

**The focus this week will be on the nation of Egypt and her relationship with Israel. Friend or foe? For four hundred years she held Israel captive - physically. For hundreds (if not thousands) of years she held Israel captive spiritually. Egypt taught, nurtured, and stirred Israel's desire for idolatry. On and off she held Israel captive politically. Zedekiah had turned to Egypt for help to hold off Babylonian domination, but in the world of politics, you don't give something for nothing. Help comes at a price. Ezekiel, through God's direction, devotes four chapters to this nation that has held God's people under their power one way or another. God made a promise to Abraham that He would bless those who blessed Israel and curse those who cursed Israel. Is God a God of His Word? What do these chapters teach us? What do we need to understand about God, the destructiveness of tyranny, and God's interaction with His chosen people and the nations that target her for their own gain?**

## DAY 1

Since we have four chapters that deal with the same nation, we are going to handle this week a little different. When it comes time to work on paragraph themes, they are going to be recorded on a chart at the end of this lesson, so you will be able to see the progression of thought. As you record this information, you will see a place to record the time that these events occurred (these are all based on Jehoiachin's exile according to Ezekiel 1:2). There is a timeline near the end of this lesson on page 103 that will give you the date, and you will want to record that on your chart as well (for example - the first captives were taken in 605 BC). Secondly, since this week is devoted to Egypt, you will want to mark that as a key word throughout these four chapters along with Babylon and Israel. They are all going to be interrelated. Thirdly, remember to start each day with prayer and ask God to speak to you, show you truth, and give you His perspective on how individuals and nations are to honor Him as God and the consequences of refusing to give Him honor.

1. Observe Ezekiel 29. As stated above, make sure that you mark *Egypt*, *Babylon* (*Nebuchadnezzar*), and *Israel* in distinct ways as well as all the other words on your making card.
2. Record paragraph themes on your Observation Worksheets and then on the chart at the end of this lesson called "*God's Decrees Regarding Egypt*."

3. Record anything you learn about knowing that He is God.
4. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 29 on your “At a Glance” chart and in your Observation Worksheets.
5. Don’t go to your commentaries yet. We will check them at the end of the week when you have completed all the chapters on Egypt.

## DAY 2

1. Observe Ezekiel 30. You should be used to doing this by now. Please don’t take short cuts. Thorough observations are the basis to any good Bible study! As you study, be sure to look at the map that was included on page 11 of Lesson 1. Find the places mentioned as you read.
2. Read through the chapter and record paragraph themes on the chart and in your Observation Worksheets.
3. Record what you learn about knowing that He is God.
4. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 30.

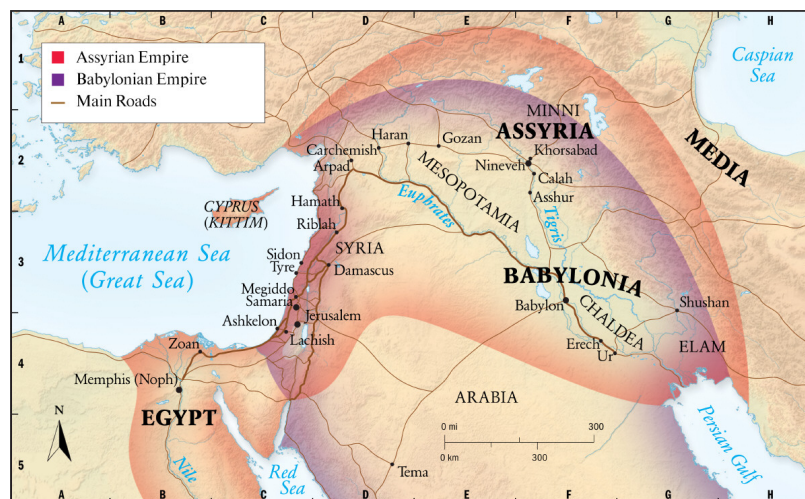
5. Look at your "*God's Decrees Regarding Egypt*" chart. Answer the following questions.
  - a. Look at the timing of each message. Are they messages that have been given at the same time, close to each other?
  
