



EGYPT TRIGGER OF ARMAGEDDON

by ROBERT HOOLEY

A PROPHETIC INSIGHT INTO THIS NATION'S ENDTIME DESTINY!

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Introduction

Armageddon is a Biblical term emblematic of the great conflict between the forces of good and evil which will conclude this present age. According to the Scriptural outline set forth in Daniel 11:40-45, several military campaigns will directly precede the literal return of Messiah to this earth. The main focal point of these campaigns will be in the Middle East. We are now living in an hour of history when the attention of the nations is certainly upon the Middle East.

It is our understanding of Scripture that the initial military campaign of Armageddon will be an explosive war between Egypt and Israel, one instigated by Egypt. It is true that these two nations already have fought each other in several wars during the years since 1948, but these were all prior to that ultimate conflict described in the Bible as being a part of Armageddon.

It is apparent that this inevitable event is very near and that both Egypt and Israel are rapidly preparing themselves for the conflict. When the time is right, Egypt will pull the trigger of Armageddon, and then will begin the greatest and most awesome time of war and bloodshed this world has ever known.

The reality that Egypt holds its finger to the trigger of Armageddon has prompted this author to diligently search the Scriptures for truths regarding this nation's place in latter day prophecy. An abundance of Biblical texts speak with clarity on this fascinating subject. It is hoped that this prophetic study of things to come will be a great blessing and encouragement to every reader. May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob be highly exalted, for He alone in great wisdom and sovereignty is able to declare with perfection the great events of the future, hundreds and even thousands of years prior to their fulfillment.

CHAPTER ONE

RIVER OF CONTENTION

As we begin our exciting and revealing study of what God wants us to know about Egypt's destiny, let's start by reading the first nine verses of Ezekiel's prophecy in Ezekiel, Chapter 29, as follows: *"(1) In the tenth year, in the tenth month, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt: (3) Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.*

"(4) But I will put hooks in thy jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales, and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, and all the fish of thy rivers shall stick unto thy scales. (5) And I will leave thee thrown in the wilderness, thee and all the fish of thy rivers: thou shalt fall upon the open fields; thou shalt not be brought together, nor gathered: I have given thee for meat to the beasts of the field and to the fowls of the heaven. (6) And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that Jam the Lord, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel.

“(7) When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand. (8) Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee. (9) And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it.”

Verse one tells us that the Word of the Lord which Ezekiel prophesied came to him in the tenth year, which refers to the tenth year of the Babylonian captivity suffered by the Jewish people, including Ezekiel. This means that the prophecy was spoken almost 600 years prior to the birth of Jesus Christ. As so often happens in Scripture, the Word of the Lord which came through the Bible prophets of old did not only concern people and nations in connection with events of that immediate day and time, but related to events in one or more time periods that were often hundreds of years away. Hence, we have today great ancient prophecies that are applicable to this hour of history in which we live.

They were spoken centuries ago — in this instance, over 2,500 years ago. Other gods may be able to interpret the past, but only the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the Bible, can accurately and authoritatively speak of the future.

If you’ll notice in verse two of this text, Ezekiel’s words are directed against Pharaoh and all Egypt. That just opens up the scope of the prophecy to all of Egypt in any period of time, any era from that point throughout all of Egypt’s history. Now, the portion of this particular prophecy in Ezekiel 29 that is clearly applicable to Ezekiel’s day is found in verses 17 through 20, which we did not yet read. In essence, it tells us that Babylon would conquer Egypt, and it happened shortly afterward just as God said it would. However, the remainder of Ezekiel’s prophecy in chapter 29 primarily was not fulfilled in Ezekiel’s time, and I am thoroughly convinced that it is applicable to these last days in which we are now living.

It is a fact of history that ancient Egypt lost its independence along with its former grandeur and greatness at the time of its devastating defeat by the Babylonians. Subsequent to that time — for approximately 2,500 years — Egypt has largely been held subservient to other nations and powers. It is not our present purpose to chart the history of these years in detail, other than to stress the reality of Egypt's subservience under Greece, the Ptolemaic dynasties, the Roman Empire, Byzantine emperors, Arab rulers, Turkey, France, and England.

In recent years we have all heard many repeated references to the great and miraculous fulfillment of Scripture regarding the continuing regathering of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland and the reestablishment of Israel as an independent nation. However, few of us are aware that the rise of the nation of Egypt and its restoration to independent rule in these last days of the twentieth century is also a great and miraculous fulfillment of numerous prophetic Scriptures. God ordained it and foretold it through His prophets many centuries ago, and we will be citing specific Scripture texts regarding this truth throughout this study.

There's a purpose for Israel's rise in these last days, and there's also a purpose for Egypt's rise. Simply stated, there's nothing that exemplifies anymore clearly the great conflict between God and the powers of darkness led by Satan than the resentment, the animosity and the strife which exists between these two nations — Israel and Egypt. It was so often true in ancient times; it was true at the time Israel again became a nation in 1948: and it remains painfully true today. However, for approximately 2,500 years this antagonistic relationship was not manifested to the degree that it is today, because neither Israel nor Egypt was under independent rule; but we are living in the unique hour of history that has recently seen both of these nations rise to a place of independence, and it's all according to divine providence. Along with the newly established State of Israel, Egypt, the land of the Nile, is also a free nation, occupying a prominent place in the front pages of our newspapers almost daily.

Let us briefly look at a few of the important dates and events in Egypt's recent rise to independence. In 1914, Great Britain made Egypt a protectorate, and then gave Egypt its independence in 1922. That's a very important date in relation to prophetic Scripture. Then, in 1952, a revolutionary group of Egyptian Army officers overthrew King Farouk and the existing order of rule in Egypt, and one of these army officers was Gamal Abdul Nasser. In 1953, Egypt became a free Republic called the Egyptian Arab Republic, and in the following year, 1954, General Nasser assumed leadership of the nation, a position which he held until his death in 1970. Then, in 1958, Egypt and Syria formed an alliance which they called the United Arab Republic. That "marriage" really didn't last, because in 1961 Syria withdrew. Today, Egypt is often referred to by either of its two former titles, the Egyptian Arab Republic or the United Arab Republic — but they are a free nation. God ordained it, foretold it and brought it to pass. It's very important for us to realize that this nation, formerly one of the greatest empires of the ancient world, again has a prominent place to play in the affairs of mankind as this present age comes to a close.

Verse three of our text brings us to the main thought of this chapter in regards to Egypt, and it is centered around a key phrase in this verse: *"...My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself"* Concerning this river which Egypt claims as its own, we read further in verse nine: *"And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it."* Now, in these verses we are told that the issue over this river will be so great, especially between God and Egypt, that it is going to bring judgment against Egypt.

We need to read again verses six and seven to see that the nation of Israel is involved in one way or another regarding this river. Ezekiel 29:6-7 tells us, *"And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that Jam the Lord, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand."* In these Scriptures, God says that Egypt's relationship to Israel will resemble a staff of reed (which breaks easily) — unreliable. Verse seven lets us know that there is going to be an official agreement made between Israel and Egypt,

undoubtedly involving the river mentioned in verse three, wherein Israel will be placed in the relatively helpless position of having to lean upon or trust Egypt to uphold its part of the agreement. It is obvious that Egypt is not worthy of Israel's trust, because that nation shall break the agreement and hurt Israel, saying "...*The river is mine, and I have made it.*"

Now, how does all this make sense in relation to events of our day? First, if you were to consult a Bible commentary in seeking identification of the river referred to in Ezekiel 29, you would find that most commentators would declare it to be the only real and significant river in all Egypt, the NILE. What other Egyptian river is there? Well, there's no question over the fact that the Nile is the only real and significant river in all Egypt, but it has never been an issue with Israel. It's an Egyptian river, and Israel doesn't question its ownership or want to use it. Also, Israel hasn't entered into any agreement with Egypt over the Nile, and it doesn't appear that there is anything for them to agree or disagree about concerning the Nile. It just doesn't seem that the Nile fits the pattern of Ezekiel 29, so there must be a better explanation to this text. What is this river that the Egyptians say is theirs and they made it? It might be mentioned that rivers are created, so what is this river that they say they made?

If you were to take a Bible concordance and look up the meaning of the Hebrew word that is translated here as "river," you would find it includes this startling reality: "a channel or a canal." Now, a canal is something that can be made; rivers are created, but channels or canals can be dug out by man. This opens up a whole new dimension of understanding, for now we can see that Ezekiel 29 is clearly referring to the **SUEZ CANAL**. Sometimes the Suez Canal is called the "arm" or a branch of the Nile. The Nile is not a volatile subject between Israel and Egypt, but we all know that the Suez Canal is, and probably will be even more so in the days to come. It really builds our faith to realize that God recorded in His Word a specific truth like this concerning the Suez Canal, even centuries before it entered the minds of man to dig it out. And He knew there would be a bitter disagreement over it — all foretold by God through the prophet Ezekiel. Praise the Lord!

