v. 2), cruel foreign domination (v. 4), and the drying up of the life-giving River Nile (v. 5)." Wildish refers to the building of the Aswan High Dam as a "masterpiece of engineering" which may yet "prove to be the greatest ecological blunder of modern times."

Referring back to some of Egypt's other famous personages mentioned in Scripture, we must mention Abraham. We find the account of his visit to Egypt confirmed by many facts which may be compared with the history, laws and customs of the country as found in Wilkinson, Land, and other writers.

Then, of course, there is Moses who grew up in Egypt. When all other Hebrew male children were ordered to be cast into the river, Moses was kept alive by being placed in an ark of bulrushes.

The Bible says Moses was a "goodly" child which commentators think it means he was lovely to look upon. Beauty was regarded by the ancients as a sign of divine favor.

Listen to what we read in Hebrews 11: "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to

suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of reward." (v. 23-26)

Josephus, the historian, states that when Moses was a child, they put a diadem on his head in jest, and he threw it down, thus rejecting adoption into Pharaoh's family. Instead, faith made Moses to prefer adoption by the King of kings.

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, in their commentary, said of Moses: "He balanced the best of the world with the worst of religion, and decidedly chose the latter. 'Choosing' implies a deliberate resolution, not a hasty impulse."

Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy pleasures of sin for a season.

Notes this commentary: "If the world has 'pleasure' to offer, it is but for a season." It goes on to suggest: "If a religion brings with it 'affliction,' it too is but for a season; whereas its pleasures are forevermore."

Today we would like to comment on a prophecy given some 2500 years ago where it was stated that Egypt would be made desolate for 40 years. (Ezekiel 29:12)

One commentator says this happened during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, while another declares the event to be still future.

Let me read it to you where the Lord says: "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."

One writer tells of traveling by plane from Rome to Cairo. He asked an Egyptian medical student the question: "As you have studied your country's history, have you ever learned of a period of forty years when no man or beast lived in Egypt?"

In a little book published entitled THE DEATH OF EGYPT, it is stated: "God pronounced desolation upon Egypt in that day, and it lasted 40 years when it came. It came through the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon..."

However, missions director, Dr. Charles Feinberg, in his commentary, says: "No such forty-year period is known in Egyptian history."

So we might ask, Is this prophecy awaiting fulfillment?

We all know that Sadat's journey to Jerusalem and later to Camp David, angered many of the Arabs who were no doubt stirred up by poisonous propaganda.

In the case of Muammar Qadhafy of Libya, Premier Sadat said that Qadhafy's actions were "directed by the devil." Qadhafy said Camp David was a sell-out to the Arab cause.

The Soviet Union, that helped finance the Aswan Dam in Egypt, is especially provoked over the Sadat peace initiative.

The Scriptures predict a time when Russia will invade Israel, at which time Egypt may also be attacked. Anyway, based on Joel's prophecy and other passages, we see where destruction is ahead for Egypt.

Here's what we read: "Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness...but Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation."

How extensive will this desolation be?

In Ezekiel 29:10 we read: "I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia." We're told that a map of Egypt shows this covers an area from the extreme north to the extreme south.

There are those who believe this 40 years wherein Egypt remains desolate will extend into the kingdom age or the millennium.

Richard DeHaan, in his book, ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS IN PROPHECY, says: "The Bible expressly declares that Egypt shall some day turn to God, and along with Assyria and Israel enjoy great prosperity in the millennial kingdom."

Here's what we read in Isaiah 19: "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

by them. 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." (See Isa. 19:22-25)

Inasmuch as Assyria does not exist today by that name, it is believed Syria and neighboring powers may be meant.

And; although Israel is mentioned as "the third" with Egypt and Assyria, it is not believed this means the third in power or rank.

Finally, in that day it will be shown that God blesses Egypt, calling her "his people." This is an affectionate name of endearment that is given to all who come to know and love the Lord.

As we read in Rev. 21:3, it will come to pass wherein we read: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with man, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

Are you one of "His people"?

