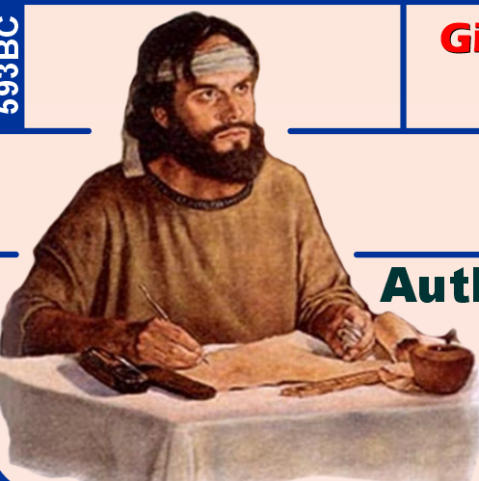


JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

31

EZEKIEL

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↺ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic											
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48									
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God									
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC			
								The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT				The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE			
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)															
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old															
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old															
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old															
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old															

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 31

- **This message was given in 587 B.C.. Ezekiel compared Egypt to Assyria, calling Assyria a great cedar tree.**
- **The Egyptians were to look at the fall of the mighty nation of Assyria (whose demise they had seen) as an example of what would happen to them.**
- **Just like Assyria, Egypt took pride in its strength and beauty; this would be its downfall.**



INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 31

- **All nations, not just Israel, may face divine judgment.**
- **God's purpose in Assyria's ruin was educational: the nations were meant to learn from Assyria's fall that earthly power is temporary and that pride invites God's abhorrence.**
- **Being buried among the uncircumcised would be the deepest humiliation for Egypt, a nation meticulous about both circumcision and proper burial.**



INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 31

- **In its dying days, the once-mighty Assyrian Empire looked to Egypt for help against the growing power of Babylon (c. 610 B.C.). Even together they could not withstand the Babylonians.**
- **We must learn from the fate of once-great empires that no amount of earthly glory or power exempts us from God's judgment. Pride in our own strength is the surest invitation to our downfall.**



The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there are dense bushes with bright orange and yellow autumn leaves. A dark wooden fence runs along the bottom left. In the middle ground, a calm blue lake is visible, surrounded by green trees and hills. In the background, there are more mountains under a blue sky with wispy white clouds.

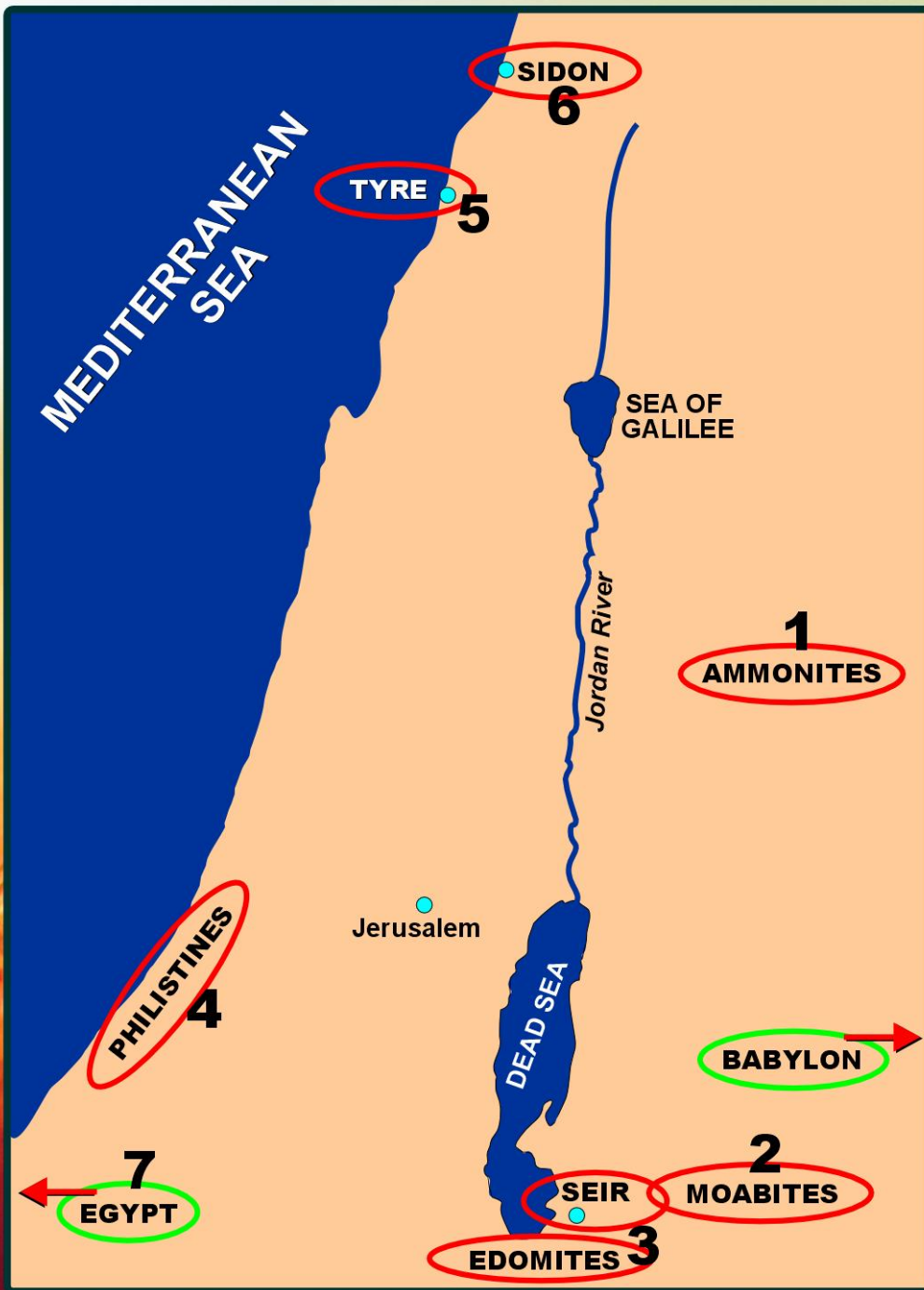
JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS THAT OPPOSED ISRAEL