We need to briefly review what we have thus far learned from our text in Ezekiel 29: that Israel and Egypt will be involved in an official agreement, obviously over the Suez Canal, and that Egypt will break the agreement at a time when Israel is leaning upon and trusting that nation to abide by its word, resulting in the hurt of Israel. Because of it, God's wrath will be manifest against Egypt, and Egypt will painfully come to know that God rules in this world and that **He is the God of Israel**. Rather than dwell on further Scriptures in this text which describe the resulting military conflict between Israel and Egypt and the type and degree of God's judgment upon Egypt, let's examine a few more pertinent facts regarding the Suez Canal, and you be the judge as to whether or not it is the "river" referred to by Ezekiel.

The Suez Canal is a man-made waterway across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt connecting the Red Sea with the Mediterranean. It extends from Port Said in the north to Suez City in the south, a distance of a little over 100 miles, providing the shortest maritime route between European and Asiatic ports. It is not cut in a straight line, but has at least eight bends. Until its blockage during the Six-Day War of 1967, it was one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes.

A small canal originally had been dug in ancient times, but it fell into disuse because it was too difficult to maintain and keep open, finally becoming permanently blocked in the eighth century. It was not until the nineteenth century, more than a thousand years later, that a French diplomat named Ferdinand deLessep persuaded the leaders of Egypt to grant a concession for construction of the present Suez Canal. Construction began in 1859 and was completed in 1869 after ten difficult years of work. Ownership was held by an independent corporation called the Suez Canal Authority, an international private stock company with offices in Paris, France. Since the French people provided more than one half of the original capital to form the company, the majority of the stock was controlled by France, but in 1875 England became the majority stockholder. Egypt was given a percentage of the profits from the Suez Canal but basically was never a controlling stockholder.

Regarding the Suez Canal, the original contract with Egypt was to remain in effect for a term of 99 years from the canal's opening in 1869, with ownership to be turned over to Egypt after that time. This means that the Suez Canal would have come under the ownership and control of Egypt in 1968. Also, in the original agreement the canal was specifically designated as an international waterway, open at all times to all nations and to all ships, without discrimination.

Now, in 1956 — and this is historical fact — Egypt, under Nasser, arrogantly broke the agreement by seizing the Suez Canal some twelve years before being legally entitled to assume ownership and control. Egypt further aggravated the situation by forbidding any Israeli ships to sail through the Suez Canal, an act which flagrantly violated the word and spirit of the original legal agreement. For eleven years, from 1956 to 1967, Egypt illegally prospered, from the revenue produced by the Suez Canal — up to \$225 million a year. It became a major source of Egypt's foreign exchange.

As a result of the Six-Day War in 1967, sunken ships and wartime debris blocked the Suez Canal. Suez City, a southern gateway, was heavily damaged and almost made a ghost town. All flow of shipping through that waterway abruptly stopped, and so did the revenue. The Israeli Army positioned itself on the east side of the canal, and the Egyptian Army lined up on the west side, and they stared at each other — year after year.

For eight years the Suez Canal remained closed, blocked with debris, but in June, 1975, after being cleaned out, it was opened again with great worldwide fanfare. Six hundred dignitaries were invited — kings, foreign ministers, generals and ambassadors — from the leading nations around the world. The project of cleaning out and reopening the Suez Canal was largely a cooperative effort by the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and Egypt. Egypt did not have the money, equipment or ability to do it alone. It is reported that about 40,000 items were removed from the bottom of the Suez Canal, and you helped pay for it, because it cost the American taxpayers about \$20 million to help clean it out.

When the Suez Canal opened eight years from the day it was closed, there was a great ceremonial flotilla of ships that entered the northern gate near Port Said and passed southward through the waterway. The flotilla was led by the Russian- built 3,500 ton Egyptian destroyer **Tenth of Ramadan** (October 6), named for the date of the surprise attack against Israel on Yom Kippur in 1973. But the largest ship in the flotilla was the 14,600 ton guided missile cruiser **U.S.S. Little Rock**, flagship of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Egyptian President Sadat, in full dress naval uniform, was on the deck of the Egyptian destroyer as it rippled through the waters at Port Said, ready to enter the gate to the Suez Canal. A mighty 21-gun salute was heard, and thousands of Egyptians on the shore waved olive branches and cheered themselves hoarse. An Egyptian banner read, **“WE HAVE OPENED THE CANAL; WE WILL KEEP IT OPEN.”** The preliminary events and conditions are rapidly shaping up in preparation for the imminent explosive fulfillment of the prophecy in Ezekiel 29.

Prior to the reopening and dedication of the canal, Israel supplied a peaceful gesture: a unilateral pullback of some of its forces and weapons in the Sinai desert for several miles, an operation that Israelis nicknamed “Exodus 1975.” They pulled back 3,500 men and their supporting tanks some eighteen miles from the Suez Canal front, and they moved all of their artillery out of range of the waterway, just to show good faith. The move drew little attention.

Israel’s Foreign Minister Yigal Allon conveyed heartfelt and most sincere wishes to Egypt that the canal would indeed bear the hoped-for economic fruit and prosperity for the nation of Egypt. But he also emphasized in a speech before the Israeli Knesset that Israel expected Egypt to permit non-military Israeli cargo to pass through the Suez Canal according to the 1974 disengagement agreement made between Israel and Egypt. Although Egypt had declared that no Israeli ships could go through the canal flying the Israeli flag, the agreement permitted non-Israeli ships under the flag of any other nation to pass through the canal while transporting non-military cargo to and from Israeli ports. Israel’s Foreign Minister called upon Egypt to keep its word.

Since the opening of the canal in 1975, Israel and Egypt have signed an additional agreement called the Sinai accord. As a result, Israel relinquished to Egypt more of the western Sinai, strategic military positions and oil wells. Today, there are no Israeli troops on the banks of the Suez Canal — Egyptian troops totally occupy both sides. However, the Sinai accord made between these two nations guarantees that Israel can both send and receive non-military cargo through the Suez Canal as long as it is transported by non- Israeli ships. Israel fully recognizes that her own ships flying the Israeli flag are not permitted to use the canal for any purpose whatsoever.

Several of our own high-ranking U.S. officials have confirmed the existence of the clause in the Sinai accord which guarantees the right for non-Israeli ships to use the Suez Canal to transport non-military cargo to and from Israel. And since the Sinai accord, much cargo has indeed passed through the canal aboard ships of other nations, both arriving at and departing from Israel. We don't hear or read much about it because neither Israel nor Egypt wants to publicize it. Both nations know that Egypt has infuriated other Arab nations by privately negotiating with Israel and allowing any concessions at all regarding the Suez Canal, even in exchange for major Sinai advantages. The more radical Arab nations essentially are holding out for Israel's return to pre-1967 borders, and want to deny Israel any benefits whatsoever from the canal, including passage of Israeli non-military cargo on ships of other nations.

One outstanding news magazine declared that the Suez Canal has become a symbol of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is a precise reflection of Arab thinking, as confirmed by the following words quoted from an article in the June 5, 1975, issue of **Al Ahram**, the official newspaper from Cairo, Egypt: "The (Suez) canal is not only a sea passage for sailing, transport and commerce, but is first and foremost a political and a strategic weapon. There is no importance to Egypt's geographic position without the canal and there is no value to the canal without the Sinai. This is because he who threatens the Sinai threatens the canal, and he who threatens the canal is not only a principle obstacle on the road to returning the Sinai, but also imperils Egypt's standing. The canal has been fated to face repeated danger and

our position is always subject to threat, destruction or partial paralysis, so long as there is an Israel.”

One of the greatest concerns for Egypt is its economic peril, and the opening of the Suez Canal has brought new hope that the forthcoming revenue will lift the nation’s sagging economy. Other nations are helping. Iran initially pledged a billion dollars in reconstruction aid for modernizing and enlarging the canal to accommodate larger vessels, since many supertankers and other ships built since 1967 are too large to get through the canal. Saudi Arabia is financing the construction of Faisal City, a new community along the canal which is expected to house 30,000 Egyptians. Kuwait and others, including America, are also helping financially. Suez City, which was made a virtual ghost town eight years ago, is flourishing again as thousands of Egyptians are returning to swell its population past the 150,000 figure at the time of this writing. Shipping experts expect the canal to be heavily used by freighters, and it is obvious that Egypt is enjoying the prospects of prosperity again. As the Suez harbor master so aptly put it, “The sight of those ships is like blood trickling back into a dying man’s veins.”

But today, out of approximately 150 nations on the earth, one tiny little nation is deprived of the right to sail its ships through the Suez Canal — Israel. Why? That alone is enough to anger Almighty God, who chose the Jewish people to be a special blessing to this world and to receive favor from the nations. How long will God permit the inveterate hatred and animosity of hostile nations to vilify Israel and thrust such injustices into her face?