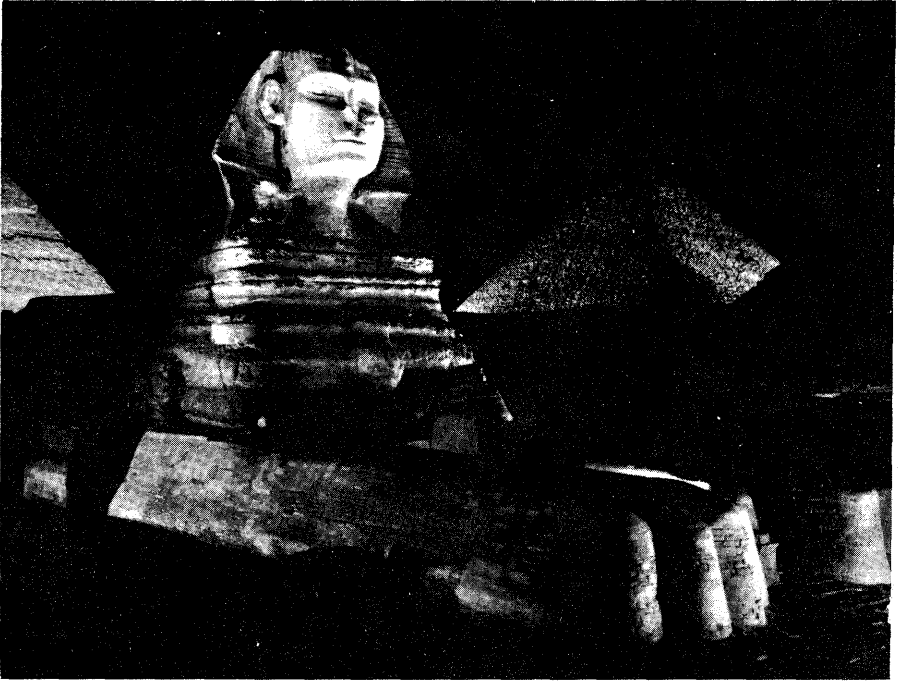
You can be one of God's people by pledging your allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ--by coming forward and identifying with Him--receiving Him as your Lord and Saviour.

The blessing seen coming upon Egypt in a future day can likewise be your blessing now.

Believe that Jesus died for your sins, ask His forgiveness, and then live for Him daily.

"Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

THE FUTURE OF EGYPT



We hear a great deal about ISRAEL'S FUTURE in PROPHECY. What about the FUTURE OF EGYPT in PROPHECY?

That Egypt has had a glorious past is a recognized fact of history, but that she shall have a glorious future is not realized by most students of the Bible.

We think of Jesus as living His entire life in the regions of Galilee, spending much of His time in Nazareth. But have you ever stopped to think that our Lord spent some time in Egypt?

Remember how following the birth of Jesus, there appeared unto Joseph an angel in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and flee into Egypt..." So it was fulfilled--that which was spoken by the prophet, saying, "OUT OF EGYPT HAVE I

CALLED MY SON." (Matt. 2:12-15)

And then there is a prophecy recorded in Isaiah 19 which says: "Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt..." The chapter goes on to relate some of the marvelous things predicted for the days ahead when Egypt will be under the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, before we discuss Egypt's future, let us look at her glorious past. Some years ago in the READER'S DIGEST there appeared an article by Lord Clark in which he described Egypt as the first great home of civilization. He listed the following magnificent developments that were characteristic of the Egyptians.

1. Egypt had a belief in the individual as a moral human being. The Egyptians had sculpture to show ordinary people at work. It is the only ancient civilization recording the work of slaves.

2. The Egyptians believed in the beauty and dignity of man. Each had a soul that would survive after death. The Egyptians always had a longing for immortality and a passionate believe in life after death, indicated by the embalming of their dead. Even the pyramids stand as a memorial to immortality.

3. The Egyptians had a love and an awareness of nature. Whereas the Jews hated dogs, for they were much like wolves, the Egyptians liked dogs. They kept them as pets, loved them, trained them, and even mummified them. Among the 40 references to dogs in the Bible, you won't find a respectful word for them, but not so with the Egyptians who treated them as pets. They also loved horses and were wonderful horsemen. The Egyptians were a snare to the Israelites because of their horses and chariots.