Ezekiel 25-32



Fall of Egypt

Ezekiel 29 —32



FALL OF JERUSALEM AND SURROUNDING NATIONS

CHAPTER

24

Fall of Jerusalem PREDICTED

25

1. Ammon (25:1-7)
2. Moab and Seir (25:8-11)
3. Edom (25:12-14)
4. Philistia (25:15-17)

26-28

5. Tyre (26:1—28:19) [Satan]
6. Sidon (28:20-24)

29-32

7. Egypt (29:1—32:32)

33

Fall of Jerusalem ACCOMPLISHED

Jerusalem Struck Down (33:21-33)

EZEKIEL 24-33

**Now it came to pass in the
eleventh year, in the third
month, on the first day of
the month, that the word
of the LORD came to me,
saying,**

EZEKIEL 31:1



Now it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.31:1)

- **This was June 21, 587 B.C.**
- **This was less than two months after the prophecy recorded in Ezekiel 30:20-26.**
- **This is the eleventh year after Ezekiel was taken to Babylon.**



**Son of man, say to Pharaoh
king of Egypt and to his
multitude: 'Whom are you
like in your greatness?**

EZEKIEL 31:2



Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: 'Whom are you like in your greatness? (Ek.31:2)

- **Ezekiel addressed his message to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes.**
- **This ruler (Hophra) and his mighty army obviously felt so secure in their military might and ability that Ezekiel responded rhetorically, 'Who can be compared with you in majesty?'**
- **Egypt thought she was in a class by herself. Ezekiel asks who the Egyptians were like in their greatness.**
- **Ezekiel was in Babylon and they were in Egypt, but he was to speak publicly as though he were addressing them in person.**



**Indeed Assyria was a cedar
in Lebanon, With fine branches
that shaded the forest, And of
high stature; And its top was
among the thick boughs.**

EZEKIEL 31:3



Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, With fine branches that shaded the forest, And of high stature; And its top was among the thick boughs. (Ek.31:3)

- Ezekiel offered an example against whom Egypt could compare herself: Consider Assyria.**
- In 633 B.C. Assyria had entered Egypt and destroyed the capital of Thebes (Na.3:8-10).**
- Ezekiel compared Assyria to a cedar in Lebanon. Some of the Lebanese cedars grew 80 feet high.**



Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, With fine branches that shaded the forest, And of high stature; And its top was among the thick boughs. (Ek.31:3)