As the Scriptural prophecy in Ezekiel 29 clearly reveals, the issue between Israel and Egypt concerning the Suez Canal will become so increasingly volatile that Egypt will break its agreement with Israel (either the Sinai accord or an additional soon-coming agreement) and say, “...*The river (Suez Canal) is mine, and I have made it.*” Military conflict will be the swift and inevitable result — it will be all-out war, probably atomic. This will very likely be the initial military conflict in the campaigns of Armageddon, as outlined in Daniel 11 :4045.*

Keep very alert to forthcoming news stories and reports of developments in this crucial area, because what you see and hear should tell one clear fact, "It's later than we think!"

*The booklet *Armageddon*, dealing with the campaigns of Armageddon, is available at Liberty Publications, 6210 Ward Road, Arvada, CO 80004.

CHAPTER TWO

THE BURDEN OF EGYPT

The text for this portion of our study is the message that God gives us through the prophet Isaiah, found in Isaiah 19:1-17. Unlike the first section, where we cited the entire passage and then made comments, we shall read verse by verse and make comments as we proceed. The first four words of verse one will serve as our topic, "The burden of Egypt." A good English rendering would be "an utterance or a prophecy of doom and -ruin concerning Egypt." Verse one of the prophecy says, *"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."*

Here we are told that the judgment upon Egypt which is described in this chapter will be a direct result of the personal presence of the Lord coming into Egypt. There's both authority and and urgency expressed in Isaiah's declaration that the Lord shall come into Egypt riding upon a swift cloud. In Scripture, we often find God's personal presence linked with a cloud or clouds. For instance, Psalm 104:3 refers to God as being the One *"...who maketh the clouds his chariot..."*

Nahum 1:3 declares, “...and the clouds are the dust of his feet,” and Lamentations 3:44 says, “*Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud...*”, God is sometimes said to hide Himself in a cloud. If you will recall, this is the way God originally manifested Himself in Egypt during the days of Moses when He brought the children of Israel out of bondage — He came in the midst of a cloud, and He spoke to His people out of that cloud.

In this chapter we are going to be reading about acts that the Almighty Himself will be performing in Egypt in the very day and hour in which we are living, and on into the future. Yet, He will be concealed; He won't be visibly seen; He'll be hidden, as it were. God is a Spirit! The eyes of men won't necessarily see Him, but we are told that when He comes, the idols of Egypt shall be moved. Idols and graven images are emblematic of the spiritual worship of the people of a nation, and the Bible sternly warns that in connection with every idol and graven image there is some kind of a spirit seeking to be worshipped.

This is where the two nations of Israel and Egypt differ radically. The people of Egypt historically have had a multiplicity of so-called deities which they have worshipped; however, the Jewish people of Israel have given to you and me, to our nation, to the world, a revelation of the one God — Jehovah — the God that all men are to worship in spirit and in truth. And it is this same God who said, “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image ... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...*”

(Exodus 20:3-5.) Verse one of our text is actually describing the great conflict which is taking place today in Egypt in the realm of the spirit world. God's presence is moving. Isaiah says He will literally shake up the powers of darkness. Back in the days of Moses there was a great conflict between God and the so-called deities of Egypt, and it's happening again today.

Verse one also tells us that the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. In simple usage, the heart is often representative of the spirit, whether speaking of a man or a nation. Hence, this verse is

revealing that the people and leaders of Egypt, as well as the spiritual powers that rule over that nation, shall suffer loss of confidence and hope. Their hearts will faint and melt away because the presence of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be manifested in Egypt during this hour. To a measurable degree, this has already happened in Egypt's recent twenty or more years of independent rule, but it will become increasingly true in the days ahead.

In verses two through seventeen, there is an impressive list of the fearful things prophesied to happen within Egypt during these last days — from the time Egypt gained its independence and became the United Arab Republic in the 1950s up until the time of Armageddon. Before reading that list, however, it should be recognized that these awesome events are not necessarily the result of an attack by an alien army, but God Himself is going to bring to pass the things that are revealed in this chapter. Although it is very doubtful that any of us will read in our newspaper or hear over a newscast a report that the Lord was seen flying on a cloud over Cairo, we can be assured that the fulfillment of events that are reported — prophesied in Isaiah 19 — will let us know assuredly that the Lord is there.

Let's now read verses two and three. *“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. 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.”*

Here we are told clearly that there will be a general spirit of strife and confusion prevailing among the Egyptians themselves. In a recent trip that I made to the land of Egypt, it was very apparent that the prevailing spirit over the land was the spirit of confusion. This fact was so overwhelmingly obvious that I made several references to it in the diary that I kept on that trip. Current news reports regarding events unfolding in Egypt today continue to confirm the reality of the growing confusion, but it is all the more apparent to those who have been there.

Isaiah declares that God Himself will destroy the wise counsel of Egypt. It seems that today the Egyptian leaders are vacillating in their Arab loyalties, foreign and domestic policies, relationships with major powers and in just about every element of national importance. Instability prevails, with continual fluctuation from one position to another. Factions are forming. It's the spirit of confusion at every level, from local to national.

These verses of Scripture also tell us that Egypt's leaders will turn to idols and seek advice from the charmers and from them that have familiar spirits and from wizards. Charmers are those who make contact with the spirit world for the purpose of magically revealing the future or influencing events. Familiar spirits are very real spirits in the kingdom of darkness which give advise and direction from the unseen world beyond. Wizards are fortune-tellers who use various methods to acquire information about the future, but all from evil sources. If one doesn't think these things are true and prevalent in Egypt today, he should spend a few hours walking the streets of Cairo as I did.

Verse four says, *"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."* The ultimate fulfillment of this Scripture regarding a cruel lord who will rule over Egypt undoubtedly will be culminated in the Antichrist,* yet in the future. In his appointed time, this man will make his personal appearance on the general world scene, and the Bible tells us that the sphere of his kingdom will extend over the treasures of Egypt (Daniel 11). But in addition to the appearance of this man in the near future, it is quite likely that this Scripture also refers to a specific Egyptian leader. Almighty God, who sees and knows all things, looked down through the telescope of time to our day — the last days — and saw that after 2,500 years of domination by other nations, Egypt would again become a free nation. He saw the United Arab Republic being formed in the 1950s, and He saw the first powerful ruler, Gamal Abdel Nasser.

*The booklet Antichrist is available at Liberty Publications, 6210 Ward Road, Arvada, CO 80004.

Could Nasser possibly have been referred to in this Scripture? If so, what kind of man was he? Most of the Egyptians considered him to be a great leader, as the Germans did Hitler and the Russians did Stalin, but it was under his leadership that Egypt's mold was set in their conflict with the nation of Israel. It was his adamant hatred of Israel that led thousands of Egyptian boys to their graves in four wars with Israel in just twenty-five years, and that's pretty cruel. We all recall the volatile intimidating proclamations and threats against Israel that came through the lips of that man. He declared that he was going to lead a final holy war against Israel that would drive every Jew into the sea, and he wouldn't stop until every inch of Palestine was back in Arab hands. These are fierce words which are in total opposition to the Lord's declared purpose and plan in restoring the Jewish people to their God-given homeland. Nasser clearly fits the type of "cruel lord" and "fierce king" set forth in this Scripture, but we know where he is today — he came to his end.

Let's now read verses five through nine. "And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up. 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. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven a- way, and be no more. 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. Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded." This is an obvious judgment upon the Nile, the life-giving river of Egypt, and its tributaries. It is this river, along with its tributaries, that provides the vital irrigation waters which sustain agriculture and life in Egypt, and the judgment against it will be so great it will even virtually destroy the vital fishing industry.

The Nile holds a very important place in this particular prophecy, so we should now take the time to learn some of its interesting aspects. Every summer the Nile River, from its source high in the African mountains, dramatically increases its flow northward into Egypt. It is the longest river in the world, 4,132 miles. As the annual rains increase, the swollen waters of the Nile carry tons of rich volcanic soil down into Egypt, and the river faithfully overflows its

banks and leaves this rich soil deposited on the adjacent farm lands. By this yearly act of nature, God has created one of the richest agricultural belts in the world. The vast majority of Egyptians live in close proximity to the Nile, and the rest of the country is very sparsely populated. It seems that life in Egypt is inseparably linked to this great river. Now, something is going to happen to the Nile, and God is going to do it. It's something that cannot be hidden; when it happens, men will know it.

Although there will be a great final fulfillment of these verses in the near future, there is something that has already happened in Egypt which constitutes at least a partial fulfillment of this text. Under General Nasser, Egypt began to build the great Aswan Dam, and the United States had a part in helping them during the initial stages. Then Egypt turned to Russia for further help, and the dam was carried on to completion in the early 1960s and dedicated in 1964. The purpose of the Aswan Dam is to control and conserve the flood waters of the Nile, but it appears that the delicate balance of nature was drastically and immeasurably altered. Let's just take time to read the following article quoted from **The Jerusalem Post Weekly** (original source - **The Observer**):

“Built without sluices, the (Aswan) dam is retaining all of the Nile's silt in the man-made Lake Nasser behind it. The clear water coming through the turbines is scouring the riverbed, undermining dams and bridges, and eroding the Delta coastline. It lacks the organic matter and natural fertilizers that made the Nile valley the richest farmland on earth.

