

THROUGH THE BIBLE

ISAIAH 15-19

In the Bible God judges *individuals*, and *families*, and *churches*, and *cities*, and even *nations*...

I would assume He also judges *businesses*, and *labor unions*, and *school systems*, and *civic groups*, and *athletic associations* - **all of life is God's domain.**

Starting in Isaiah 13, God launches a series of judgments against the Gentile nations of his day. Making Isaiah's list are [Babylon](#), [Assyria](#), [Philistia](#), [Moab](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Egypt](#), [Edom](#), [Tyre](#), and [Syria](#).

Tonight we'll study God's burden against the nations.

Isaiah 15 begins, "**The burden against Moab...**"

Three nations bordered Israel to the east - [Moab](#), [Edom](#), and [Ammon](#). Today this area makes up the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - a pro-Western monarchy with its capitol city of Amman - or Ammon.

Today, it's fashionable to research your roots - track down the family tree. Websites like [Ancestry.com](#) utilize the power of the Internet to uncover your genealogy.

For some folks this is a fun and meaningful pastime.

For me, I've always been a little leery... I suspect I'm from a long line of horse thieves and swindlers. I'm not sure I want to know my ancestry. This is probably how most Moabites felt regarding their progenitors...

The Moabites were a people with some definite skeletons in the closet! Their family tree had *root rot*.

Recently, I read of a Michigan woman who gave her baby up for adoption. Sixteen years later she tracked him down on FB... only to get romantically involved.

She had sex with her son... Obviously this gal is one sick pup. She was sentenced to nine years in prison.

But welcome to Moab's ancestry! Moab was the incestuous offspring of Abraham's nephew, Lot.

Physically, Lot escaped Sodom, but *spiritually* he took the immorality of Sodom with him. One night he got drunk and had sex with his two daughters.

Both of his girls became pregnant.

The eldest daughter named her little boy, "Moab," and the younger daughter named her son, "Ammon."

Over the centuries, Moab and Ammon lived in the shadow of their cousin next door, Israel. They were family. Nothing was stopping them from embracing Abraham's God and joining the worship of Yahweh.

In fact, the Law of Moses, Deuteronomy 23, laid out provisions for accepting and assimilating Moabites into the nation of Israel. This is how David's great-grandma, Ruth - a Moabite - became part of the lineage of Jesus.

A Moabite is a member of God's family tree.

God loved Moab, and gave these people every opportunity to join Israel in true worship, but instead Moab chose to be Israel's enemy and serve idols.

Today, Moab typifies the person who *knows the truth about God - has access to this truth - is surrounded by this truth - yet never embraces this truth*. In a spiritual sense it seems today's churches are full of Moabites.

Verse 1 continues the judgment of Moab that began in chapter 14, **“Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste and destroyed, because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste and destroyed...”** “Ar” was a city 20 miles east of the Dead Sea on the southern bank of the Arnon River. The Arnon fed into the Dead Sea.

“Ar” may’ve been home to river pirates. Ask them where they’re from, and they’d say, **“Arrrrr Matey!”**

The word **“Kir”** means **“wall.”** We assume **“Kir”** or **“Kerak”** was a heavily fortified walled city 10 miles southeast of the Dead Sea. Here Isaiah prophesies that both cities will be destroyed in a nighttime raid.

“He has gone up to the temple and Dibon, to the high places to weep.” The Moabites served the idol, **Chemosh** - a god associated with the astrology and the stars. Its temple was located in the city of Dibon.

Ancient Dibon was the site of a famous archaeological discovery. In 1868, near the Dead Sea, a German missionary found an ancient, stone plaque.

Prior to its discovery skeptics of the Bible doubted the existence of King David. He was only mentioned in the Scriptures. There was no extra-biblical corroboration... until the finding of ***The Moabite Stone***.

Written on the stone were the names **“Yahweh,” “Israel,” and “House of David.”** Engraved by the Moabite king the Stone authenticated a big slice of biblical history.

Today the Stone is on exhibit at the Louvre in Paris, France. Ladies, tell your husband to take you to Paris so you can see the Moabite Stone!

And speaking of archeology...

For all the single ladies... you should know an archeologist is the best kind of man to marry... "The older you get the more interested he'll become in you!"