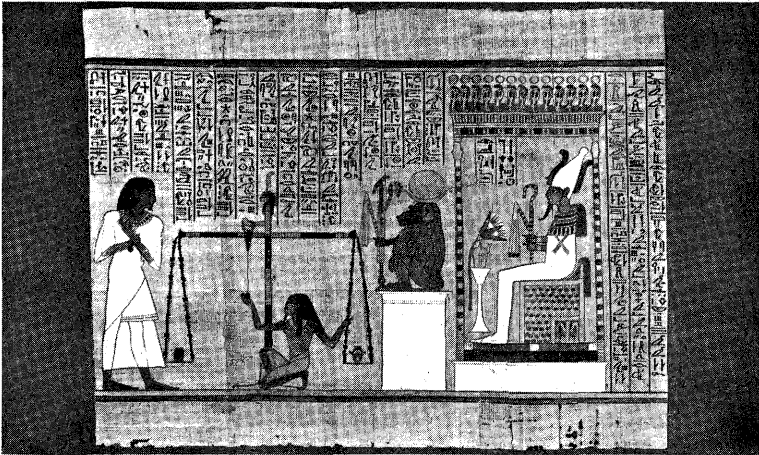
4. The Egyptians had a well-organized system of government. Ancient Egyptian civilization lasted for more than 700 years which was certainly a tribute to the durability of this ancient empire.

5. Egypt had an art of unsurpassed grandeur. Egypt is the mother of science, literature and art.

If ever traveling to the Holy Land, be sure to travel to Egypt and tour the museum at Cairo where so many beautiful things have been dug out of the tombs. They were experts in glassware, porcelain, etc.

The Egyptians invented the art of writing using

hieroglyphics. They produced the papyrus which has given us our paper.



Papyrus showing the weighing of the heart.

They had a calendar which was long proved invaluable. And the destruction of the Royal Library at Alexandria was regarded as the greatest calamity of all time. It was the vandalism of all vandalism.

That is a brief look at Egypt's past.

The Rev. Geoffrey King, writing in the PROPHEMIC WITNESS (July, 1978), notes: "There's no country other than Israel where the prophecies of the Old Testament have received more striking fulfilment than in the land of Egypt."

EGYPT stands out as one of the countries, besides Israel, receiving much mention in the Scriptures.

Turn to Isaiah 19 and you will have a prophetic picture of events that some believe are transpiring in our day, and which will have their complete fulfilment when our Lord returns.

The chapter is in two parts. Half of the chapter refer to Egypt's judgment while the latter half refers to Egypt's glorious future.

In verse 5, reference is made to the waters failing from the sea, and the river wasted and dried up. (v. 5)

The life-giving waters of the Nile have provided that which was necessary for garden and granary for centuries. But now with the building of the Aswan Dam, the Nile has been prevented from overflowing and bringing silt down to cover the land as an aid to the vegetation

so valuable in the growing of crops.

It had been customary for the Nile River to flood the same area of ground at precisely the same time each year, thus richly fertilizing it. But the Aswan Dam has greatly changed the course of nature, thus accounting for the tragedy of which Isaiah writes.

Mention is also made of the reeds and the flags which shall wither. It is said that 99% of Egypt's population inhabit the land surrounding the River Nile. As one writer put it: "Without the Nile, Egypt would be merely a desolate corner of the Sahara."

The reed is a reference to the papyrus reed which native Egyptians used as firewood and for making various utensils. Of course, what made papyrus famous was its use as writing material. Egypt once led the world in this, but there's no more paper coming out of Egypt.

The flags spoken of here are the lotus flower which were in constant demand in Egypt for bouquets and garlands.

Verse 8 says: "The fishers also shall mourn." The Nile was noted for its fishing. For centuries fish were plentiful and cheap, the main dish of the poor. Dried fish was a big item in Egyptian exports.

The building of the Aswan Dam finds the fishpools neglected and ruined. We're told that the lovely fresh water sardines are no more, and all the varied fish industry of Egypt is virtually gone.

Verse 9 reads: "Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded."

There was a time when flax was woven on the looms of Egypt and sold for its weight in gold. White linen was superior to any other in the world.

Now look at verse 16 as we hurry on. We read: "In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: "...And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, everyone that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which he hath determined against it." (See vs. 16-17)

Many stories have been told of the fear that came over Egyptian troops during past wars wherein Israel was victorious. Troops surrendered rather than face the military might of Israel's army. Soldiers were found running, leaving weapons and equipment behind, even losing their boots in their attempt to escape. Thus,

the description of Egypt being as women, meaning they were timid and afraid.

Now look at Isaiah 19:18 where we read: "In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan."

Could this be a reference to Egyptians speaking Hebrew? Or could it be that not all Israelis will leave the Jewish settlements in the Sinai, which land is to be returned to Egypt?