“New irrigation canals are spreading the endemic bilharzia disease, a debilitating intestinal and urinary infection. Worst of all, Lake Nasser is losing twice as much as had been expected in evaporation and underground seepage. Now there will never be another flood in Egypt. The flood water runs into Lake Nasser and there the sediment sinks, and six hundred miles downstream the water flows so clear that you may stand on a balcony of the Hotel Semiramis in Cairo and see through to the river's sandy bottom. Any Egyptian, clutching at your arm to show you this, will unfailingly add, ‘Terrifying, isn't it?’

“It is. The Nile is the sole source of life in Egypt, and its annual flood was one of nature’s exquisitely-balanced wonders. Sometimes it brought too much water, engulfing villages, or else too little: and even in normal years about 30,000 tons flowed unused out to sea.

“But the water wasn’t wasted. Every drop laden with sediment that emptied into the Mediterranean strengthened the food chain nourishing marine life and maintained the exact balance of salinity needed: and every year the sediment added a little more to the Delta land it had formed in the first place.

“Before reaching the sea the flood waters had three indispensable functions. They flushed away soil salts that would otherwise choke the plant life, they swept away the insidious snail carrying the bilharzia larva, and they left behind a layer of soil-building and enriching silt.

“Since 1964, when Khrushchev and Nasser opened the first stage of the dam, these have been the known consequences of ending the annual flood: The aquatic food chain has been broken in the eastern Mediterranean along a continental shelf 12 miles wide and 600 miles long. The lack of Nile sediment has reduced plankton and organic carbons to a third of what they used to be, either killing the sardines, mackerel and crustaceans in the area or driving them away. As a result 30,000 Egyptian fisherman have lost their livelihood. The 18,000 tons of sardines they used to bring in each year, a fifth of the national fish catch, have disappeared.”

An additional Scriptural text which involves the waters of Egypt is found in Isaiah 11: 15, as follows: *“And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.”* Here is a prophetic utterance which undoubtedly involves the Nile and probably involves the Aswan Dam and the Suez Canal as well. In the days that lie ahead, this prophecy shall surely be fulfilled, either by a natural disaster or through the consequences of military conflict between Israel and Egypt, maybe even involving nuclear weapons. Whatever the method used by God,

there will be a literal fulfillment of the destruction of the tongue of the Egyptian sea.

Let's now read verses ten and eleven. *"And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish. 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?"* Here we are told that there will be general economic failure in Egypt during this time of history. The leaders of industry and commerce will be confounded and frustrated in all their purposes. Even today, Egypt is hopelessly in debt; they are dependent upon economic aid from Russia and the United States, and have also received millions upon millions of dollars from rich Arab countries to hold them up. Who says that God's Word is not specific and literal? God has moved swiftly into Egypt; He is there now, fulfilling His Word. Glory to His name!

In verse eleven we also read of an indictment directed against the princes of Zoan or leaders of Egypt. Zoan was an important ancient city, a capital city of lower Egypt situated on a branch of the Nile in the heart of the rich Delta region. Many Bible scholars believe that this is the place where Moses confronted Pharaoh, and a much greater One than Moses is in Egypt today confronting the powers of darkness. In this particular verse, God calls Egypt's leaders foolish and brutish; yet, while blindly obsessed with the paranoid folly of trying to obliterate Israel, they are going to pridefully take the position that they are the mighty sons of the wise ancient kings. That blatant pride is going to bring Egypt down like few nations have ever been brought down.

In verses twelve through fourteen, God says, *"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. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay (cornerstone) of the tribes thereof 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."* Here the Lord is literally mocking the top men of Egypt who, under the deceiving influence of evil spirits in Satan's kingdom, are leading the nation astray in every area. He warns

that if there are any truly wise men in Egypt, they should reveal the truth concerning what the Lord of hosts, Jehovah of armies, has purposed to do in Egypt in these last days. In making additional reference to the princes of Noph, another ancient capital of Egypt during its former days of glory. God is merely reemphasizing His declaration that the leaders of Egypt are totally deceived. Undoubtedly, modern Russia has had a part in seducing Egypt's thinking, but these verses reveal that the Lord has also mingled a perverse spirit in their midst which will cause them to err in every work, even as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

Verse fifteen tells us, *“Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.”* It seems that Isaiah is telling us that in this hour of history there will be nothing that Egypt can do to extricate itself from this trouble. Neither the head or the tail — that means the leaders or the followers — nor the branch or the rush — those in lofty positions or lowly humble circumstances — can do anything to avoid it. Whether young or old, rich or poor, wise or ignorant, all will fail at this prophesied hour of time in Egypt's history.

Verses sixteen and seventeen will conclude our text as follows: *“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. 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.”* Even though this has not yet been totally fulfilled, you'll have to admit that in the recent military conflicts between Israel and Egypt there has certainly been a partial fulfillment. Israel easily could have more than once driven their tanks right into the center of Cairo. But, there is a much greater fulfillment of this text in the days that lie ahead.

Despite the judgment that the Lord will place upon Egypt, God is a good God. He has one ultimate purpose in mind: to establish righteousness and peace upon this earth. But, God has made it clear that in His sovereign plan for the happiness of mankind on this earth, He has determined that one particular people shall have dominance in the Middle East, controlling Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and these

people are the descendants of Jacob. God has said that there can never be true universal peace in this world until Israel becomes the head of the nations, but the devil has tried to make them the tail. And so, because of man's rebellion and sin against God's ways, the Lord will have to establish Israel by His mighty power. Through the supernatural intervention of God, the military might of Israel is going to totally confound men in the days that are just ahead; the Bible says so. And you can rest assured, Israel has or will have the atomic bomb, and more. If these coming events seem to be beyond our understanding, we need to realize that they are nevertheless a distinct part of God's answer to our prayers. Literally millions of times God's people in every nation on the face of the earth have prayed, *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven..."* But when we see these events unfolding, we need to understand, accept and come into unity with God's way and with the discipline that He is going to administer to this earth, and it's coming.

On the front page of **The Jewish Press** in New York City recently, this headline was spread across the page: "EGYPT SPARKS NEW TENSIONS, Israel Accuses Egypt of Reneging On Agreements." Egypt is already hedging on its agreements with Israel in the Sinai accord, Israel charges, and the situation does not appear such that we can expect it to get better. It will eventually explode into the holocaust of Armageddon, and Egypt will experience destruction such as has never been seen before, as will be outlined in our next chapter. And God wants those who love Him to know in advance what is going to happen in these times that lie just before us. That is why He revealed these great events through His prophets of old. But in the ultimate end, God shall bless Egypt by healing the land and the hearts of many Egyptian people. It is all brought forth in the remaining chapters of this book. As you then better comprehend God's total plan concerning Israel and Egypt, you will have more peace of mind and heart by understanding the meanings behind what you read in your daily newspapers and see on the telecasts, and you can more specifically direct your prayers.

CHAPTER THREE

THE DESOLATION OF EGYPT

In Ezekiel 29, we find a prophecy which Ezekiel spoke in the tenth year of the Jewish captivity in Babylon. This was approximately six hundred years before the days that Christ lived upon this earth. We usually find that Biblical prophetic utterances relate directly to people, places and things that pertain to the day and time of the prophet involved; however, we often find brief insertions in prophecies, or even entire passages, that quite definitely relate to events that are to occur hundreds or even thousands of years later — even in our day. It is in this manner that God has recorded in His Word an abundance of truths regarding things to come. Ezekiel 29 is a prophetic chapter largely relating to the events of these last days just prior to the second coming of Messiah to this earth, and also the days just following His return.

For our initial text, let's read Ezekiel 29:6-14. *"(6) And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the Lord, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. (7) When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand. (8) Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee. (9) And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it.*

"(10) Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia. (11) No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years. (12) And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. (13) Yet thus saith the Lord God; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered: (14) and I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom."

Now, in the first chapter of this book we already considered the contents of verses six through nine, which we have just reread. In these verses, Egypt is seen arrogantly breaking its word of oath to Israel. This act becomes, in a very real sense, the trigger that will launch these two nations into the military conflict which we believe to be the first of the great campaigns of Armageddon. In the first chapter we also clearly established the part which the Suez Canal will play in the dramatic unfolding of future events concerning Israel and Egypt. It is interesting to read daily about the things that are happening between these two nations; prophecy is being literally fulfilled before our eyes.

The conflict between Israel and Egypt that is described in this particular text will be far more devastating than the four wars they have fought in just twenty-five years (1948-1973). A careful examination of the Scriptures which concern this conflict reveal that the war described here will be the last one that will take place between these two nations prior to the Messiah's return to this earth — and understandably so.

In verse eight, after the Lord God declares that He will bring a sword, or warfare, upon Egypt, He also reveals that He will cut off man and beast out of that nation. The destruction and devastation in Egypt resulting from this conflict will be such that the land will not be readily able to sustain the life of either man or beast. Men can make all kinds of conjectures as to what this all means, but the simple and understandable fact from God's Word is that warfare will break out between Israel and Egypt, and Egypt will suffer to such a degree that it won't be a fit place for man or beast to live.