Isaiah continues to speak of the coming attack...

"Moab will wail over Nebo and over Medeba..." Mount "Nebo" is the place God took Moses to show him the Promised Land. He saw it, but never entered.

And this was the plight of the Moabites. They were so close to God's promises and blessings, but they refused to cross the Jordan and join their cousins.

As a result, "On all their heads will be baldness, and every beard cut off." In Bible times the shaving of a man's head or beard was a sign of grief and shame. Of course, today, baldness has other explanations.

There's the theory... that at a certain time in a man's life his hair starts to grow inward. If it strikes gray matter it turns silver. If it strikes nothing it disappears...

I've also heard this explanation, "Bald in the front, you're a thinker... Bald in the back, you're a lover... Bald in the front and back; you think you're a lover..."

Baldness among the Moabites meant *they weren't thinking*, and *they didn't love God* - this is why they drew the ire of God's judgment and were put to shame.

Verse 3, "In their streets they will clothe themselves with sackcloth; on the tops of their houses and in their streets everyone will wail, weeping bitterly."

Heshbon and Elealeh (northern Moabite cities) will cry out, their voice shall be heard as far as Jahaz (maybe 15 miles away); therefore the armed soldiers of Moab will cry out; his life will be burdensome to him.”

Death would've been merciful. It would've been easier if the enemy had just put them out of their misery. Instead, life will be painful and *“burdensome.”*

“My heart will cry out for Moab; his fugitives shall flee to Zoar, like a three-year-old heifer.” A three-year-heifer was prime beef. The idea is that Moab will be cut off in the prime of life - at the zenith of their national life.

“For by the Ascent of Luhith they will go up with weeping; for in the way of Horonaim they will raise up a cry of destruction...” (places in Moab). For the waters of Nimrim will be desolate, for the green grass has withered away; the grass fails, there is nothing green.

Therefore the abundance they have gained, and what they have laid up, they will carry away to the Brook of the Willows.” Calamity is coming that will strip Moab of its prosperity. Storehouses will be emptied.

“For the cry has gone all around the borders of Moab, its wailing to Eglaim and its wailing to Beer Elim.

For the waters of Dimon will be full of blood; because I will bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him who escapes from Moab, and on the remnant of the land.”

There'll be no survivors among the Moabites. Those who try to escape God's judgment will be cut down.

Aspects of God's judgment on Moab were fulfilled when the Assyrians invaded the region in 701 BC.

Assyrian troops met their match outside Jerusalem. Immanuel slaughtered the lions' share of their army.

But the Assyrians were wild and violent. While in the neighborhood they wreaked havoc on Moab.

Chapter 16 continues God's prophecy to Moab.

“Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, from Sela to the wilderness, to the mount of the daughter of Zion.”

In 2 Samuel 8 David attacked Moab, and placed them under Jewish control. For the next few centuries the Moabites paid tribute to Judah - but in Isaiah's day the Moabites rebelled. Here the prophet rebukes them.

He tells them to send the lamb from **“Sela”** or **“Petra”** their desert fortress to **“the mount of the daughter of Zion”** - or the Temple Mount. Pay the tribute due.

“For it shall be as a wandering bird thrown out of the nest; so shall be the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon.” The Moabites will be like homeless birds, unless they realign themselves with the Jews.

“Take counsel, execute judgment; make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; hide the outcasts, do not betray him who escapes.” After renewing their loyalty to the Jews, Moab is given a new job. They're told to hide the outcasts and refugees.

Verse 4, **“Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler. For the extortioner is at an end, devastation ceases, the**

oppressors are consumed out of the land.” God says Moab will give shelter to *“My outcasts...”* His people!

Here’s a passage that many Bible scholars believe has end times implications... Moab is told to hide God’s outcasts, and provide them shelter from an invader He calls *“the Spoiler”* and *“the Extortioner.”*

Understand, I’m against all forms of racial prejudice, but history attests there’s something especially sinister, hellish, diabolical about Anti-Semitism. Persecution of the Jewish people is of supernatural, satanic origin.