In verse 19 we're told: "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."

JAMIESON, FAUSSET and BROWN, in their commentary, point out that "It was a common practice in Egypt to raise obelisks commemorating Divine and great events." So a pillar, such as Jacob may have erected, will proclaim Egypt's recognition of Almighty God.

It was interesting to see how the Egyptians welcomed President Sadat back home following his Summit meeting at Camp David. Bright banners were flown in Cairo streets hailing Sadat as a "Hero of Peace," and imploring "God's blessing on the wise leader of Egypt."

President Sadat once wrote: "I am of the opinion that politics is the art of building a society wherein the will of God is enacted. Our Creator has decreed we should engage in constructive work consistently."

Is such language a prelude to the day when the Lord shall be exalted in the land of Egypt?

Listen closely to these verses.

We read that when the altar is erected and a pillar established: "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..."

Did you hear it?

What tremendous days in which to live. God is moving around the world in ways that we never dreamed possible. Through radio and television the gospel is being preached into all the world for a witness so that the end is very near.

When Christ returns as the Messiah to Israel, He is also going to be accepted by the Egyptians.

Now notice verse 23: "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians."

As a result of the Summit conference at Camp David, there is expected to be "normal relations" between Israel and Egypt--something that was believed to be unthinkable.

An Israeli bus company already has set the price of a one-way ticket from Tel-Aviv to Cairo at about \$8.00. A spokesman says he thinks Israelis will rush to see the pyramids. On the other hand, a lot of Egyptians will come to visit Jerusalem.

"Normal relations" would include cultural and diplomatic exchanges. Trade and commerce would also be restored.

While freedom is a worthwhile goal to be achieved, there are many in Egypt and elsewhere that are not free. Many are bound to a life of poverty. Hundreds of thousands are unemployed. Of Cairo's 8,000,000 residents some are forced to live in the street or even in cemeteries.

An Egyptian policeman or construction worker does not make more than \$2.00 a day, and with this money he must raise a family.

Egypt has incurred a tremendous debt, especially to Russian, for weapons that have been lost in past wars.

So the only freedom that is surely worth having is to be forgiven by Jesus Christ, set free from sin.

In closing, we might ask, "Do you know this freedom?" We read, "For whom the Son maketh free, he shall be free indeed!"

Coming to Christ, we will be set free if we will sincerely trust Him, repenting of our sins, to live for Him.

This, too is the way to be ready for His coming. For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

EGYPT'S FUTURE



Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt, has sought the role of spokesman for the Arab world in seeking peace with Israel.

Wim Malgo, editor of *THE MIDNIGHT CALL*, warns that we shouldn't get carried away by overtures of peace no matter how sincere they may be. He points out that until Christ returns as the Prince of Peace, what we are seeing may be merely a prelude to the "false peace" which will be offered by the coming world ruler we call the Antichrist.

Clayton Fritchey of *NEWS DAY* says of Sadat's summit meeting with Carter and Begin: "Not many other defeated nations have been able to win back all their territorial losses through peaceful negotiations with the victor."

We have been reviewing the part Egypt will play in endtime prophecy. For God's purpose is to make Egypt a blessing to the world even as He has promised to make ISRAEL a blessing to the nations.

For in Isaiah 19 we read of Egypt's glorious fu-

ture... which is conditioned upon the return of Christ to set up His millennial kingdom. We read: "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." Actually these three nations shall be joined together as one.

Now you can't read that passage without realizing that God has promised blessing upon Egypt in a future time, calling the Egyptians His people.

However, before that happens...before the reign of Messiah over all the earth, Egypt and Israel will both experience great suffering. We all know that the battle of Armageddon will be fought in that part of the world.

What will happen is revealed in such passages as Daniel 11 where concerning Antichrist we read: "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape." And the next verse reads: "But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt." (v. 42-43)

So Antichrist will no doubt provoke destruction that will be nuclear in scope. For in passages such as Ezekiel 29 we read of terrible destruction that will befall Egypt. Verse 9 reads: "And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste..." Then we read: "No foot of man shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years." (v. 11)

Again verse 12, "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."

We're told this prophecy has not been fulfilled. However, it is determined that it will be fulfilled at the time of our Lord's glorious return to earth.

How do we know?

Ezekiel refers to this as taking place during the period of time we refer to as "the day of the Lord."

We read: - "Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen." (v. 3)

So events we are about to describe are linked to the Day of the Lord.

