
JUDGMENT ON
GENTILE NATIONS
32
EZEKIEL

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

	INWARD → Personal	OUTWARD ← Peoples	ONWARD |→ Prophetic
CHAPTERS	1 — 3	4 — 24	25 — 32	33 — 48
	Ezekiel's Call to Ministry	**Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem**	**Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel**	**Restoration of Israel in the Future**

	• 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
		• A Disobedient Nation (**4-7**)
		• A Departed Glory (**8-11**)
		• A Disciplined Nation (**12-24**)
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			• Egypt (**29-32**)
				• Return of Israel to the land (**33-39**)
				• Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (**40-48**)
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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 assult upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed)	Ezekiel 37 years old

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 32

- This prophecy was given in 585 B.C., two months after the news of Jerusalem's fall had reached the exiles in Babylon.
- These prophecies serve as warnings that God alone is sovereign.
- Even the mightiest rulers, like Pharaoh, will fall before God. All are accountable to him.



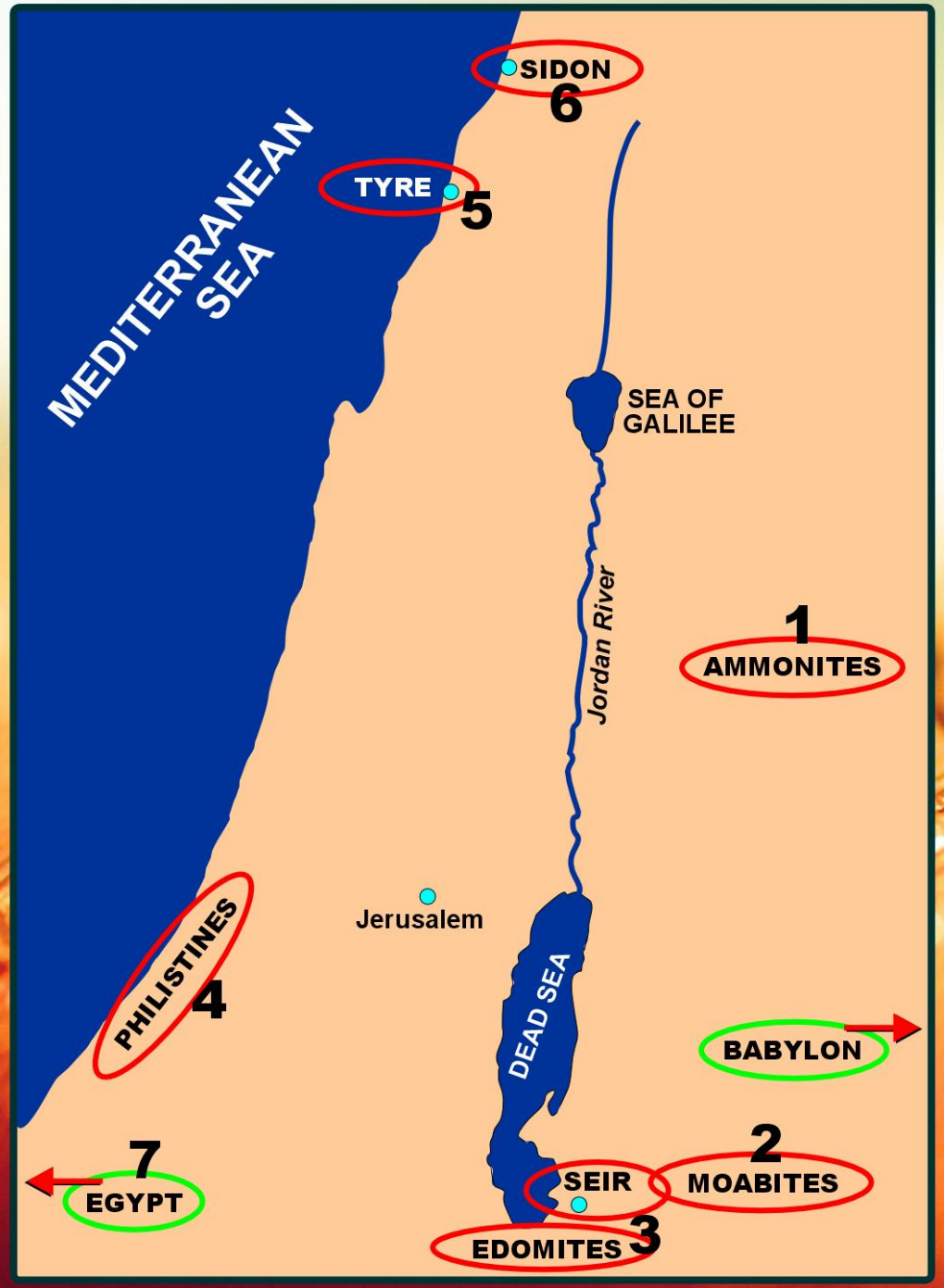
JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS THAT OPPOSED ISRAEL