Revelation 12 focuses on the Great Tribulation - the final seven years before Jesus returns to earth to establish His kingdom. The Bible tells us a lot about what happens, both *on earth* and *in heaven*, especially what occurs at the middle of this seven year period.

On earth the last megalomaniac with intentions of global domination appears. This is the ruler the Bible calls *“The Antichrist.”* He’ll march his coalition armies into Israel and surround Jerusalem. He hates the Jews.

His desires to **spoil** life and prosperity for the Jews.

This madman will enter the Temple in Jerusalem. He’ll declare himself God, and desecrates the altar.

That’s when he blackmails the world into worshipping him. He **extorts** worship. People are forced to accept a numerical code to exchange goods and services. Isaiah tags him with the title *“Extortioner.”*

Yet while these events occur on Earth, an even more profound development takes place **in Heaven.**

God tosses Satan out on his ear.

Up until this point Satan carried credentials that gave him access to God's throne. But enough is enough.

After *"the Extortioner"* desecrates and defiles God's altar - *what God considers holy* - Satan gets the boot.

The Devil now realizes his time to play the spoiler is short. God will put him out of business, so Satan tries his best to hurl hurt at God. He goes after His kids.

Revelation 12 tells us that he'll persecute Israel.

The Jews though will manage to escape into the wilderness. In Matthew 24 Jesus sees this desecration. He calls it, *"the abomination of desolation."* Jesus says, *"Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."*

What mountains? The obvious answer for residents of Jerusalem, are the mountains southeast - the hills of Moab. Today, it's the Kingdom of Jordan. Halfway through the Great Tribulation Jews will flee to Moab, where they'll seek protection from *"the Extortioner."*

Daniel 11 tells us about the Antichrist's march toward Jerusalem. *"He shall enter the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon..."* The Jews will find refuge in Moab, and Moab will escape the persecution of the Antichrist.

Earlier in 16:1 Isaiah mentions the city of “*Sela.*” It also goes by the names “*Bozrah*” or “*Petra.*” It was a rock, cliff city south of the Dead Sea. It sits in a basin one square mile - the size of the Old City of Jerusalem.

But what made it unconquerable was its entranceway.

Petra’s front door was a mile long, and only a few feet wide. It made for a great hideout. If you watched the movie “*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade,*” Indy rides his horse up to a cave where he finds the Holy Grail - that scene was shot in Moab, the city of Petra.

Bible scholars see here Isaiah that when Antichrist invades Israel, the Jews will seek refuge at Petra.

Later in Chapter 63, Isaiah describes the second coming of the Messiah and the battle of Armageddon.

After the battle the Lord isn’t seen coming from Megiddo or Jerusalem, but from Bozrah - again, Petra.

Isaiah says Messiah’s clothes are stained with blood. By this time the Jews will put their faith in Christ. And Jesus will come to their rescue at Bozrah. The Savior will crush the Antichrist’s army in a bloody battle.

I’ve read that in the early 1900s an evangelist named W.E. Blackstone and other Christian Zionists realized the implications of these prophecies and stored Gospel tracts and Hebrew NTs in the caves around Petra.

They hoped to one day point the Jews to Jesus.

Certainly, they were convinced that these passages taught that future Jews would flee to the rock city.

Verse 5 also has prophetic implications. “In mercy the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.” Notice, “*the One*” who takes the throne is the Messiah, our Lord Jesus.

And He’ll sit in “*the tabernacle of David...*” In Acts 15:14 James mentions two signs of the end times.

First, God will save the Gentiles, then “after this I will return and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David (a phrase that gets lifted right out of Isaiah 16:5) which has fallen down. I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord...”

The early church understood this prophecy as saying that after the Church age, Jesus will return to Earth and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem - and from that throne He will host the world to come and seek Him.

Historically, the Temple was toppled by the Romans in 70 AD. It no longer exists. Yet prophetically, from this verse and others, scholars believe it’ll be rebuilt in the last days. A end time sign is a rebuilding of the Temple.

And today, there is a very strong, and overt movement among Jews to rebuild their ancient Temple.

Over 20 groups are working for its restoration.

On our visits to Israel we visit the [Temple Institute](#) where sacred tools and Temple furniture are being fabricated. Priests are being trained. The menorah sits in the plaza outside it’s doors. A Temple is their goal.