What will happen?

We read: And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt." Doesn't that sound like a nuclear blast will hit Egypt?

However, as a result of this destruction, we read: "And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have set a fire in Egypt."

So, Egypt is not without destruction. Then the Lord reminds us: "And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark. I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light." So we know this destruction will occur at the time of great tribulation.

In fact, we're reminded of the words of Jesus when He spoke of the coming tribulation. For He declared: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

The scattering of Egypt for 40 years could relate to atomic fall-out that makes the land unfit for human habitation. So for 40 years they are driven from their borders after which they will return.

This is a most unusual passage especially in view of what we have been saying concerning Egypt's glorious future.

There's coming a time, however, when Israel and Egypt will be "a blessing in the midst of the land." (Isaiah 19:24)

Zechariah gives further information concerning that day, saying: "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."

We read on: "And there shall be no more utter destruction...And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth." (Zech. 14:9-12)

Some believe this is a reference to the destruction

of the Neutron Bomb which saves property but destroys the person.

Then we read of this worship of the Lord whose headquarters is in Jerusalem. Zech. 14:16-19 tells us: "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."

So Egypt is pointed out, in particular, as among the nations that will come up from year to year to Jerusalem to worship the Lord, or upon their crops there will be no rain.

Isaiah refers to Egypt's restoration, saying: "And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it, and they shall return to the Lord." (Isa. 19:22)

This means that Egypt will repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Master.

Egypt's decline as a nation will be ended. Although never again to rise to the status of a world empire, she will be united to the people of God along with Israel.

Ezekiel describes the return of Egypt after 40 years of being scattered perhaps due to the high radiation from atomic destruction that forced whatever inhabitants of the land to flee.

But this is what we read: "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."

Professor Frederick Gardiner observes: "There are few greater contrasts in any inhabited country than between the ancient glory, power and wealth in Egypt and its later insignificance."

Geoffrey King has listed three facts which emerge related to Egypt's rule through the past centuries which were an example of unspeakable horrors, bloodshed, murder, poverty and insolvency.

The first of these concerned Egypt's debased kingdom resulting from the wicked character of its rulers. The story is one of terrible oppression, like Israel under Pharaoh making bricks without straw.

A second thing history records is the failure of Egypt to have a native ruler to compare to the early Pharaohs.

In Ezekiel 30:13 we read: "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt..." Sir Wallace Budge, in recounting the history of Egypt, refers to the period of 350 B.C., saying: "Thus ended the rule of the last native King of Egypt, and the country has been ordained to be in possession of the foreigner even until now." Even Queen Cleopatra, one of the most colorful and powerful personages to rule Egypt was a Macedonian. Egypt has been overrun by the Ethiopians, by the Libyans, by the Persians, by the Macedonians, by the Romans, by the Turks, by France under Napoleon, and by the British.

This brings us to the third aspect of the baseness of Egypt in that the land has been ruled by slaves. Of the Mamelukes who occupied the throne of the Pharaohs, Sir Wallace Budge testifies: "They were originally slaves who were purchased or captured in war."

Sir Edward Gibbon, the great historian, has stated: "A more unjust and absurd constitution cannot be devised. That which condemns the natives of a country to perpetual servitude under the arbitrary dominion of strangers and slaves."

President Sadat has called for freedom for the people of Egypt. Said Sadat: "Each individual should enjoy absolute freedom, subject to no other restrictions than those implicit in the genuine human values of the society itself..." Stated Sadat: "Freedom is the most beautiful, holy and precious fruit of our culture; an individual should never be made to feel that he is at the mercy of any force of coercion or that his will is subordinated to those of others."

Finally, we read: "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." (v. 24-25)

Did you hear what I have just read?

I have heard from some of my Arab listeners who think we speak too much of Israel's blessing pronounced by Jehovah.

Well, here is a promise related to the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to set up His millennial kingdom at which time the Lord will say: "Blessed be Egypt, my people."

Thus we declare unto you that Egypt's willingness to recognize Israel is the road to blessing and divine favor. God has promised He will bless Egypt in the day when she becomes one with Israel and with Assyria.

What tremendous days in which to live!

Are you awaiting Christ's Coming? It is verily at the door. And it behooves every one of us to make sure we know the Lord in forgiveness of our sins, and in personal peace in our own hearts, and we're ready whenever He will come.

For He hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

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