Verse nine states that Egypt will be left desolate and waste. Nothing so severe has ever happened in Egypt's history in fulfillment of this Scripture; it has a latter-day setting. In verse ten, God restates the truth of this destruction so that we will take it literally, emphasizing that Egypt will not only be waste and desolate, but it will be utterly waste and desolate from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia, from the extreme north to the far south.

In verse eleven, God clarifies what He means by the words *"utterly waste and desolate."* It's so simple a child could understand it: *"No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years."* In reading the remarks of a great Bible scholar on this 29th chapter of Ezekiel, it was noted that he had consulted an Egyptian authority to see if anything similar to this had ever happened in the history of Egypt, and the reply was, "Of course not!"

If one has read the book of Revelation or Daniel or some of the other Scriptural passages that pertain to the tribulation period of these last days, then it can be readily understood that until recent times the world has not possessed the capability of inflicting such intense

devastation; such weapons have just recently come into existence — to be turned loose in the oncoming tribulation period. We are rapidly approaching the hour of history when this type of devastation can and will take place.

In verse twelve, we learn that when the land of Egypt is made utterly desolate, other surrounding cities and even entire countries will also suffer desolation. At this time, we are told that the remnant of Egypt's population will be forced to flee from their homeland because the cities that have been laid waste shall remain desolate for forty years — uninhabitable during that time. When God says forty years, He means forty years.

Verses thirteen and fourteen of our text tell us that at the end of forty years, the Lord Himself will regather the scattered Egyptians from among the nations, and they will return to their land. The details of this part of God's dealings with Egypt will be fully presented in the next chapter of this book, entitled "The Healing of Egypt." It is very comforting to realize that God, through His great love, has a happy ending for Egypt, and it helps us to know this as we now continue our study of the up-coming desolation of that nation.

The second text we would now like to read is Ezekiel 30: 1-9, as follows: *"(1) The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! (3) For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen. (4) And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. (5) Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. "(6) Thus saith the Lord; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord God. (7) And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted. (8) And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and when all her helpers shall be destroyed. (9) In that day shall messengers go forth from me in ships to make the*

careless Ethiopians afraid, and great pain shall come upon them, as in the day of Egypt: for lo, it cometh."

Here we see Ezekiel further describing the coming desolation of Egypt as well as some of the confederate nations. In verses one through three of this text, Ezekiel is told by the Lord to prophesy to Egypt that the Lord God says to the Egyptians that they should howl and express woe that is worthy of the dreadful day that shall come upon them, the day of the Lord, a cloudy day. This shall be a period of time when God will deal with the heathen, and the gentile nations will be judged — and Egypt and its confederates shall be dealt with first.

Before we elaborate further upon this second text, let's briefly look at a proclamation by the prophet Joel which also relates to this period of time when the gentile nations, the heathen, shall be judged. Joel 3:9-12 says, *"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles (nations); Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen roundabout."*

We are told in Joel 3: 1,2 and other texts that in the last days God will bring the nations into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and He will plead with them in the valley of decision over the issue of the Jewish people's right to possess and live in their God-given homeland, according to the fixed boundaries that God spoke to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God will give the nations an opportunity, a space of time, to deal correctly and justly with the Jewish people; but because they won't, God Himself will move in, and judgment will come to the nations. This is the picture that we have of these latter days. As this situation develops and the fateful time approaches, there will be a growing worldwide hatred of Israel and the Jewish people. The heathen's anger will become uncontrollable, and God will urge and provoke them, even the weak and obscure nations, to emerge and become militaristic, to arm themselves and prepare for all-out war.

Verses four through seven of our text in Ezekiel 30 leave no doubt whatsoever as to which nations will be the first to go to war against Israel, Egypt being the main one. These nations are even named outright in Scripture, and God makes it clear that they will suffer right along with Egypt. The reality of Ezekiel's prophecy is taking place right now, as the African nations designated by him are rapidly developing into militaristic nations, proudly and arrogantly boasting of their prowess, and lining up in league with Egypt against Israel and against God. They and other African nations have emerged from nowhere, so to speak, and have become a solid block against Israel in the United Nations and elsewhere.

In the light of history over the past 2,000 years, who could have imagined that these backward countries of the dark continent, mostly colonies under the control of major nations until recently, would ever emerge into militaristic powers? One African nation is even attempting a multi-million dollar program to develop nuclear power, and you can be sure that the war potential is the prime consideration. We are seeing a great and unprecedented awakening of the African giant, and many men of war are coming forth. There are great issues of international importance taking place in Africa today. Africa is organizing, and the Organization of African Unity — OAU — is a reality. It is less than 15 years old, but it is in fulfillment of the very Scriptures that we have just read. The overall position of the OAU is definitely anti-Israel; those nations hate Israel. They have called for Israel to return all lands taken in the war of 1967. At one point, they called for the ousting of Israel from the United Nations, and at least one nation within the OAU has already called for the total extinction of the Jewish state. Think of it — the total extinction of Israel! They have also condemned the United States at the U.N. for supplying arms to Israel. The situation is not going to improve; it will worsen. Israel has only one choice: prepare for all-out war. And when it happens, the Scripture specifically states that Egypt and her helpers are going to be utterly destroyed.

Ezekiel tells us that when this battle, this first campaign of Armageddon, breaks out, Egypt's foundations will be broken down, her slain shall fall, the pride of her power shall come down, her cities will be wasted, and her land will be left desolate — and all her helpers will

be destroyed with her. The multitude of her people will be taken away, and the land shall be uninhabitable for forty years. This is no longer beyond our comprehension, since radioactive fallout and earth-scorching from nuclear warfare can easily make a place totally unproductive and uninhabitable for that period of time. In Jeremiah 25:15-16, God tells the prophet Jeremiah *"...Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them."* Egypt is among the nations listed. I believe that we are talking about a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy as well as Ezekiel's in this portion of our study. Zechariah was another prophet who saw scenes of these last days, and the Lord told him in Zechariah 10: 11 that there would come a time when the sceptre or the government of Egypt would depart. The infallible Word of God, and we should not minimize it one iota, declares that Egypt will lie desolate for forty years.

According to Scripture, it appears that at the literal second coming of Messiah, Egypt and the surrounding areas already will have been desolated. Joel 3:16-18 speaks of the dramatic events which will occur upon His return and also of the blessings that shall come to Israel in the following Millennium, but verse nineteen says, *"Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness..."* It is felt that the wording and context reveal this condition to be existing when Messiah returns, and not a direct result of His coming. Hence, we can see that Egypt's forty years of desolation will already be in progress when Messiah does return. This is in full accord with the many catastrophic tribulation events which will occur directly prior to Messiah's second advent.

Ezekiel 30:13-19 also depicts the coming desolation of Egypt. Let us now read this passage of Scripture. *"Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt. And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No. And I will pour my fury upon Sin, the strength of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No. And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily. The*

young men of Aven and Pibeseth shall fall by the sword: and these cities shall go into captivity. At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity. Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the Lord."

These verses speak about many specific localities in Egypt. Although they are mostly unidentifiable today by the names Ezekiel used, some Bible scholars definitely identify Noph with modern-day Cairo. The real point is that God is letting us know that the entire land of Egypt from the north to the south will suffer this desolation. Ezekiel says that God's fury will be unleashed upon Egypt. It would also seem that the repeated emphasis on fire, and the use of such terms as distress, fear, desolation and great pain reveal to us a vivid picture of modern nuclear warfare. We are now living in an hour when this whole scene is something quite relevant and probable, not far out at all.

Shortly after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, there was a report circulated, apparently from very reliable sources, that the leaders of Israel had been prepared to use nuclear weapons in its defense if it became absolutely necessary to do so — as a last resort. For awhile, the tide of war was against them, and the situation in the Sinai, and more particularly in the Golan Heights, was quite desperate. The circumstances that would have prompted such drastic reactions almost came to pass. In the matter of a life or death struggle, it is entirely possible that Israel would have used whatever means or weapons were at its disposal, including nuclear weapons, in order to survive — because the only other alternative would have been complete extermination, and the Jewish people know from first-hand experience what that means. But God wasn't ready for that kind of destruction to be launched at that time. Nuclear warfare certainly seems to be suggested in the Scriptural text, because the prophet Ezekiel couldn't have pictured nuclear warfare any more clearly than by using the term "fire" repeatedly, as he did.

The prophets of Israel, and they had the mind of God, foretold the fact that the descendants of Jacob would by the mercy of God be brought back to their homeland in these last days. And not only would

they be brought back, but the nation would be militarily strong in this hour of history. Ezekiel 29:21 says, *“In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth...”* The word “horn” is often used in Scripture to represent the power or authority of a nation or king. The prophet Zechariah said that the Lord of hosts would visit the flock of the house of Judah in the last days, and that He would make them as His goodly horse in the battle. He also said that their battle strength would be strong, and that they would be as mighty men which would tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in battle, fighting because the Lord their God was with them. (Zechariah 10:3-5.)