Yet here's a detail that often gets overlooked. Isaiah and then later in the book of Acts, James refers to God's throne as *"the tabernacle (or tent) of David."*

Rather than a permanent structure, this future Temple could be a simple tent. People think the Temple is a stone building that'll take years to construct.

But after the rapture the Antichrist could negotiate a peace between Israel and the Muslims that would allow the Jews to erect a temporary tent on the Mount. It wouldn't take years - but just days - to erect a tent.

Verse 6 speaks of the fall of Moab. *"We have heard of the pride of Moab - he is very proud - of his haughtiness and his pride and his wrath; but his lies shall not be so."* Therefore Moab shall wail for Moab; everyone shall wail. For the foundations of Kir Hareseth you shall mourn; surely they are stricken.

For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah; the lords of the nations have broken down its choice plants, which have reached to Jazer and wandered through the wilderness. Her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea.

Therefore I will bewail the vine of Sibmah, with the weeping of Jazer; I will drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh; for battle cries have fallen over your summer fruits and your harvest." Because of her pride, Moab was judged at the hands of the Assyrians.

"Gladness is taken away, and joy from the plentiful field; in the vineyards there will be no singing, nor will there be shouting; no treaders will tread out wine in the presses; I have made their shouting cease.

Therefore my heart shall resound like a harp for Moab, and my inner being for Kir Heres."

One of the most revealing indicators of a man's heart is his response to the suffering of his enemies. Here, rather than rejoice with a smug satisfaction, Isaiah's heart breaks over the fall of Israel's cousin, Moab.

“And it shall come to pass, when it is seen that Moab is weary on the high place, that he will come to his sanctuary to pray; but he will not prevail. This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning Moab since that time.” When defeat becomes apparent, the king of Moab will humble himself. He'll pray to his idols, but to no avail. God has decreed his judgment.

“But now the LORD has spoken, saying, “Within three years, as the years of a hired man, the glory of Moab will be despised with all that great multitude, and the remnant will be very small and feeble.”

Within three years of Isaiah's writing the Assyrians had stormed the land, and penetrated the rock fortress of Petra. They destroyed the desert kingdom of Moab.

Chapter 17 is “The burden against Damascus. “Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap.” This is a significant prediction, for Damascus claims to be the world's oldest city.

Many times in the past, Damascus was destroyed only to rise from the ashes. Even today, Damascus is a city in the midst of war. A civil war rages between ISIS and forces loyal to Syrian dictator, Bashar al-Assad.

Isaiah 17 predicts the final annihilation of Damascus.

“The cities of Aroer are forsaken; they will be for flocks which lie down, and no one will make them afraid.” “*The cities of Aroer*” were Damascus suburbs.

They'll be turned into grassland and sheep pasture.

“The fortress also will cease from Ephraim, the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria; they will be as the glory of the children of Israel,” says the LORD of hosts.” “*Ephraim*” was another name for the northern kingdom of Israel. Both Israel and Syria were judged in the same invasion of Assyrian troops.

“In that day it shall come to pass that the glory of Jacob (still another name for Israel) will wane, and the fatness of his flesh grow lean.” Israel will become weak and anemic. *Its glory will pass. Its prosperity will wane.*

“It shall be as when the harvester gathers the grain, and reaps the heads with his arm; it shall be as he who gathers heads of grain in the Valley of Rephaim.

Yet gleaning grapes will be left in it, like the shaking of an olive tree, two or three olives at the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in its most fruitful branches,” says the LORD God of Israel.”

You harvest olives by placing a tarp under the tree; then shake the limbs, until the olives fall to the ground.

Implied here, is that God will shake these nations, yet He'll leave a remnant - a few olives will remain.

“In that day a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel.

He will not look to the altars, the work of his hands; he will not respect what his fingers have made, nor the wooden images nor the incense altars.”

After God's judgment, the Israelis left in the land will look to their Maker, and reverence their God.

This all foreshadows the Jews of the last days. God will shake the world, yet a remnant of Jews will survive, and hide out in Moab. According to Zechariah 12 they'll look to Jesus - *whom they pierced* - and be saved.