- **Assyria would have had great significance to Egypt for two reasons:**
 - **Assyria had been the only Mesopotamian nation to invade Egypt (633 B.C.).**
 - **Assyria had been destroyed by Babylon, the same nation Ezekiel said would enter Egypt and destroy it.**
- **Assyria had been one of the greatest nations in history before its fall in 612 B.C.**



Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, With fine branches that shaded the forest, And of high stature; And its top was among the thick boughs. (Ek.31:3)

- **The city of Nineveh fell to Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar's father, in 612 B.C.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar crushed the rest of the Assyrian army at Haran in 609 B.C.**



**The waters made it grow;
Underground waters gave it height,
With their rivers running around
the place where it was planted,
And sent out rivulets to all the
trees of the field.**

EZEKIEL 31:4



The waters made it grow; Underground waters gave it height, With their rivers running around the place where it was planted, And sent out rivulets to all the trees of the field. (Ek.31:4)

- **A rivulet is a small brook or stream.**
- **Several key cities of Assyria were situated at or near the Tigris River, which provided much-needed water.**
- **Assyria grew like a cedar nourished by waters, deep springs (v.4), and abundant waters (v.5, 7).**



**Therefore its height was exalted
above all the trees of the field;
Its boughs were multiplied, And
its branches became long
because of the abundance of
water, As it sent them out.**

EZEKIEL 31:5



**Therefore its height was exalted above all the trees of the field; Its boughs were multiplied,
And its branches became long because of the abundance of water, As it sent them out. (Ek.31:5)**

- **At the apex of her power Assyria dominated the Middle East, towering like a cedar higher than all the trees of the field.**
- **Like Egypt, Assyria received much of its strength and power from the waters that surrounded it, the Nile in Egypt's case and the Tigris in Assyria's.**



**All the birds of the heavens made
their nests in its boughs; Under its
branches all the beasts of the field
brought forth their young; And in
its shadow all great nations made
their home.**

EZEKIEL 31:6



All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs; Under its branches all the beasts of the field brought forth their young; And in its shadow all great nations made their home. (Ek.31:6)

- **Birds in the cedar's branches and animals under its shade speak of Assyria, like a tall tree, overshadowing and protecting all her neighbors.**
- **Many peoples and nations benefited from the mighty kingdom of Assyria symbolized by the birds and beasts that took refuge under this tree (Ek.31:12-13; 17:23; Da.4:12; Mt.13:32).**



**Thus it was beautiful in greatness
and in the length of its branches,
Because its roots reached to
abundant waters.**

EZEKIEL 31:7



Thus it was beautiful in greatness and in the length of its branches, Because its roots reached to abundant waters. (Ek.31:7)

- **Assyria was beautiful and plentiful because of the waters that sustained it.**
- **A tree that lacks moisture will not be beautiful.**
- **These waters were solely a gift of God's grace.**



**The cedars in the garden of God
could not hide it; The fir trees were
not like its boughs, And the chestnut
trees were not like its branches; No
tree in the garden of God was like
it in beauty.**



EZEKIEL 31:8



The cedars in the garden of God could not hide it; The fir trees were not like its boughs, And the chestnut trees were not like its branches; No tree in the garden of God was like it in beauty. (Ek.31:8)

- **No tree in God's garden of nations could compare with it.**
- **The other kingdoms were jealous of Assyria, which was preeminent in God's Eden-like collection of nations.**



**I made it beautiful with a
multitude of branches, So
that all the trees of Eden
envied it, That were in
the garden of God.**

EZEKIEL 31:9



I made it beautiful with a multitude of branches, So that all the trees of Eden envied it, That were in the garden of God. (Ek.31:9)

- **In a hyperbole Ezekiel stressed Assyria's grandeur: The cedars in the garden of God (Eden; Ek.28:13) could not rival it.**
- **This “tree” was unmatched by any of God's other “trees.”**
- **In fact this tree was the envy of all the trees of Eden.**



I made it beautiful with a multitude of branches, So that all the trees of Eden envied it, That were in the garden of God. (Ek.31:9)

- **In Assyria's former exalted position, she had attained power and influence that far exceeded Egypt's.**
- **She was the perfect example to show Egypt the effects of God's judgment.**



Downfall of Assyria

Ezekiel 31:10-14

**Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
'Because you have increased in
height, and it set its top among
the thick boughs, and its heart
was lifted up in its height,**

EZEKIEL 31:10



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have increased in height, and it set its top among the thick boughs, and its heart was lifted up in its height, (Ek.31:10)