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

LAMENT FOR PHARAOH

Ezekiel 32:1-16

And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 32:1





And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.32:1)

- **This is the first of two messages that Ezekiel received from the Lord concerning Egypt on March 3, 585 B.C.**
- **This is the 12th year from the deportation of Judah in 597B.C.**
- **This would be two months after the news of Jerusalem's fall reached the captives in Babylon (Ek.33:21).**
- **Jerusalem's destruction was to be no source of comfort for the Egyptians.**



Son of man, take up a lamentation for
Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him:
'You are like a young lion among the
nations, And you are like a monster in
the seas, Bursting forth in your rivers,
Troubling the waters with your feet,
And fouling their rivers.'

EZEKIEL 32:2

Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him: 'You are like a young lion among the nations, And you are like a monster in the seas, Bursting forth in your rivers, Troubling the waters with your feet, And fouling their rivers.' (Ek.32:2)

- The fall of Egypt was now so certain that Ezekiel was told to take up a lament concerning Pharaoh king of Egypt.
- A lament, or funeral dirge, was usually delivered when one was buried.
- Ezekiel had already written laments for Judah (Ek.19:1-14), city of Tyre (Ek.26:17-18; 27:1-36), king of Tyre (Ek.28:12-19), and Egypt in three parts (Ek.32:3,11).



Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him: 'You are like a young lion among the nations, And you are like a monster in the seas, Bursting forth in your rivers, Troubling the waters with your feet, And fouling their rivers.' (Ek.32:2)

- **Ezekiel said Pharaoh (Hophra), in his fierce power, was like a lion (Judah's kings, Ek.19:2-9) among the nations and a monster in the seas (Ek.29:2-5).**
- **The "monster" could refer to a crocodile or to the mythological chaos-monster, to picture Pharaoh's ferocity and seeming invulnerability.**
- **This was an amazing statement, for in Egypt the Pharaoh supposedly could defeat a crocodile! (Jb.41:1-34)**



Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him: 'You are like a young lion among the nations, And you are like a monster in the seas, Bursting forth in your rivers, Troubling the waters with your feet, And fouling their rivers.' (Ek.32:2)

- Hophra had compared himself to a young lion, but he was more like the mythical sea-monster.
- The Egyptian sphinx has the body of a lion and the head of a Pharaoh.
- The crocodile burst forth from the Nile muddying and fouling their waters.



Thus says the Lord GOD: 'I will therefore spread My net over you with a company of many people, And they will draw you up in My net.

EZEKIEL 32:3

Thus says the Lord GOD: 'I will therefore spread My net over you with a company of many people, And they will draw you up in My net. (Ek.32:3)

- **The Lord announced that He would cast His net over Pharaoh using a large group of people as His instruments.**
- **In the Babylonian account of Creation, the *Enuma elish* (4:95), the god Marduk captured the chaos-monster Tiamat in a net and slew him.**
- **God may have wanted the Jewish exiles in Babylon to see a parallel between what Ezekiel predicted and what the Babylonians believed.**
- **Fulfillment would demonstrate Yahweh's sovereignty.**



Then I will leave you on the land; I will cast you out on the open fields, And cause to settle on you all the birds of the heavens. And with you I will fill the beasts of the whole earth.

EZEKIEL 32:4





Then I will leave you on the land; I will cast you out on the open fields, And cause to settle on you all the birds of the heavens. And with you I will fill the beasts of the whole earth. (Ek.32:4)

- God would drag Pharaoh from his place of power and throw him on the land and hurl him on the open field.
- Pharaoh's power would be broken and his people scattered.
- To throw Pharaoh on dry land is to place him out of his element.
- Birds and beasts would then devour him (Ek.29:5; Mt.24:28; Rv.19:17-18).