Verse 9, “In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel; and there will be desolation. Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, therefore you will plant pleasant plants and set out foreign seedlings; in the day you will make your plant to grow, and in the morning you will make your seed to flourish...” The day will come when the Israelis will **tend their land, but forget their God.**

Here's a state of affairs that could apply to today.

During the 400 years of Turkish control in Palestine, from 1516 to 1917, the Ottomans taxed the number of trees on a person's land. This motivated landowners to cut down their forests. They denuded the land of Israel.

But when the Jews started to return in the 20th century a massive re-forestation program was started.

To this date the Jewish National Fund has financed the planting of over 240 million trees. Today, visitors to Israel are encouraged to purchase and plant a tree.

Yet the Jews will be unable to enjoy their country's resurgence. We're told, “**But the harvest will be a heap of ruins in the day of grief and desperate sorrow.**”

They'll plant, but with the harvest comes a period of sorrow and ruin. This may be on Israel's soon horizon.

“Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas, and to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!” Rushing water is a biblical idiom for invading armies. Damascus is to be flooded by Assyrian troops.

“The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; but God will rebuke them and they will flee far away, and be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. Then behold, at eventide, trouble! And before the morning, he is no more. This is the portion of those who plunder us, and the lot of those who rob us.” Here the focus of the prophecy seems to be future.

In God’s final Judgment, what the Bible calls Great Tribulation, a revived Israel is invaded and plundered.

Isaiah says by “*nations*” - plural. The world rises up to rob Israel. But God will fight for His people. As Isaiah says, “*before the morning*” their foes will be “*no more.*”

Chapter 18, “Woe to the land shadowed with buzzing wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia...”

The rivers of Ethiopia are in the northern part of the country. The land - the nation - is “*beyond the rivers.*”

It’s also “*the land shadowed with buzzing wings.*”

This probably refers to the Ethiopian fauna - its birds and insects. The Nile Valley swarms with critters...

But there are folks who equate these *“buzzing wings”* with modern aviation. And there’s more buzzing aircraft in the skies over America, than anywhere else. There’s now an app that identifies the planes flying overhead.

For people who want to find the United States in the Bible this is an opportunity. I personally think its a serious stretch, but you can judge for yourself...

It’s been said, *“Torture a text long enough, and it will eventually confess.”* In other words, you can make the Bible say whatever you want. We need to be careful to not to infer more from a passage than what’s there.

Yet, this nation in Isaiah and the USA are similar.

Verse 2, this is a nation *“which sends ambassadors by sea, even in vessels of reed on the waters...”*

You can travel from Ethiopia to Israel by land. When the Ethiopian Eunuch came to Jerusalem in Acts 8 he came by chariot - not boat. This nation sends its ambassadors by ship. Until the age of air travel US ambassadors traveled by ships to Europe and Africa.

Messengers to Ethiopia are told, *“Saying, “Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth of skin...”*

Ethiopians are known as *“tall and smooth of skin.”*

Manute Bol, of NBA fame, was an Ethiopian - all 7’7” of him. Ethiopians are tall... And so are Americans.

Until recent years, we were the tallest people on the planet. Today it’s the Dutch. We’ve shrunk to 9th place.

The description continues, “to a people terrible from their beginning onward, a nation powerful and treading down, whose land the rivers divide.” At the time of Isaiah, Ethiopia was Africa’s most powerful nation.

In 715 BC a mighty Ethiopian ruler named Shabako, conquered Egypt’s throne. Ethiopian rulers dominated Egypt until 633 BC. He was also a builder of temples.

Notice too, this country is called “*a nation terrible from their beginning onward.*” This would apply to the United States. Up until the conflict in Vietnam the United States Armed Forces had never lost a war.

In addition, this nation Isaiah speaks of is a “*land the rivers divide.*” That’s true of both Ethiopian and the US.

Verse 3 “*All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth: when he lifts up a banner on the mountains, you see it; and when he blows a trumpet, you hear it.*”

When this nation flexes its muscle all the nations of the world pay attention - this too applies to America.

“*For so the LORD said to me, "I will take My rest, and I will look from My dwelling place like clear heat in sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."*”

These are not good tidings! You want a cloud of dew in the springtime, not in the heat of harvest. It destroys the crops. In short, God is about to judge this nation.