- **Because Assyria was a proud nation, the Lord had determined to turn it over to a strong individual who would cut it down, namely, Nebuchadnezzar.**
- **God judged Assyria because, like a cedar, it towered on high with pride.**
- **Judah (Ek.16:56), Tyre (Ek.27:3; 28:2), and Egypt (Ek.30:6) would all be judged for their pride.**



**therefore I will deliver it into the
hand of the mighty one of the
nations, and he shall surely deal
with it; I have driven it out for
its wickedness.**

EZEKIEL 31:11



therefore I will deliver it into the hand of the mighty one of the nations, and he shall surely deal with it; I have driven it out for its wickedness. (Ek.31:11)

- **God judged Assyria by handing it over to the ruler of the nations.**
- **He was Nebuchadnezzar who, following in his father's footsteps, continued to expand the borders of Babylon at Assyria's expense.**
- **God ordained Assyria's fall (Nahum).**



therefore I will deliver it into the hand of the mighty one of the nations, and he shall surely deal with it; I have driven it out for its wickedness. (Ek.31:11)

- **The city of Nineveh fell to Nabopolassar (Nebuchadnezzar's father) in 612 B.C., and the rest of the Assyrian army was crushed by Nebuchadnezzar in 609 B.C. at Haran.**
- **God had driven it out of His Eden as He had driven Adam and Eve out for their pride.**



And aliens, the most terrible of the nations, have cut it down and left it; its branches have fallen on the mountains and in all the valleys; its boughs lie broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the peoples of the earth have gone from under its shadow and left it.

EZEKIEL 31:12



And aliens, the most terrible of the nations, have cut it down and left it; its branches have fallen on the mountains and in all the valleys; its boughs lie broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the peoples of the earth have gone from under its shadow and left it. (Ek.31:12)

- The most ruthless of foreign nations (i.e., Babylon; Ek.28:7; 30:11; 32:12) cut down Assyria, like felling a large tree.**
- Then those who had sought protection under Assyria's shade (Ek.31:6, 17) abandoned her.**
- Alien tyrants from other nations had cut off parts of Assyria and left it laying like a tree with its limbs chopped off in a valley.**



**On its ruin will remain all the
birds of the heavens, And all
the beasts of the field will
come to its branches—**

EZEKIEL 31:13



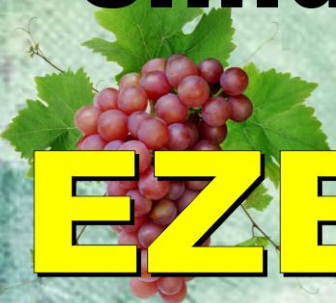
On its ruin will remain all the birds of the heavens, And all the beasts of the field will come to its branches— (Ek.31:13)

- **Assyria had a reputation for being an extremely cruel nation, and the other nations had dealt with it ruthlessly.**
- **The people of the earth who had taken refuge in Assyria like birds and beasts under a tree had fled from under it but continued to use its remains to their own advantage.**



So that no trees by the waters may ever again exalt themselves for their height, nor set their tops among the thick boughs, that no tree which drinks water may ever be high enough to reach up to them. 'For they have all been delivered to death, To the depths of the earth, Among the children of men who go down to the Pit.'

EZEKIEL 31:14



So that no trees by the waters may ever again exalt themselves for their height, nor set their tops among the thick boughs, that no tree which drinks water may ever be high enough to reach up to them. 'For they have all been delivered to death, To the depths of the earth, Among the children of men who go down to the Pit.' (Ek.31:14)