I will lay your flesh on the mountains, And fill the valleys with your carcass.

EZEKIEL 32:5

I will lay your flesh on the mountains, And fill the valleys with your carcass. (Ek.32:5)

- These animals of prey would carry his flesh and blood to distant mountains (Ex.7:19; Rv.8:8) and fill the valleys and ravines with pieces of his carcass.

- This is a picture of the dispersion of the Egyptians from their land.



I will also water the land with the flow of your blood, Even to the mountains; And the riverbeds will be full of you.



EZEKIEL 32:6



I will also water the land with the flow of your blood, Even to the mountains; And the riverbeds will be full of you. (Ek.32:6)

- The destruction of Pharaoh and Egypt was couched in terms that conjured up images of Egypt's judgment at the time of the Exodus.
- God said He would drench the land with Egypt's flowing blood (Ek.32:6).
- This recalled the first plague on Egypt in which the water turned to blood (Ex.7:20-24).
- But this time, the blood would come from the slain in Egypt.



When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light.

EZEKIEL 32:7

When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light. (Ek.32:7)

- God also said He would darken the stars, sun, and moon, bringing darkness over the land.



All the bright lights of the heavens
I will make dark over you, And
bring darkness upon your land,'
Says the Lord GOD.



EZEKIEL 32:8



All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land,' Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.32:8)

- Though these cataclysmic signs are similar to those that will accompany the day of the Lord (Jl.2:30-31; 3:15), it seems Ezekiel was alluding here to the darkness of the ninth plague (Ex.10:21-29).

- This announcement recalls the plague of darkness that the Lord sent before the Exodus.

- He would again humiliate the gods that the Egyptians credited with bringing light and providing life.



I will also trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring your destruction among the nations, into the countries which you have not known.



EZEKIEL 32:9



I will also trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring your destruction among the nations, into the countries which you have not known. (Ek.32:9)

- Many on-looking peoples would be upset when they observed the destruction and dispersion of the Egyptians (Ek.26:16; 27:35).

- The kings of other nations would tremble for their own safety when they saw what God would do to Egypt.



Yes, I will make many peoples astonished at you, and their kings shall be horribly afraid of you when I brandish My sword before them; and they shall tremble every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of your fall.

EZEKIEL 32:10

Yes, I will make many peoples astonished at you, and their kings shall be horribly afraid of you when I brandish My sword before them; and they shall tremble every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of your fall. (Ek.32:10)

- In response to Egypt's fall the surrounding nations would be appalled (Ek.26:16; 27:35; 28:19) and their kings would shudder with horror.
- God's revealing His holy character through Egypt's judgment would have a profound effect on other nations.
- If mighty Egypt could be destroyed, so could they.



For thus says the Lord GOD:
'The sword of the king of
Babylon shall come upon you.

EZEKIEL 32:11

For thus says the Lord GOD: 'The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon you. (Ek.32:11)

- This third section of Ezekiel's lament drops the figurative description of destruction (Ek.32:3-8) and portrays Egypt's fall to Babylon literally.
- The Lord promised to send the military power of Babylon against Egypt.
- The swords of these predatory invaders would destroy the multitude of Egyptians and devastate their land.



By the swords of the mighty warriors, all of them the most terrible of the nations, I will cause your multitude to fall. 'They shall plunder the pomp of Egypt, And all its multitude shall be destroyed.



EZEKIEL 32:12



By the swords of the mighty warriors, all of them the most terrible
f the nations, I will cause your multitude to fall. 'They shall plunder
the pomp of Egypt, And all its multitude shall be destroyed. (Ek.32:12)

- Pharaoh's army would be crushed by the ruthless Babylonians (Ek.29:17-21; 30:10-12, 24) and the land of Egypt would be decimated.
- Egypt's pride would be shattered, her hordes overthrown, and her cattle by the Nile and streams destroyed.



Also I will destroy all its animals
From beside its great waters;
The foot of man shall muddy
them no more, Nor shall the
hooves of animals muddy them.