In Isaiah 41: 10-11. God speaks further regarding Israel in these last days, giving the people of that nation a direct and encouraging promise by saying, *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee. be not dismayed for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.”*

In Numbers 23:23. we are told. *“Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!”* Also, the prophet Micah had a vision of these last days concerning Israel, and he tells us in Micah 7: 15-16, *“According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things. The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf.”* Oh, what God is going to do for the nation of Israel! Praise His wonderful name!

Although God is for Israel in these last days, Egypt and other rebellious nations face a coming time of severe judgment. Ezekiel makes this abundantly clear throughout his prophetic passages, even speaking of eternal punishment for all those who have rejected God’s ways and who have contested God’s nation — Israel. Ezekiel 32:18 says, *“Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit.”* Psalm 114:7

reveals the seriousness with which we should consider Almighty God: *“Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.”*

God has no delight in warfare and killing and eternal punishment in hell; rather, He has a wonderful desire and plan in store for all mankind. But all men have a free will, and our loving God is committed in His principle that the free will of man must be given its full free course. This is the reason that we have wars and death — it’s the result of man’s voluntary rejection of God. God is a good God; He is totally righteous and holy. To those that are pure, He will show Himself pure; to those that are good, He will show Himself good; but to those that are perverse, God will show Himself perverse. That’s the story behind the events of these last days.

The Bible asks why the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing. (Psalm 2:1.) Although we don’t fully know why people have to do such things against the Lord, we do know that God says He’s not going to put up with it forever. He says that He’s going to break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. (Psalm 2:9.) His message to the world is *“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little...”* (Psalm 2:12.) The earth is to tremble and have respect for God and His ways. And things will have to get worse before they get better; the “goodness” of man will not usher in the millennium. Rather, it will take these violent conflicts to break the awful pride of man, and then the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning Star, the Messiah, will come back to this earth, and there will be peace on the earth. The nearness of these events should inspire us all to diligently seek the Lord and His holiness.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE HEALING OF EGYPT

The Bible clearly points out Egypt and Israel as prime combatants in the initial campaign of Armageddon, a series of military campaigns occurring at the close of this present age of grace and culminating in the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to this earth, where He will establish God's kingdom of righteousness and peace.

Let us now briefly review the material we have studied thus far. In our first chapter, entitled, "River of Contention," we considered an amazing Bible prophecy about the Suez Canal. It was revealed that Egypt and Israel would enter into a covenant or agreement concerning the use of the Suez Canal in these last days, and that Egypt would eventually break their agreement with Israel over the use of this waterway. This will become a key issue between the two nations — the trigger of Armageddon — launching the first campaign of Armageddon, a final all-out war between Israel and Egypt.

Just as the Bible predicted, Israel and Egypt have now made an agreement concerning the use of the Suez Canal. and it follows true to prophecy that we are already hearing word from Egypt that all ships carrying materials to Israeli ports may in the future be denied use of the Suez Canal. In a London news release, we find this article under the headline, "Sadat: Peace is For Next Generation":

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said on a television interview here that a full peace with Israel "should be left to the next generation," that full recognition of Israel was "not available now" and insisted that the key to a "final solution" of the Middle East conflict is "in the hands of the United States which gives Israel everything" and is the only one that can exert pressure on Israel."

Appearing on the BBC "Panorama" program taped at Sadat's summer home outside Cairo, the Egyptian leader hedged on Egypt's acceptance of Israel's right to exist and on the issue of transit for Israeli cargoes through the Suez Canal. The latter, he said, "will depend on the conduct of Israel." When the interviewer noted that he had committed himself on the issue of Israel cargoes when he signed the disengagement accords with Israel in January, 1974, Sadat repeated, "According to the conduct of Israel."

In our second chapter, entitled, "The Burden of Egypt," a term taken from the book of Ezekiel, we gained a panoramic view of a series of divine judgments which are to be inflicted upon Egypt in the last days by the personal presence of Almighty God in Egypt. We have seen the fulfillment of some of these startling prophecies already, and others will yet find their fulfillment in the days ahead.

Our third chapter was entitled, "The Desolation of Egypt," and here we read vivid descriptions of the actual military conflict that will take place between Israel and Egypt. It shall be a devastating conflict obviously involving nuclear warfare, and Scripture clearly and simply states that Egypt shall be left utterly desolate. The stage is being set rapidly, and events are happening almost daily that are directly related to the inevitable complete fulfillment of Bible prophecy regarding Egypt. One can read about these things in the newspapers and news magazines.

The time is closer than we may think. In an article carried by the ***Copely News Service*** entitled, "Prognosis grim for Mid-East," by John Pinkerman, the following is quoted:

Another Mideast war is certain. Nuclear weapons will be used. The initial foes will be Israel and Egypt. There will be a preventive or preemptive strike. It could be launched by either. The United States and Russia might become involved over the struggle. This could bring on World War III.

These are doomsday predictions. However, they are the inevitable inferences to be drawn from a new study of volatile Israel-Arab confrontation by two men holding top credentials as "Mideast watchers."

These men are Robert J. Pranger and Dale R. Tahtinen, respectively director and assistant director of foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Pranger once was U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense and Tahtinen once served with the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

There have been several Israeli-Arab wars and, after some months of inconvenience, the rest of the world survived. This was true in the Israeli lightning victory in the Six-Day War of June, 1967, and the Yom Kippur War of October, 1973, when the Arabs won early advantage, then lost it to eventual stalemate.

However, the next war could be a different situation and lead to a fatal U.S.-Soviet confrontation. The reason is the addition of the nuclear equation.

"Israel now has nuclear weapons," Pranger says, "and the Arabs will move to obtain them in the near future." This leads to all kinds of calculations and suggestions.

"Some," Pranger says, "have gone so far as to argue that Israel should openly deploy nuclear devices as a stable

deterrent in the Middle East — a veritable second-strike retaliatory capability. What is overlooked in this argument is not that one side having nuclear weapons the other side might obtain them, but that, given the preemptive attack strategies now being developed on both sides, there will be a tendency to move nuclear weapons out of the deterrent realm into the attack strategy itself. In other words, where actual warfare exists, nuclear weapons will eventually be used. The preemptive capabilities for Israel and the Arab states will become nuclear as well as conventional.

“With appropriate technology it is almost inevitable that nuclear weapons will find their way into battlefield and rear echelon usage.”

The next war will be a different kind of war, Pranger believes, even beyond the matter of nuclear exchanges. He lists four zones of possible warfare in developing this theme:

1. Zone 1 — Front-line battlefield targets. including surface to air missile umbrellas in their immediate vicinity.

2. Zone 2 — Military rear echelon strong points such as airfields, supply stations. troop staging areas, command centers and interior SA11 sites. Targets could be found all over a given country.

3. Zone 3 — Economic, communications and transportation having infrastructure targets such as dams, microwave relay stations, rail yards, ports. These could be in neighborhoods where there are schools, hospitals. factories and recreation areas.

4. Zone 4 — Purely civilian population targets. Attacks on these would be designed to create widespread terror.

Front-line combat (Zone 1) will be deemphasized next time, the study authors insist. The initial surprise attack will be against Zone 2 and Zone 3 targets. Israel held back from such a strategy in 1973 even though it was certain that Arab attack from both Egypt and Syria was imminent. "The Israelis will not again shrink from such a move." Pranger says.

Current planning in both camps is extremely secretive and U.S. intelligence has surveillance weaknesses: Russia's knowledge of what the Arabs are tip to isn't much better. What is more sophisticated is the array of weapons on both sides — in short, the capabilities of each.

As Pranger says, "It is somewhat misleading to infer intentions only from capabilities but capability does say something about capacity and capacity does determine the actual range of realistic military options. In 1976 the military capabilities of both the Arabs and the Israelis vastly outstrip the capabilities of each before October, 1973.

...And, the lessons' of the 1973 war may not necessarily have been in peaceful directions."

The speed with which the next war is ended could have a major effect on any possible American-Russian nuclear exchange.

The next round of fighting in the Mideast will involve efforts by one side or the other to deliver a preemptive knock-out blow to enemy forces in relatively quick order by focusing on rear echelon military and infrastructure targets.

If the Israelis succeed in such a devastating attack, the next move will be up to Moscow. If the Arabs succeed, Washington will face its moment of truth.

After reading a timely article like this, many are startled by the reality of the fact that we are now living in the days when the first campaign of Armageddon could suddenly explode into being and sweep the world into the final agonizing hours of this age. The Bible says that this first campaign will be between Israel and Egypt, and Israel will devastate Egypt. Russia will be so infuriated that it will then send its hordes down into the Middle East — Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 — with intent to exterminate Israel, bringing about the second campaign of Armageddon. When Mideast watchers are telling us exactly what the Bible says, we had better wake up and realize that we are living in the last moments of this age.