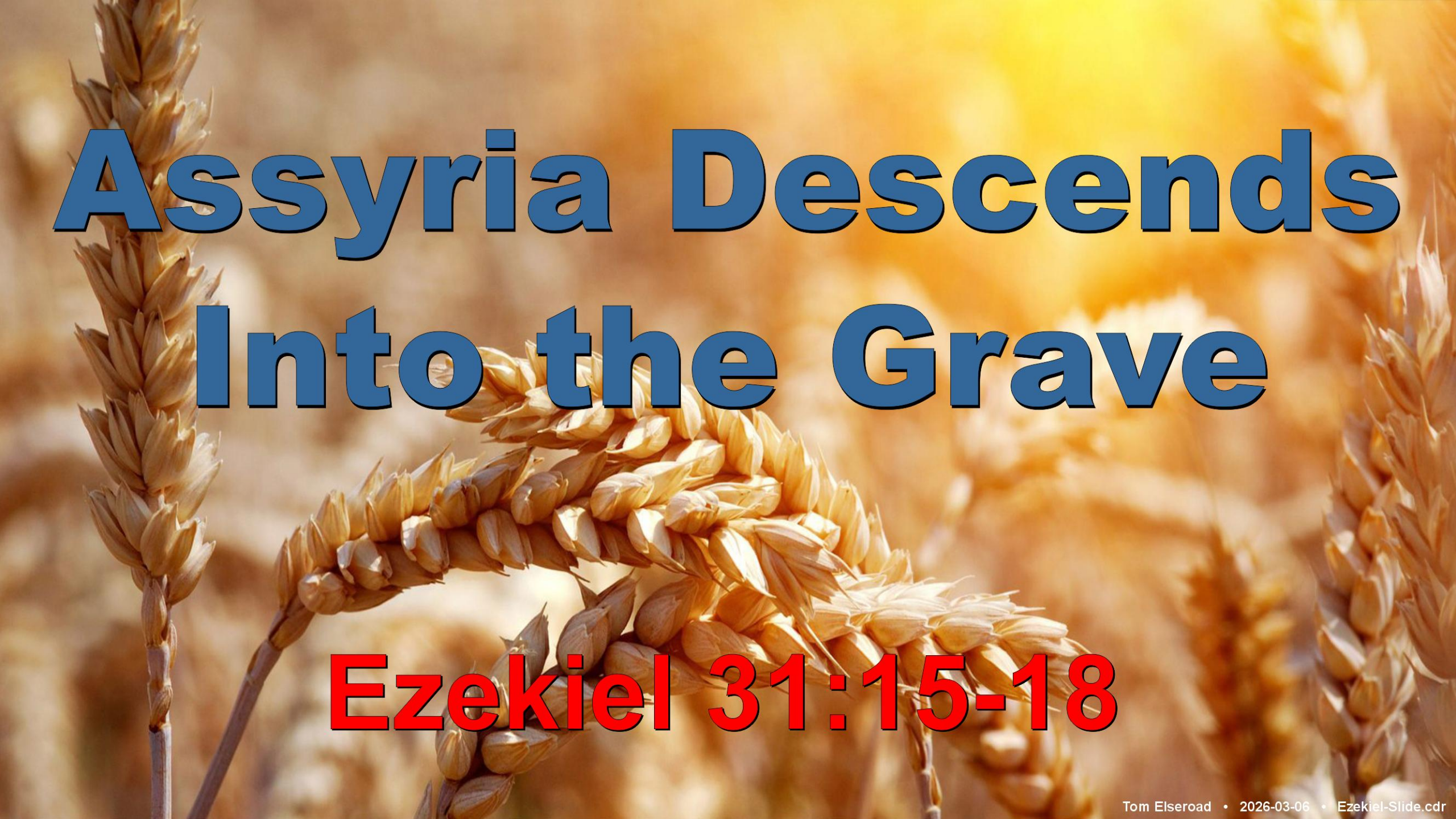
- **Assyria's fall was an object lesson to other nations.**
- **No other trees so well-watered are ever to reach such a height.**
- **No nation should exalt itself highly over others because they will all suffer Assyria's fate.**
- **This fate had befallen Assyria in part so other greatly blessed, proud nations would learn not to exalt themselves.**



So that no trees by the waters may ever again exalt themselves for their height, nor set their tops among the thick boughs, that no tree which drinks water may ever be high enough to reach up to them. 'For they have all been delivered to death, To the depths of the earth, Among the children of men who go down to the Pit.' (Ek.31:14)

- **Egypt's desire to become a lasting great power in the Middle East was destined to failure.**
- **She and all other nations were destined for the grave (death and the pit) instead of glory.**
- **The “pit” is the place of the departed dead.**
- **All nations, like trees, eventually fall down and return to oblivion like human corpses do to the dust.**





Assyria Descends Into the Grave

Ezekiel 31:15-18

Thus says the Lord GOD: 'In the day when it went down to hell, I caused mourning. I covered the deep because of it. I restrained its rivers, and the great waters were held back. I caused Lebanon to mourn for it, and all the trees of the field wilted because of it.