EZEKIEL 32:13



Also I will destroy all its animals From beside its great waters; The foot of man shall muddy them no more, Nor shall the hooves of animals muddy them. (Ek.32:13)

- Both man and beast would be affected by the coming attack.
- The waters that were once stirred by the foot of man and muddied by the hoofs of cattle would now be stilled.
- The enemy would also slay the Egyptians' cattle. The Egyptians regarded many forms of cattle as manifestations of their gods.



Then I will make their waters clear, And make their rivers run like oil,' Says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 32:14

Then I will make their waters clear, And make their rivers run like oil,' Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.32:14)

- Figuratively Pharaoh had “muddied the waters” with his international intrigue (Ek.32:2).
- Literally the Nile was muddied through the daily activities of man and beast.
- There would be no people or animals left in the land to muddy them.
- The waters would settle and would flow as smoothly as oil.



When I make the land of Egypt desolate, And the country is destitute of all that once filled it, When I strike all who dwell in it, Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 32:15



When I make the land of Egypt desolate, And the country is destitute of all that once filled it, When I strike all who dwell in it, Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.32:15)

- Now the streams and rivers would settle because those activities would be curtailed through death and deportation.
- When the Lord brought this devastation on the land and the people, they would know that He is God.
- He would again humble the gods of Egypt and demonstrate His sovereignty as He had done in the Exodus.



This is the lamentation With which they shall lament her; The daughters of the nations shall lament her; They shall lament for her, for Egypt, And for all her multitude,' Says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 32:16

This is the lamentation With which they shall lament her; The daughters of the nations shall lament her; They shall lament for her, for Egypt, And for all her multitude,' Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.32:16)

- Like professional “chanters” the surrounding nations would be “hired” as mourners to chant a dirge over Egypt’s fall.
- This message looks back and recalls aspects of the Exodus, God's former judgment of Egypt, and reveals that God would judge her again similarly.
- This message also looks forward and anticipates a still future day of the Lord when God will humble all proud enemies of His people (Jl.2:30-31; 3:15; Am.8:9).



DESCENT OF EGYPT INTO SHEOL

Ezekiel 32:17-32

It came to pass also in the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, that the word of the LORD came to me, saying:



EZEKIEL 32:17



It came to pass also in the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, that the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (Ek.32:17)

- The month was not named, but many interpreters assume it was the same month as the previous prophecy (Ek.32:1).

- If so, the date of this message was March 17, 585 B.C., exactly two weeks after the preceding message.



Son of man, wail over the multitude of Egypt, And cast them down to the depths of the earth, Her and the daughters of the famous nations, With those who go down to the Pit:

EZEKIEL 32:18

Son of man, wail over the multitude of Egypt, And cast them down to the depths of the earth, Her and the daughters of the famous nations, With those who go down to the Pit: (Ek.32:18)

- The message's theme was the consignment of the hosts of Egypt to sheol.
- Since the language is highly poetic, Ezekiel's purpose was not to give a precise description of the afterlife.
- In his own funeral dirge for Egypt, Ezekiel assigned her to sheol with her surrounding nations.
- The "pit" is a figure for death (Ek.26:19-21).
- God's word of judgment was so sure that Egypt's appointment to the grave was already made.



'Whom do you surpass in beauty?
Go down, be placed with the
uncircumcised.'

EZEKIEL 32:19

'Whom do you surpass in beauty? Go down, be placed with the uncircumcised.' (Ek.32:19)

- Ezekiel derided both Pharaoh and his nation.
- Egypt's pride would be shattered when her people were destroyed.
- She would be forced to take her place in death with "the uncircumcised."
- This phrase, "the uncircumcised" is used 10 times in Ezekiel 32 (Ek.32:19, 21, 24-30, 32), and described a death of shame and defeat.
- Even though Egypt had been unsurpassed in her beauty as a nation, she would lie in the grave with the most ordinary and barbarian dead nations.



They shall fall in the midst of those slain by the sword; She is delivered to the sword, Drawing her and all her multitudes.