“*For before the harvest, when the bud is perfect and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches. They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for*

the beasts of the earth; the birds of prey will summer on them, and all the beasts of the earth will winter on them.” Judgment comes. A mighty nation becomes roadkill for the birds.

“In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin, and from a people terrible from their beginning onward, a nation powerful and treading down, whose land the rivers divide - to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, to Mount Zion.” Yet even after their judgment, apparently this nation repents. Perhaps when Jesus returns this nation will go up to Jerusalem. They’ll come with a gift and join Israel in worshipping God. For Ethiopia, judgment will come before her repentance.

Chapter 19 is “The burden against Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; the idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, and the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.”

In the days of Isaiah, Egypt was a far cry from the Egypt of Moses’ day. The nation had been fragmented by infighting. Egypt was weak and dominated by the Ethiopians. It was considered easy prey for Assyria.

Verse 2 “I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; everyone will fight against his brother, and everyone against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.” This is what happened in the Arab Spring of 2010. Egyptians unseated their Egyptian president.

The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, and they will consult the idols and the charmers, the mediums and the sorcerers.” Egypt was

always a land of idols. Now in the Day of Judgment the Egyptians will learn how little help her idols are.

“And the Egyptians I will give into the hand of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them,” says the Lord, the LORD of hosts.” Egypt was conquered by many “*cruel masters*” and “*fierce kings*” in their history.

“The waters will fail from the sea, and the river will be wasted and dried up.” Next to NASA’s lunar missions the greatest engineering feat of the 1960s was the constructing of the Aswan Dam by Egyptian and Soviet engineers. The Nile River is the longest in the world. It runs 4,145 miles in length. The dam is 2 miles wide and 365' high. It was built at a cost of \$900 million.

The idea behind the project was to use the Nile for year round irrigation, and to provide electricity.

At the time it seemed like a good idea... The Nile is muddy and unpredictable. The Aswan Dam seemed like a great way of controlling a nuisance. That was the opinion of the experts in 1960 - *not so today*. Currently, the Aswan Dam is viewed as one of the biggest ecological disasters in the history of the modern world.

These next verses are amazing. Writing 2700 years ago, Isaiah predicts this modern day calamity...

“The rivers will turn foul; the brooks of defense will be emptied and dried up; the reeds and rushes will wither. The papyrus reeds by the River, by the mouth of the River, and everything sown by the River, will wither, be driven away, and be no more.

The fishermen also will mourn; all those will lament who cast hooks into the River, and they will languish who spread nets on the waters. Moreover those who work in

fine flax and those who weave fine fabric will be ashamed; and its foundations will be broken. All who make wages will be troubled of soul.”

What the Gulf of Mexico is to southern Louisiana, the Nile is to Egypt. It was their livelihood - yet rather than make money the Dam has been an economic disaster.

Here’s what the Aswan engineers overlooked...

The Nile brought down large amounts of silt from the mountains. This provided food for the fish and when the Nile overflowed its banks it fertilized the soil. Now fishing is nonexistent, and the soil is malnourished.

This lack of silt has also caused the mouth of the Nile that feeds into the Mediterranean Sea to erode. This has created salt water intrusion and a poisoning of the river as it flows northward. Another problem exists...

There’s a snail that eats vegetation along the river. The silt use to kill these snails. Now the snails can multiply unabated... *Isaiah saw all these problems...*

Verse 11 “Surely the princes of Zoan are fools; Pharaoh's wise counselors give foolish counsel.

How do you say to Pharaoh, "I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?" Where are they? Where are your wise men? Let them tell you now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts has purposed against Egypt.” Egypt had a glorious past, but her modern counselors have been foolish. God is against Egypt, until she repents. And she will, as we’ll see...

“The princes of Zoan have become fools; the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also deluded Egypt, those who are the mainstay of its tribes.

The LORD has mingled a perverse spirit in her midst; and they have caused Egypt to err in all her work, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

Neither will there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, palm branch or bulrush, may do.” The building of Aswan Dam caused severe unemployment.

“In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He waves over it.

