



Isaiah 19:1-10

A Prophecy Concerning Egypt

Amongst all the “bad news” for the nations of the ancient Middle East in the previous chapters of Isaiah, the oracle to Egypt actually stands out as a bright spot. We’re dividing Chapter 19 into two parts...The first part (vv. 1-10) contains God’s indictment against this formidable foe of Israel. While the second half of Isaiah 19 (vv. 11-25), paints a picture of some of the most exciting cultural transformation prophesied in the Old Testament.

Many scholars consider this section of scripture to be directly related to the End Times. In other words, they believe what unfolds in Isaiah 19 is likely in the much distant future. When you consider some of the events that have taken place in Egypt in the past ten years, you might be tempted to think we are closer to the unfolding of these events than we have thought. This begs the question, **“What happens when the ‘end times’ look like they are beginning to happen in our time?”**



English Standard (ESV)	Passion Notes	Passion Translation (TPT)
<p>Isaiah 19:1 This message came to me concerning Egypt:</p> <p>Look! The LORD is advancing against Egypt, riding on a swift cloud. The idols of Egypt tremble. The hearts of the Egyptians melt with fear.</p> <p>2 “I will make Egyptian fight against Egyptian— brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, province against province. 3 The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will confuse their plans. They will plead with their idols for wisdom and call on spirits, mediums, and those who consult the spirits of the dead.</p>	<p>a 19:1 Egypt is a recognized symbol of the world and its temptations and snares.</p> <p>b 19:1 See Deut. 33:26; Ps. 18:9–11; 68:34; 104:3; Isa. 60:8. Clouds can be a metaphor for God’s sons and daughters in glory.</p> <p>c 19:1 See Heb. 12:26–29.</p> <p>d 19:3 Or “swallow.” The Hebrew homonym can mean either “confuse” or “swallow.”</p>	<p>Isaiah 19:1 A prophecy concerning Egypt? a Behold! The Lord Yahweh is riding on a swift-soaring cloud! b He is on his way to Egypt! The god-idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, c and the hearts of the Egyptians will melt within them!</p> <p>2 “I will stir up civil strife and cause the to fight against one another—one against the other, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. 3 The spirit of the Egyptians will be in panic, and I will confuse d their strategies. They will seek guidance from their idols and by the spirits of the dead and consult with mediums and wizards.</p>

English Standard (ESV)	Passion Translation (TPT)	Passion Translation (TPT)
<p>⁴ I will hand Egypt over to a hard, cruel master. A fierce king will rule them,” says the Lord, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.</p> <p>⁵ The waters of the Nile will fail to rise and flood the fields. The riverbed will be parched and dry. ⁶ The canals of the Nile will dry up, and the streams of Egypt will stink with rotting reeds and rushes. ⁷ All the greenery along the riverbank and all the crops along the river will dry up and blow away. ⁸ The fishermen will lament for lack of work. Those who cast hooks into the Nile will groan, and those who use nets will lose heart. ⁹ There will be no flax for the harvesters, no thread for the weavers. ¹⁰ They will be in despair, and all the workers will be sick at heart.</p>	<p>e 19:4 Or “lords of severity”; that is, the king of Assyria.</p> <p>f 19:5 Or “the waters of the sea.” Waters could be viewed as an emblem of life-giving ministries.</p> <p>g 19:7 “All that is planted” could point to the teaching of the Word, sown as seeds into hearts. See Matt. 13:19–23.</p> <p>h 19:7 See Ps. 1:4.</p> <p>i 19:8 Fishermen can be seen as evangelists. See Matt. 4:18–19.</p> <p>j 19:9 Flax was arduously combed to produce linen.</p> <p>k 19:9 Or “become (white) pale.” See Isa. 38:12.</p> <p>l 19:10 The foundations of worldliness (Egypt) will be broken off of our lives. See Ps. 11:3.</p>	<p>⁴ I will give over the Egyptians into the hands of a cruel master; e a brutal king will rule over them,” says the sovereign God, the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies.</p> <p>⁵ The Nile delta f will dry up and the riverbed will become parched and dry. ⁶ Its canals will become stagnant and stink with rotting reeds, and the streams of Egypt will dry up, from a trickle to nothing. ⁷ All that is planted by the mouth of the river will dry up, g and the fields along the brooks will wither and turn to dust blown away by the wind. h ⁸ Fishermen i will mourn. All who cast a fishhook into the river. and those who cast their nets will catch nothing. ⁹ Those who make clothing from combed flax will despair, j and the weavers of linen will be distressed. k ¹⁰ The pillars of Egypt’s foundations will be shattered and every worker grieved. l</p>