EZEKIEL 32:20



They shall fall in the midst of those slain by the sword; She is delivered to the sword, Drawing her and all her multitudes.(Ek.32:20)

- **Every time Ezekiel used this phrase (the uncircumcised) for death he associated it with defeat by the sword at the hands of one's enemies.**
- **Egypt exulted in her military prowess, but would be humbled in death, taking her place with other defeated nations.**
- **Egypt would die as a victim of war, and her people would be scattered from their land.**



The strong among the mighty Shall
speak to him out of the midst of hell
With those who help him: 'They have
gone down, They lie with the
uncircumcised, slain by the sword.'

EZEKIEL 32:21



The strong among the mighty Shall speak to him out of the midst of hell With those who help him: 'They have gone down, They lie with the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.' (Ek.32:21)

- **Ezekiel indicates that after death a person has no opportunity to change his destiny.**
- **The descent of Egypt's defeated army and her allies into sheol would be derided by the military men already there.**
- **Nations already dead would speak of the demise of Egypt as the death of an uncircumcised (barbarian) people.**



Assyria is there, and all her company, With their graves all around her, All of them slain, fallen by the sword.

EZEKIEL 32:22



Assyria is there, and all her company, With their graves all around her, All of them slain, fallen by the sword. (Ek.32:22)

- Ezekiel described the nations that Egypt would join in sheol.
- The descriptions are similar, for he spoke of each nation's being slain by the sword and being in the grave.
- Assyria and her allies were already in the grave having perished in war.



Her graves are set in the recesses of the Pit, And her company is all around her grave, All of them slain, fallen by the sword, Who caused terror in the land of the living.

EZEKIEL 32:23



Her graves are set in the recesses of the Pit, And her company is all around her grave, All of them slain, fallen by the sword, Who caused terror in the land of the living. (Ek.32:23)

- Assyria is there with her whole army.
- Assyria had already been used as an object lesson by Ezekiel (Ek.31:1-18).
- All Assyria's soldiers killed in battle were buried around her.



There is Elam and all her multitude, All around her grave, All of them slain, fallen by the sword, Who have gone down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, Who caused their terror in the land of the living; Now they bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit.

EZEKIEL 32:24



There is Elam and all her multitude, All around her grave, All of them slain, fallen by the sword, Who have gone down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, Who caused their terror in the land of the living; Now they bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit. (Ek.32:24)

- The second country mentioned by Ezekiel was Elam with all her hordes around her grave.
- The Elamites, another formerly mighty people who lived east of Babylonia, were also in the grave having died in warfare.
- Though subdued by Assyria and conquered by Nebuchadnezzar (Je.49:34-39), Elam regained power and later became a major part of the Persian Empire.



They have set her bed in the midst of the slain, With all her multitude, With her graves all around it, All of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; Though their terror was caused In the land of the living, Yet they bear their shame With those who go down to the Pit; It was put in the midst of the slain.

EZEKIEL 32:25

They have set her bed in the midst of the slain, With all her multitude, With her graves all around it, All of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; Though their terror was caused In the land of the living, Yet they bear their shame With those who go down to the Pit; It was put in the midst of the slain. (Ek.32:25)

- Elam, east of Babylon, was a warlike nation (Ge.14:1-17).
- Ezekiel was referring only to the defeated Elamites of the past who were already in the grave.
- Both the Assyrians and the Elamites did not practice circumcision, and now the Egyptians, a circumcised people, would join them in the same grave.
- The end of Egypt would be no different or better even though they considered themselves superior to the uncircumcised nations of the world.



There are Meshech and Tubal and all their multitudes, With all their graves around it, All of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword, Though they caused their terror in the land of the living.

EZEKIEL 32:26

There are Meshech and Tubal and all their multitudes, With all their graves around it, All of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword, Though they caused their terror in the land of the living. (Ek.32:26)

- The third group awaiting Egypt in the grave were the nations of Meshech and Tubal (Ek.32:26-27).
- “Meshech and Tubal,” mentioned earlier (Ek.27:13), were probably located on the northern fringe of what is now eastern and central Turkey.
- Aggressive Meshech and Tubal had carried on a long battle with the Assyrians for control of the area south of the Black Sea.



They do not lie with the mighty Who are fallen of the uncircumcised, Who have gone down to hell with their weapons of war; They have laid their swords under their heads, But their iniquities will be on their bones, Because of the terror of the mighty in the land of the living.

