

**Is. 19:1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.**

This chapter begins a prophecy directed to Egypt. It begins with a picture of the Lord coming into Egypt on a cloud in such a way that causes fear in the heart of the Egyptians and overpowers their idols. This immediately makes me think of the cloud by which the Lord led the Israelites and facilitated the destruction of the Egyptian army during the Exodus (Exodus 14). It would be interesting to know whether this connection was/is made in the minds of the Egyptians.

**Is. 19:2 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.**

Evidently, the fear and panic that ensue will cause the Egyptians to turn on each other.

**Is. 19:3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.**

In their fear and panic, the Egyptians will seek help from idols, charmers, them that have familiar spirits, and wizards. In that process God will prove the advice/counsel to be of no use—powerless and ineffective.

I thought the Hebrew for the word *idol* was to the point—good for nothing, no value, thing of nought.

**Is. 19:4 And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts.**

Emphasis is made that it is the Lord who is going to give Egypt into the hands of this cruel, fierce king.

**Is. 19:5 And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.**

**Is. 19:6 And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.**

**Is. 19:7 The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no *more*.**

**Is. 19:8 The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.**

**Is. 19:9 Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.**

**Is. 19:10 And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.**

Not only is the Lord going to hand them over to a fierce king, He is going to restrict their water resources. Egypt was very dependent on the Nile. The proper rise and drop in the river level at appointed times affected their food supply and their industry.

“Brooks of defence” seems to be referencing “hemmed in channels” of water for irrigation purposes. “Reeds” are a reference to a category of plants that were used in making perfumes and incense. “Flags” are a reference to papyrus, which was used to make baskets, ropes, boats, sandals, mats, and paper. Fish will no longer be abundant. “Fine flax” is used in the making of linen as well as in making cooking oil and lamp oil. “Sluices” is a word meaning “wages”; so this is a reference to those who make their living from stocked fishing ponds. All of these industries will be negatively affected.

**Is. 19:11 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?**

**Is. 19:12 Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.**

**Is. 19:13 The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof.**

Zoan and Noph were two of the main cities in lower Egypt. The Lord is declaring that the advisers and “wise counselors” of the Pharaoh (ruler of Egypt) would prove useless. No matter how distinguished their lineage may be, they will not be able to tell Pharaoh what God has purposed upon Egypt.

**Is. 19:14 The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit.**

The Lord is going to cause a wicked spirit to work among the counselors and advisors. This will result in their advice bringing disaster upon Egypt. The gross comparison is that Egypt could be compared to a drunk man wallowing in his own vomit.

We don't often think of God using evil spirits to accomplish His purposes, but the Bible is very clear that He uses wicked men to that end as well. God is the creator of all, both good and evil.

Is. 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*.

God will accomplish His purposes in spite of and sometimes in conjunction with the choices of His creation. He is Lord whether we accept Him as such or not.

Is. 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: **I am the LORD; and there is none else.**

**Is. 19:15 Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.**

Isaiah continues in his poetic repetitive form of speaking. Isaiah 9:14-16 helps us to understand that the Lord is speaking to the Egyptian leaders.

Is. 9:14-16 Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day. The ancient and honourable, he is the head;

and the prophet that teacheth lies, he *is* the tail. For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err; and *they that are* led of them *are* destroyed.

Most commentators consider this prophecy of Egypt fulfilled when Assyria conquered Egypt. In my mind that doesn't preclude it being a foreshadowing of more to come.

**Is. 19:16 In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.**

When the Lord brings this prophecy to fulfillment in Egypt, the people of Egypt will stand in fear of the "Lord of hosts." I believe this is clearly future.

**Is. 19:17 And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.**

"The land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt." That doesn't sound too far off from the truth today, even though I'm sure they wouldn't admit it. I tend to think this will be a more obvious fact in the future. It will get to the point that even the mention of Judah will instill fear in the Egyptians because of Judah's association/connection to the "Lord of hosts"—the One who purposes to punish Egypt.

**Is. 19:18 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.**

*Canaan* is a reference to the land of Israel.

The day is coming when people in the land of Egypt will speak Hebrew and recognize God as their Lord. One of the first cities to be converted will be the "city of destruction." Some commentators connect this with the city of Heliopolis or On, which was devoted to the worship of the sun god, one of Egypt's major deities. (1/11) Instead of worshipping the sun, they will worship the Son.

I wonder if this is a hint that we will all speak Hebrew in the millenium. I tend to think so. The languages were confused to keep the people from joining in rebellion against the Lord. It would make sense to me that we would convert back to one language to facilitate service and obedience to the Lord.

**Is. 19:19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.**

**Is. 19:20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.**

The day is coming when Egypt will cry out to the Lord God because of their oppression. They will build an altar to the Lord in the center of the land and a memorial stone at the border of the land acknowledging God as their Lord. At that time the Lord will send them a deliverer.

(8/05) There is an interesting article on The Great Pyramid of Giza at [www.gracethrufaith.com](http://www.gracethrufaith.com) that makes an application to this area of scripture.

**Is. 19:21** *And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.*

When the time comes that Egypt openly acknowledges God as Lord, they will prove their commitment to Him by their actions. They will offer Him sacrifices and give Him gifts. When they make vows/promises to God, they will keep them.

The application is obvious. One who truly acknowledges God as Lord will serve Him with devotion and commitment.

**Is. 19:22** *And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.*

The message to Egypt begins with punishment and ends with hope. Although the Lord will smite (defeat, strike, put to the worse) Egypt, He will eventually bring them healing. They will “return” to the Lord. As I thought about it, that would be a true statement about any nation. We all have the same root, the same forefathers. Adam and Eve were created in fellowship with the Creator. Noah and his family were saved through the flood through obedience and faith in God. Somewhere along the way, people chose to depart from the truth—to depart from God. This prophecy ends up in a promise that the day is coming when Egypt will return to God, and He will hear their prayers and will provide healing—will make them whole again in relationship to Him. I think we can all agree that this is yet future. (1/11) Egypt is often a type of the Gentile world, and again represents those who will turn to the Lord in faith after the time of God’s wrath.

**Is. 19:23** *In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.*

**Is. 19:24** *In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:*

**Is. 19:25** *Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.*

The day is coming when there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria that will pass through Israel. The people of these nations will travel freely and safely from one nation to the other; these three former enemies will be friends. They will all enjoy blessings from the Lord God.

I think verse 25 is a way of stating in poetic style that all these nations will be on equal footing before the Lord. I don’t think you can make a difference in God’s people, the work of His hands, and His inheritance. Israel will enjoy a covenantal position of prominence and prosperity in the millennial kingdom, but

Egypt and Assyria will also enjoy a position of blessing without jealousy and in acceptance of God's sovereignty.

The application here would be to the body of Christ. We are all part of one body. We are called to serve in different positions. The toe is just as important to God as the head. We are to be content with how and where the Spirit calls us to serve. Jesus made it clear that humility and the position of servant is most important—and He set the example.

John 13:14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

John 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Matt. 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.