  - b. Remember the parable of the boiling pot that we saw back in Ezekiel 24? If you don't, go back and look over that chapter again. How does the timing of these messages relate to Ezekiel's boiling pot? Do you think there is a significance in this relationship?
  
  - c. In what year will Jerusalem be totally destroyed - the walls, the temple, everything? Look at your timelines and read II Kings 25:1-12. This will give you a better understanding of the events that took place and when. Record what you learn.

## DAY 3

1. Today let's observe Ezekiel 31. It is a short chapter but you have a long one coming up.
  - a. There is another nation that is mentioned in this chapter to which Egypt is being compared. Who is that nation? Make sure you mark that nation in a different way throughout this chapter.
  
  - b. Record what you learn about exaltation, haughtiness, pride, or any other similar words. Why has this nation been brought up at this point?
  
  - c. Mark the references to Sheol or going down to the pit. We discussed what Sheol was once before. Record what it is, and what you learn about it from this chapter and chapter 32 (when you observe that chapter).
  
2. Let's stop here for a moment and look at Assyria, especially for those of you who may not be familiar with the nation or the importance in her relationship with Israel. We want to understand why God is bringing her up.
  - a. What is Assyria compared to or likened to in this chapter?
  
  - b. What do you learn about Assyria from Ezekiel 31?

c. Here is a little background on this nation.

- 1) about 300 miles north of Babylon
- 2) capital was Nineveh (remember Jonah?)
- 3) was the growing power of the world until Babylon took center stage
- 4) known for her fierceness and cruelty
- 5) came against and destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC
- 6) invaded Egypt in 671 BC and 667 BC
- 7) was knocking on the door of Jerusalem until Babylon chased her away
- 8) slowly being assimilated into the Babylonian empire as pieces are picked off by Nebuchadnezzar's father Nabopolassar in 612 BC
- 9) 609 BC Pharaoh Neco comes against Babylon and takes brief control of Judah
- 10) Assyria is completely overtaken by Babylon in the battle of Carchemish even though Pharaoh Neco comes to Carchemish to aid Assyria. Assyria is destroyed and Pharaoh Neco goes scurrying home. He died in 595 BC



3. Read through the chapter and record paragraph themes on the chart and in your Observation Worksheets.
4. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 31 in your Observation Worksheets and “At A Glance” chart.
5. What are you observing about God as you read through this chapter?

#### DAY 4 AND DAY 5

Read over the instructions for these two days so you have a good idea of how to break this up. This is a key chapter in the book of Ezekiel so hang in there and be diligent!

1. Begin by observing Ezekiel 32. Mark all the words on your marking card and make sure you don't miss *lamentation*. Also be sure to use your map as you read.
  - a. mark *Sheol* , *going down to the pit*, *the graves* as you did in the last chapter.
  - b. Mark the following references but you don't need to add them to your card
    - 1) *chant and wail*
    - 2) *uncircumcised*
2. Record paragraph themes on your Observation Worksheets and on the chart at the end of this lesson.
3. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 32.