EZEKIEL 32:27





They do not lie with the mighty Who are fallen of the uncircumcised, Who have gone down to hell with their weapons of war; They have laid their swords under their heads, But their iniquities will be on their bones, Because of the terror of the mighty in the land of the living. (Ek.32:27)

- Meshech and Tubal appear again in chapters 38-39 as Gog's allies.
- Meshech and Tubal are not being singled out from the other countries but are included with them in judgment.
- The once-awesome might of these warriors had vanished, and they were now suffering the judgment due their sin.
- It was customary in some countries to bury honored warriors with their swords and other weapons of war.



Yes, you shall be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, And lie with those slain by the sword.

EZEKIEL 32:28

Yes, you shall be broken in the midst of the uncircumcised, And lie with those slain by the sword. (Ek.32:28)

- Ezekiel paused for this one verse to bring up Egypt again.
- The fate of these other nations was an object lesson to Egypt.
- Like those once-powerful nations that were now in the grave, Pharaoh and his powerful army could expect the same fate.



There is Edom, Her kings and all her princes, Who despite their might Are laid beside those slain by the sword; They shall lie with the uncircumcised, And with those who go down to the Pit.





EZEKIEL 32:29

There is Edom, Her kings and all her princes, Who despite their might Are laid beside those slain by the sword; They shall lie with the uncircumcised, And with those who go down to the Pit. (Ek.32:29)

- Ezekiel resumed listing other nations.
- Edom had already received notice of God's judgment (Ek.25:12-14).
- Edom is another example of a strong nation that had perished and joined the mass of humanity in the grave.
- Her leaders who had died were in sheol awaiting Egypt's arrival.



There are the princes of the north, All of them, and all the Sidonians, Who have gone down with the slain In shame at the terror which they caused by their might; They lie uncircumcised with those slain by the sword, And bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit.

EZEKIEL 32:30

There are the princes of the north, All of them, and all the Sidonians, Who have gone down with the slain In shame at the terror which they caused by their might; They lie uncircumcised with those slain by the sword, And bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit. (Ek.32:30)

- The final group in the grave was all the princes of the north and all the Sidonians.
- These “princes of the north,” connected with Sidon, were probably the Phoenician city-states.
- Their past exploits could not save them from the specter of death. They too were awaiting Egypt’s appearance in sheol.



Pharaoh will see them And be comforted over all his multitude, Pharaoh and all his army, Slain by the sword," Says the Lord GOD.



EZEKIEL 32:31



Pharaoh will see them And be comforted over all his multitude, Pharaoh and all his army, Slain by the sword," Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.32:31)

- **Ezekiel again mentioned Egypt's fate (Ek.32:31-32).**
- **All these mighty maritime powers suffered the same humiliating fate: slain in disgrace despite the terror caused by their power.**
- **Pharaoh would have a perverted sense of comfort when he and his hordes would finally arrive in sheol because he would see that he was not alone in his shame and humiliation.**



For I have caused My terror in the land
of the living; And he shall be placed
in the midst of the uncircumcised
With those slain by the sword,
Pharaoh and all his multitude," Says
the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 32:32





For I have caused My terror in the land of the living; And he shall be placed in the midst of the uncircumcised With those slain by the sword, Pharaoh and all his multitude," Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.32:32)

- Ezekiel said they would die just like other proud, oppressive peoples, and their rest would be the common rest that all the dead enjoy, circumcised and uncircumcised alike.
- We must keep in mind that the primary aim of this message is not doctrinal but rhetorical-to inspire hope in the hearts of his fellow exiles by announcing the eventual demise of their prideful foreign enemies.
- Although the words written seem to be solely for those particular nations, they are foremost for the people of Judah in Jerusalem and Babylon.



For I have caused My terror in the land of the living; And he shall be placed in the midst of the uncircumcised With those slain by the sword, Pharaoh and all his multitude," Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.32:32)

3 PURPOSES OF THESE MESSAGES (Ezekiel 25-32)

1. These messages reveal God's judgment against the nations that either mocked or aided in Jerusalem's fall.

2. God would throw them down from their self-elevated positions of power. There is no room for such arrogance and pride in God's creation.

3. These messages are essentially a dismantling of the gods of the nations, which is in turn a dismantling of the gods Judah had begun to rely wrongly upon.



JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

32

EZEKIEL