EZEKIEL 31:15



Thus says the Lord GOD: 'In the day when it went down to hell, I caused mourning. I covered the deep because of it. I restrained its rivers, and the great waters were held back. I caused Lebanon to mourn for it, and all the trees of the field wilted because of it. (Ek.31:15)

- **Having mentioned death (Ek.31:14), Ezekiel expanded and applied that fact by focusing on the reaction of other nations to Assyria's fall (Ek.31:15-18).**
- **The nations mourned her (the springs were held back by their mourning) and were alarmed (the nations tremble) that one as strong and mighty as Assyria could ever fall. God caused this mourning.**
- **If the strong “cedar” could fall, then how could any lesser “trees” (nations) hope to remain standing?**



Thus says the Lord GOD: 'In the day when it went down to hell, I caused mourning. I covered the deep because of it. I restrained its rivers, and the great waters were held back. I caused Lebanon to mourn for it, and all the trees of the field wilted because of it. (Ek.31:15)

- **The people in the area from which Assyria had come, Mesopotamia, mourned for it, and other nations (trees) wilted because of its fall.**



**I made the nations shake at the sound
of its fall, when I cast it down to hell
together with those who descend into
the Pit; and all the trees of Eden, the
choice and best of Lebanon, all that
drink water, were comforted in the
depths of the earth.**

EZEKIEL 31:16



I made the nations shake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to hell together with those who descend into the Pit; and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the depths of the earth. (Ek.31:16)

- **If the strong “cedar” could fall, then how could any lesser “trees” (nations) hope to remain standing?**
- **The lesser nations, their allies who had lived in Assyria’s shade (Ek.31:6, 12) and were now in the grave, could comfort themselves that even Assyria had descended to where they were.**



I made the nations shake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to hell together with those who descend into the Pit; and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the depths of the earth. (Ek.31:16)

- The fall of Assyria created the same reaction among the nations as the felling of a mighty tree does in the forest; all the other nations (trees) quaked.**
- All were equal in death. It seems misery likes company.**
- The other nations also were able to grow better themselves since they no longer had to live in the shadow of mighty Assyria.**



**They also went down to hell
with it, with those slain by
the sword; and those who
were its strong arm dwelt
in its shadows among the
nations.**

EZEKIEL 31:17



They also went down to hell with it, with those slain by the sword; and those who were its strong arm dwelt in its shadows among the nations. (Ek.31:17)

- **Assyria's "allies among the nations" brought the circle back to Egypt because she was Assyria's chief ally when Assyria fell to Babylon.**
- **Some other nations fell when Assyria did. This great tree fell on other trees and took them down with it.**
- **Some of them had even sustained Assyria and profited from Assyria's greatness, but she fell on them.**



**To which of the trees in Eden will you
then be likened in glory and greatness?
Yet you shall be brought down with the
trees of Eden to the depths of the earth;
you shall lie in the midst of the
uncircumcised, with those slain by the
sword. This is Pharaoh and all his
multitude,' says the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 31:18



To which of the trees in Eden will you then be likened in glory and greatness? Yet you shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the depths of the earth; you shall lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude,' says the Lord GOD. (Ek.31:18)

- **Ezekiel drove home the point of his allegory: Which of the trees of Eden can be compared with you in splendor and majesty?**
- **This was similar to the question in Ezekiel 31:2, but the answer was now obvious.**
- **Egypt, who was similar to Assyria, would suffer the same fate.**



To which of the trees in Eden will you then be likened in glory and greatness? Yet you shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the depths of the earth; you shall lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude,' says the Lord GOD. (Ek.31:18)

- **She too would be brought down with the trees of Eden to the earth below.**
- **Egypt's end would be one of shame like that of the uncircumcised.**
- **Her fall would be fatal, by the sword.**
- **For emphasis Ezekiel repeated the subject of his story, Pharaoh and all his multitude.**



To which of the trees in Eden will you then be likened in glory and greatness? Yet you shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the depths of the earth; you shall lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude,' says the Lord GOD. (Ek.31:18)

- **This was a terrible fate for people who regarded a proper burial as preparation for life beyond the grave, as the Egyptians did.**
- **The Egyptians practiced circumcision, but the Babylonians did not. They also despised foreigners.**
- **If Assyria could not escape Yahweh's judgment, how could Egypt?**
- **If the Jewish exiles still entertained any hope that Egypt would save them from captivity, this prophecy would have encouraged them to abandon such a dream.**



JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

31

EZEKIEL