VIDEO: JOEL RICHARDSON <https://joelstrumpet.com/the-underground-episode-3-the-oracle-of-isaiah-19/>

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY ~ John A. Martin

- EGYPT (CHAPS. 19-20)

Chapter 19 focuses on Egypt; chapter 20 concerns both Egypt and Cush (cf. chap. 18). As in the other oracles the historical situation, the impending Assyrian advance throughout the whole region, serves as a backdrop for the prophecies.

• **Egypt to be punished (19:1-15)**

Some people wanted to look to Egypt for protection against the Assyrian threat. But Isaiah pointed out that Egypt would be no help, because she too would be overwhelmed by God’s judgment.

- **Egypt’s Internal Troubles**

- **19:1-4.** Judgment was coming against Egypt from the LORD. God is pictured as riding [Vol. 1, p. 1066] on a swift cloud (cf. Pss. 68:4, 33; 104:3). In Canaanite mythology this same idea is used of Baal, the god of rain and fertility. However, the Lord, not Baal, is the true Giver of rain (something Egypt would sorely need, Isa.



19:5-10) and fertility. The gods of Egypt—of which there were many (see the chart “The Plagues and the Gods and Goddesses of Egypt,” near Ex. 7:14)—would not be able to save their people from coming judgment. Their idols would tremble before Him, which would cause the people to be disheartened and depressed (Isa. 19:1). The coming judgment would cause internal divisions (v. 2) and despair among the people when they would realize that their gods, only mere idols, and their occult practices (cf. mediums and ... spiritists, 8:19; Lev. 19:31; 20:6) could not save them. Now they would be overtaken by a cruel master and a fierce king, the Assyrian empire’s king. Egypt, who centuries before had been a cruel master over Israel (Ex. 1:11-14), would now be the object of cruelty. This Assyrian king was Esarhaddon, who conquered Egypt in 671 B.C. This judgment would come from the Lord, the LORD Almighty (Isa. 19:4), Israel’s Master and great covenant-keeping God.

- Egypt’s Lack of Fertility.

- **19:5-10.** To show that the judgment really would be from God, Isaiah said that the destruction would affect nature. A drought would ruin the economy and cause the people whose work depended on the Nile to be depressed. The river (v. 5) undoubtedly refers to the Nile, Egypt’s “lifeblood,” the source of the nation’s agricultural growth. Without the Nile, Egypt could not have survived. The annual flooding of the Nile over the fields enriched the soil. With the drying up of the Nile (brought on by God, not by military conquest), papyrus reeds ... plants, and every sown field would wilt (vv. 6-7). Fishermen using either hooks or nets would not be able to pursue their livelihood (v. 8), and those who derived their income from working with flax (cf. Ex. 9:31; which depended on water for its growth), or linen made from flax, or other cloth, would not be able to ply their trade (Isa. 19:9-10). The entire economy depended on the Nile River.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think is the significance of “riding on the clouds” prophetically? Where do we see similar language being used elsewhere in scripture?
2. Name three events that could happen that would be evidence that the “end of days” was at hand? Based upon our study today, do you think the “Arab Spring” that happened in Egypt in 2011 was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 19?
3. What is the Great Tribulation and what preparations would you make, personally, to prepare you to be an overcomer in that time?
4. Assuming that one of the most challenging aspect of going through the Great Tribulation would be not “falling away” from our relationship with Jesus, what are a couple ways you could strengthen your relationship with the Lord to prepare you to stand firm in that day?
5. What advice would you give to your children and grand-children the prepare them to go through difficult spiritual times?