And the land of Judah will be a terror to Egypt; everyone who makes mention of it will be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts which He has determined against it.” Just as the Hebrews plagued the Pharaoh of old, modern Israel has also been a terror to Egypt. Each time Egypt and Israel has squared off in battle, Egypt has been routed.

In 1948, in 1956, in 1967 - again in 1973 - in the Yom Kippur War, General Ariel Sharon drove his tank brigade deep into the Sinai - behind Egyptian lines. The Israelis surrounded Egypt’s entire third army.

Finally, in 1978 the Egyptians gave up their desire to annihilate Israel. Anwar Sadat signed the Camp David peace accords. But today, the Muslim Brotherhood has revived hostilities toward Israel. Peace is now tentative.

Yet verse 18 declares, “In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan (or Hebrew - Egyptians speaking Hebrew?) and swear by the LORD of hosts (Egypt will worship Israel’s God); one will be called the City of Destruction. In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border.”

A spiritual awakening will occur in the land of idols.

Egyptians will realize Israel's God is the one true God. They'll establish altars and memorials to Yahweh.

“And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them.” According to Daniel 11 when the Antichrist's army sweeps into Israel he'll also invade Egypt.

Moab, Ammon, Edom will escape, but not Egypt.

Daniel 11:42 reads, "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape." Yet the Messiah, a “*Mighty One*,” will not only come to rescue Jews, He'll also deliver the Egyptians.

And this stirs up a revival in Egypt, verse 21 “Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them.”

But notice the provocative phrase stated in verse 22, “*They will return to the LORD...*” Implied is that the Egyptians once knew the Lord... *but when was that?*

Most people believe this refers to the early Christian era when a strong community of believers formed in Egypt - in Alexandria. It was called the Coptic Church.

By the 4th century, Alexandria was the African hub of Christianity, and remained so for 600 years. The early church fathers, Clement and Origen, were Egyptians.

But there's another possible understanding of this phrase, *"They will return to the LORD..."* In fact, this is only conjecture. It's far more *I-say-a* than it is *Isaiah*.

But according to Manetho, an ancient Egyptian historian, around 2000 BC, Semitic warriors conquered Egypt. The *Hyksos* or "*Shepherd kings*" were monotheistic. They demolished the idols of Egypt.

Since they lived in Joseph's day it's possible his influence led them to worship Yahweh, God of Israel.

Manetho also said the Hyksos were responsible for building the *Great Pyramid of Giza*. *And here is where it gets controversial...* Some people believe the Great Pyramid of Giza was built to teach the Gospel to Egypt.

Isaiah mentions the phrases, *"a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt"* - *"an altar in the midst of the land"* - and *"a pillar at the border..."*

Notice too, the strange language in verse 19. How can an object be *"in the midst"* and *"at the border?"*

Traditionally, Egypt is divided into *Upper Egypt* and *Lower Egypt*. Giza is in the middle. It marked the midpoint. In fact, the word *"Giza"* means *"border."*

The Great Pyramid hovered over Egypt when Joseph ruled - when Moses led the Hebrews through the Red Sea - when Mary and Joseph sought refuge.

Imagine, for years, a symbol of the Christian Gospel stood tall in Egypt, overshadowing all those events.

The Great Pyramid is an engineering marvel.

Its 2.3 million stones are more precisely aligned than the tiles on a Space Shuttle. The pyramid was aligned with true north before the invention of the compass.

Inside the King's Chamber of the pyramid there's a box the exact size of the Ark. Its central passageway, [the Ascending and Descending stairs](#), are set at an angle that points directly to the city of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. Theories abound how all the other features of the Great Pyramid point to Jesus Christ.

It's interesting, that [pyramid power](#) is an element of new age religion and the occult. Did Satan ripped off God's symbol? A token of redemption made into a idol.

Chapter 19 closes, ["In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians."](#) Apparently, in the Kingdom Age, Jesus has a DOT that'll pave an Egypt to Assyria highway, that runs through Jerusalem.

["In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria - a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."](#) When Jesus reigns He'll form new alliances. Bitter enemies - Egypt, Assyria, Israel - will become allies. They'll form a three-way coalition.

God will call Egypt, as well as Israel, ["My people."](#) God's grace does this - *it turns enemies into friends.*