As we now begin chapter four, entitled “The Healing of Egypt,” let’s read Ezekiel 29: 10-16. *“(10) Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia. (11) No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years. (12) And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.*

“(13) Yet thus saith the Lord God; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered: (14) And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom. (15) It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations. (16) And it shall be no more the confidence of the house of Israel, which bringeth their iniquity to remembrance, when they shall look after them: but they shall know that I am the Lord God.”

We previously discussed the contents of several of these verses, and in verses ten through twelve it was learned that the coming desolation of Egypt will cover the entire dimension of the land and leave it utterly waste and desolate. Ezekiel expressly declares that Egypt will be unfit for normal habitation for forty years. Scientists tell

us now that this is well within the realm of possibility through the use of nuclear weapons that exist and are available right now. This is truly catastrophic when we think in terms of an Egyptian population of more than thirty million people; hundreds of thousands will obviously be killed. The Bible does not specify the numerical ratio between those that shall be killed and those that shall escape death; we are only told that the remainder will be scattered in surrounding countries and be there for forty years.

Some Bible commentators have sought to link this prophecy in Ezekiel 29 with the historic scene during the time of Babylon, when God did give Babylon a military victory over Egypt. However, a careful reading and study of the events of this chapter in Ezekiel reveal that they definitely fall far short of being literally fulfilled in the time of Babylon. It's true that a defeat was administered to Egypt, and from that day Egypt became a relatively base nation, but nothing like that which lies ahead. Also, God said that in these last days Egypt would be raised up and would become militarily powerful, would gain its freedom, and it has.

The final fulfillment of this Scripture is definitely yet ahead, and there are several good reasons to back this up. First, the coming desolation of Egypt will be far greater than that which took place in the days of Babylon, for it has never been utterly desolate for forty years. Second, Ezekiel links this desolation of Egypt with the time in history when the Messiah will return to establish a kingdom of peace upon this earth, and this is yet future. Third, from Ezekiel 30 we have learned that the relationship of the confederates of Egypt place this prophesy in an end time setting, not in the days of Babylon.

Verses thirteen through sixteen of this text tell us that after forty years the Lord will gather the Egyptians from the places where they have been scattered among the nations and will cause them to return to their land. Egypt will then truly be a base kingdom; God will dramatically diminish their place of importance among the nations. We are also told that Egypt will no longer be the confidence of the House of Israel; Israel won't have to depend upon any more fragile agreements with a hostile Egypt, worrying when the next heartbreaking blow would come. But it will work for the humility of the

Jewish nation. Egypt, we are told, will serve as a reminder (remembrance) of Israel's iniquity, because they trusted in man rather than in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And, praise God, the Scripture declares that this will be a time in history when the Egyptians also will know that He is the Lord God.

The military campaigns of Armageddon cover a brief period directly prior to the literal and visible return of Messiah to the earth. This then means that if Egypt is to be afflicted during this time with a desolation that will last for forty years, the land of Egypt will be already desolate when Messiah comes back to earth. This is made apparent by other Scriptures linked to the Lord's return.

One such Scripture is Joel 3:16, which says, *"The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."* Then we are told the existing condition of Egypt, for verse nineteen says, *"Egypt shall be a desolation..."* That nation shall already be desolate because of their violence against the children of Israel. In contrast to the utter desolation of Egypt, the prophet Isaiah speaks of the blessings that shall come to Israel, saying in Isaiah 45: 17, *"But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end."* This is the time when God's promised kingdom will be established upon this earth, and Israel will be the head of the nations, and not the tail.

Many other Scriptures declare the glorious times that lie ahead for Israel. Psalm 68:32-35 says, *"Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah: To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God."*

We also read in Psalm 68:29-30, *"Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee. Rebuke the company of spearmen,..."*

scatter thou the people that delight in war.” Joel 3:17-18 declares, “So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.”

We also read of a great healing that not only involves Israel, but extends into surrounding lands. Isaiah 35:6-10 says, *“...in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the way for the pure, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”*

There is every reason to believe that the healing will also reach down into Egypt, although it shall come gradually. Let’s read what the prophet Isaiah has to say about it. Isaiah 19:16-17 first tells us, *“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. 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.”* It would only be reasonable to expect that as a result of the tremendous desolation that shall come to Egypt, those Egyptians who have been fortunate enough to live through it would have a great fear for Israel and for the God of Israel. But God also promised to heal Egypt, to bring that nation to the place of knowing and serving the true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Let’s read about it.

Isaiah 19:18-25 reveals what most of us have never fully realized heretofore. *“(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. (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. (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. (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 unto the Lord, and perform it.*

“(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. (23) In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria (Iraq), and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. (24) In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: (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.”

What a wonderful healing! Five cities in Egypt shall adopt the Hebrew language and swear to the Lord of hosts. One of the cities shall be called “The city of destruction,” in remembrance of what the Lord had done there. There will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt and a pillar (a monument) to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the border of Egypt. The Egyptians shall know the Lord as their Deliverer and Saviour and shall do sacrifice and oblation unto Him. And Isaiah says that they shall vow a vow unto the Lord and do it. There shall also be a highway from Egypt, through Israel, on east to Iraq. The three nations will be linked together in a covenant of God’s blessing, and the Lord of Hosts shall say, *“Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria (Iraq) the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.”* The prophet Micah, looking forward to this particular day, tells us that people will come to Israel from Iraq and from Egypt (Micah 7:12). Also, Psalm 68:31 says, *“Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.”*

In the ancient past, there were periods of time when Egypt well treated God's chosen people. When Abraham was led down into Egypt by God, he was favored by the Egyptians, becoming a rich and well respected man before he returned to his promised homeland in Canaan. All of us remember one of the most famous descendant's of Abraham, a godly Hebrew man by the name of Joseph, who became the greatest prime minister that Egypt ever had. It was Joseph who saved the Egyptians from starvation at a time of worldwide famine.

We also know that at the death of Jacob, Joseph's father and a patriarch of the Jewish nation, Pharaoh's servants, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt accompanied Joseph back to Hebron to bury his father. The Egyptians had such a love for Joseph and for Jacob that they had a very grievous mourning that lasted for many days after the death of Jacob. The Bible says that God is going to send Egypt a greater man — a greater Prime Minister, a greater Deliverer — the Saviour, the Lord Himself will come and heal the nation.

That will be a wonderful time when the Lion of the Tribe of Judah brings back the Egyptians to their land of Egypt, and becomes their Saviour, and heals the land and hearts of that people. At that time, a segment of the law that God gave to Moses in Deuteronomy 23:7 will be truly fulfilled through the Jewish people in a way that will be pleasing unto God: *"...thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land."* God has always taught His people, *"... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* (Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:39.) Now comes a time in history when it will be brought to pass in all its fullness, and will extend to Egypt and other nations as well. Because of God, there's going to be a family reunion in the Middle East.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISTANT SHADOWS

Thus far in our study we have learned of imminent trouble between Egypt and Israel concerning the Suez Canal, erupting in a war that will constitute the initial campaign of Armageddon, wherein Egypt and its confederates will suffer a devastating military defeat by Israel. Undoubtedly, nuclear weapons will be used in this totally destructive war, and Scripture clearly states that the Egyptians will be scattered throughout the nations because the land of Egypt will be left utterly desolate and uninhabitable for forty years. After the forty-year period has elapsed, there will be a regathering of the Egyptians to their land and a healing of Egypt that will take place in the early portion of the Messianic era of peace and righteousness which already will have been established on the earth by Messiah at the time of His return.

Beyond that period of healing, the next series of events that will directly and significantly involve Egypt, as revealed in the Word of God, pertain to a period of time that is in the very distant future. The Bible is an amazing Book concerning things to come, projecting a far distant shadow that involves all the nations of the world. Although it is a distinct shadow, yet God has put it in His Word for our edification and for our understanding. It is some of these truths which we will be sharing in this concluding chapter.

Before continuing, it should be reemphasized that the healing of Egypt will occur after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and in the early part of the Millennium, the Messianic era of peace and righteousness which, according to Revelation 20:3, will last for a thousand years. If, for instance, the prophesied desolation of Egypt were to occur approximately five years prior to Messiah's return to the earth, and then extend for the designated period of forty years, simple arithmetic tells us that the desolation will continue to exist during the first thirty-five years of the Millennium, then will come the healing of Egypt. There are an abundance of Bible texts which speak about this thousand years of peace, the Millennium. During that time, Israel will be foremost among the nations and will be a major channel for much of God's blessings to the other nations.

Let's look at some of the Scriptures which speak of this thousand-year reign of peace. The Bible says in Micah 4: 1-3, *"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."*

We are also told in the Bible that under the reign of the Messiah, righteous judgment and justice will be executed in the entire earth (Jeremiah 23:5-6). In addition, we find that Israel will be a blessing unto all the nations of the world (Zechariah 8: 13). Many passages of Scripture reveal that people of all nations shall look to Jerusalem, the city of righteousness, the faithful city (Isaiah 1:26 and Zechariah 14:16). The Temple of God will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, and special worship of Jehovah will be restored there (Ezekiel 40 through 48).