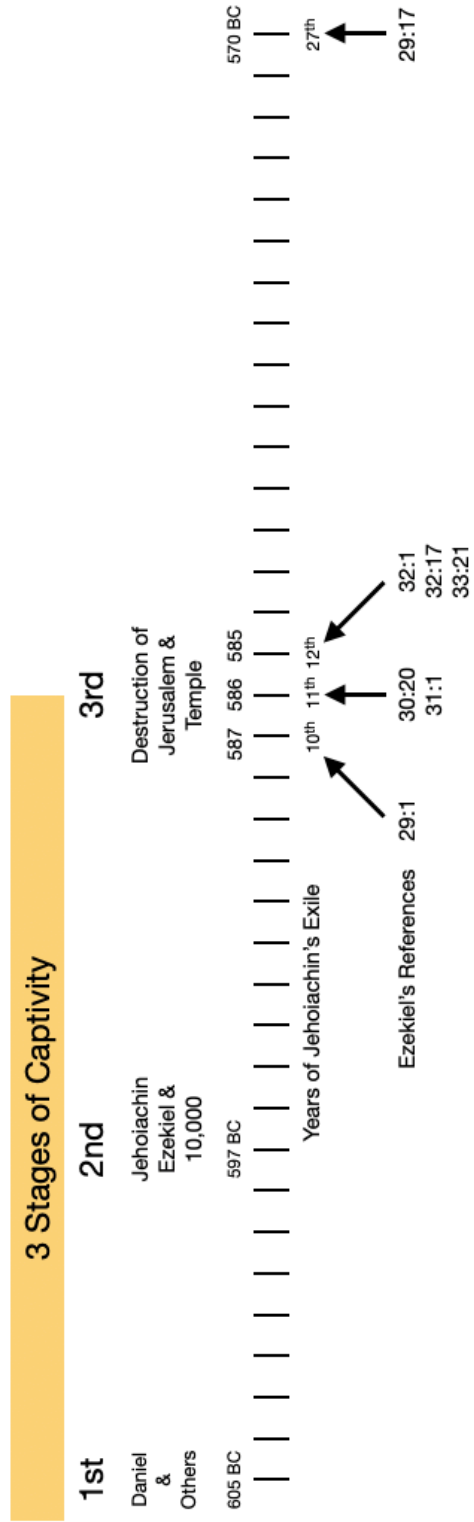


- d. Are there any applications that you can make to your own life?
7. Read Isaiah 19. God has spoken to Ezekiel about Egypt over the last four chapters. When you read Isaiah 19, God speaks of Egypt, Assyria, and Israel in the last days. What do you learn from this chapter?
8. We saw that the timing of Ezekiel was based on Jehoiachin's exile, read II Kings 25:27-30 and see what happens at the end of his exile.
9. Now you can see what the commentaries have to say about Ezekiel 29-32.

*This ends the second section of the book of Ezekiel. We looked at the judgment that was about to fall on Judah in Ezekiel 1-24. We saw the judgment that was coming to the surrounding nations in Ezekiel 25-32. Next week we will enter the last section as we see the promise of Israel's future in chapter 33-48. The best is yet to come!*



Timing of Jehoiachin's Exile



# Ezekiel

Lesson 9, Chapters 29-32

## God's Decrees Regarding Egypt

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>29:1</b> _____ <b>Year</b> _____ <b>Month</b> _____ <b>Day</b> _____ <b>Timeline Date:</b>  |  |
| 29:1-7   |  |
| 29:8-12  |  |
| 29:13-16   |  |
| <b>29:17</b> _____ <b>Year</b> _____ <b>Month</b> _____ <b>Day</b> _____ <b>Timeline Date:</b> |  |
| 29:17-20   |  |
| 29:21  |  |
| 30:1-5   |  |
| 30:6-9   |  |
| 30:10-12   |  |
| 30:13-19   |  |
| <b>30:20</b> _____ <b>Year</b> _____ <b>Month</b> _____ <b>Day</b> _____ <b>Timeline Date:</b> |  |
| 30:20-26   |  |
| <b>31:1</b> _____ <b>Year</b> _____ <b>Month</b> _____ <b>Day</b> _____ <b>Timeline Date:</b>  |  |
| 31:1-9   |  |
| 31:10-14   |  |
| 31:15-17   |  |
| 31:18  |  |

## God's Decrees Regarding Egypt

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>32:1</b> _____ <b>Year</b> _____ <b>Month</b> _____ <b>Day</b> <b>Timeline Date:</b>  |  |
| 32:1-2   |  |
| 32:3-10  |  |
| 32:11-16   |  |
| <b>32:17</b> _____ <b>Year</b> _____ <b>Month</b> _____ <b>Day</b> <b>Timeline Date:</b> |  |
| 32:17-21   |  |
| 32:22-23   |  |
| 32:24-25   |  |
| 32:26-28   |  |
| 32:29  |  |
| 32:30  |  |
| 32:31-32   |  |