This thousand-year reign of Messiah will be a time of peace and rest as the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth (Isaiah 11:9-10). The Gentile nations will behold and respect the great blessings of God upon the Jewish people and their land of Israel (Zechariah 8:23). We are told that there will be an abundance of crops (Amos 9: 13), and the land of Israel will become like the garden of Eden (Ezekiel 36:3 5). We also learn that the blessings of God will extend to all nations, to all creation, even to the animal kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-8). We could go on and on, but this gives us the basic picture of the tremendous time of peace and righteousness which will be ushered in and established by Messiah.

There are two primary factors which shall be responsible for this supernatural peace and righteousness that will prevail during the thousand- year Messianic period. The first and most important reason shall be the personal presence and reigning lordship of Messiah upon this earth. Concerning His righteous reign, we read in Isaiah 11:4-5, *“But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reigns.”* The second reason shall be the absence of Satan. In Revelation 20:1-2 we are told that Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit in the heart of the earth during the entire thousand-year period.

Now, it is at the close of this thousand-year period that we again pick up the events that significantly concern Egypt. Let’s read Revelation 20:7-10 to see what will happen at that time. *“(7) And when*

the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, (8) and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. (9) And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. (10) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone..."

Here, the Bible tells us that when the thousand years is completed, Satan will be set free from his imprisonment, and he will go out to deceive the nations that are in the four corners of the earth. This undoubtedly will include Egypt. In verse eight, we see that Gog and Magog are also among the deceived, but apparently are also used as instruments in the deception and gathering of the other nations to battle. It is apparent that Satan will have great success, for we are told that the number he gathers together "is as the sand of the sea." Many nations will be deluded and deceived, and Gog and Magog will gather them to battle.

It is important to realize that the nations under the leadership of Gog and Magog will direct their attack at that time against two places, the camp of the saints (which is an obvious reference to the Holy Land) and the beloved city (which is undoubtedly Jerusalem). This army of armies will come against Israel and Jerusalem. According to the authoritative and infallible Word of God, we see that at the conclusion of the glorious Millennium, Satan is able to marshal nations from the four corners of the world in a final thrust against one nation — ISRAEL.

God's Word is very clear and concise concerning the outcome of this diabolical effort by Satan and the nations of the world which he has deceived, including Egypt. The Bible says that fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour them. And the devil that deceived them will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone — and he will be there for ever and ever. This will not be a battle where Israel will even have to fight; it will be a supernatural manifestation of the Almighty. Fire will come down from God out of heaven, even as it did when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.

For a corroborating Scripture which also tells of this battle that will take place in the far distant future, let's read Isaiah 34: 1-4. It says, *"Come near, ye nations, to hear,- and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree."* Here's a picture of that same future time that Peter talks about when he tells us in II Peter 3 that God will totally cleanse the entire earth, even the heavens, from all taint and sin from Satan; and all the new heavens and new earth will move into the glories of timeless ETERNITY — described in Revelation 21 and 22.

Having clearly established the time factor of the future events that will involve Egypt, this final great event occurring at the close of the Millennium. it is important that we now identify the Gog and Magog of Revelation 20. Gog and Magog are integral parts of the great deception by Satan, becoming tools that he will use in gathering the nations to the battle at that time. The earliest Scriptural reference to Magog is found in Genesis 10. In this chapter we learn that the different nations of the world are related to one another by their descent from Noah's three sons — Shem, Ham and Japheth — from whom the world was populated after the flood. Genesis 10:2 says that Magog was a son of Japheth.

The Jewish historian Josephus tells us that Magog migrated to the area just beyond the Caucasus mountains, located in what is now the southern part of the Soviet Union. The historian Pliny links Magog with the Scythians of this region. These tribes were known to the Arabs as Russ and to the Greeks as Ros — you can easily see the association with the modern name Russia. The Caucasus mountains stretch through Russia from the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea. The word Caucasus is derived from two Oriental words meaning Gog's fort or Gog's fortified place. Even today, the Russians relate the term Gog to those mountains. And hence, these two terms, Gog and Magog, are

historically and inseparably linked with one nation that we know as the Soviet Union.

Now, we need more than just history to back this up; we need the Bible, the Word of God. In Ezekiel 38 and 39, we are given details about an attack against the State of Israel that will occur in these last days, in the immediate future, as one of the campaigns of Armageddon. Ezekiel tells us that the nation that will attack Israel from out of the north parts, north in reference to Israel, is the nation that he refers to as Magog. In these two particular chapters of the Bible, it is clearly seen that Gog is the leader of Magog, and Magog is modern Russia. There can be little doubt that Gog and Magog refer to Russia. Therefore, when we read the terms Gog and Magog in Revelation 20 concerning events that will take place at the end of the thousand-year Millennium, by every rule of Scriptural consistency, Gog and Magog still refer to Russia and its chief leaders.

In connection with this soon-coming attack upon Israel by Russia, one of the campaigns of Armageddon, Ezekiel 38 and 39 declare that by God's supernatural intervention, Russia and its confederates will be soundly defeated. In Ezekiel's prophetic account of this event, it is revealed that only one sixth of the attacking Russian force will be left alive after God's fury and the fire of His wrath come against them in supernatural manifestations of destruction. It's a terrible defeat when five sixths of a military force is destroyed, and this is the fate that awaits Russia when it attacks Israel.

In addition to the catastrophic losses which the Russian military forces will suffer, we also learn in Ezekiel 39:6 that God will even send a fire on Magog itself, back in the homeland of Russia. Many Bible scholars feel that this prophesied destruction could refer to a conflict between the United States and Russia that will occur as a part of this total picture. Often, the references to fire in these Scriptures relating to the latter days is just the prophet's way of describing nuclear warfare and destruction. This was also the case in our study of the destruction and desolation that is to come to Egypt. However, regardless of the detailed implications, we know that there will come some kind of desolation back in the land of Magog. The Bible does not give details as to the extent or magnitude of this destruction to be sent

against Magog (Russia), but we know that when it is combined with the almost total annihilation of its military forces sent to attack Israel. there can be no doubt that Russia will be humiliated and crushed beyond any ability to rise again in this age — and this will occur prior to the return of Messiah to earth.

It is very important for us to realize, however, that this total defeat of Russia, as described in Ezekiel 38 and 39, in no way prevents that nation from eventually recovering and being involved in the events that will take place more than a thousand years later, as recorded in Revelation 20:7-9. It appears clear from Scripture that at the end of the thousand-year period known as the Millennium, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit and will cunningly return to the land of Magog, the place where he previously (in our age) had such great success and acceptance in working — creating, atheistic Communism and the doctrine of “There is no God.” When he goes back to that same nation, Magog (Russia), Gog the ruler will again become a willing tool in Satan’s hands by gathering nations from the four corners of the earth together against Israel and Jerusalem at the end of the Millennium.

This shall be in the distant future, more than a thousand years away, but God is faithful to reveal it to us by His written Word. One might say that this future conflict shall be the final of finals, the last conflict recorded in the Word of God. It will be the end of hostilities in the Middle East; it will be the end of all hostilities throughout the world, for it will involve the nations of the world against Israel. And from it all, the Bible names only one specific nation that will survive — ISRAEL. Israel’s inheritance will then carry over into the new heavens and the new earth, the only presently existing nation that is identified with that distant era. It’s hard to grasp the magnitude of this declaration, but it is the Word of God.

Isaiah 66:22 says that the national name of Israel will remain forever. This eternal and everlasting covenant relationship of love between the Almighty and the descendants of Jacob is irrevocably established in the Word of God. Ezekiel 37:26 reveals that God will make an everlasting covenant of peace with them and will set His sanctuary in their midst for evermore. Also, Jeremiah 31:35-37 lets us know that the seed of Israel shall be a nation for ever, and Jeremiah

32:39-40 states that they will fear the Lord for ever and that He will make an everlasting covenant with them. In Hosea 2:19, God declares that He will betroth Israel to Himself for ever. In Deuteronomy 4:40, Moses reveals that God has given the Jewish people an inheritance upon this earth for ever. Isaiah 9:6-7 makes it clear that the government to be established in Jerusalem by Messiah will be a government that shall have no end.

This amazing revelation of the perpetuation of Israel and the Jewish people as earth's chosen and blessed nation stands in stark contrast to the ultimate judgment of many other presently existing nations. This includes our subject nation, Egypt. Jeremiah 46:28 declares in simple and straightforward terms. *"Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the Lord: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee."* This is not hard to understand; God says that He will make a full end of all those nations where the Jews were formerly scattered, but that He will not make a full end of Israel, itself.

This "full end of all nations" is the same simple picture we find expressed in Revelation 20:7-10, wherein Magog (Russia) gathers the nations of the world against Israel at the end of the thousand years, "and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." The great judgment of all evil shall occur at that time, and Revelation 20: 15 reveals that whosoever does not have their name written in the book of life shall be cast into the lake of fire. Then shall come that endless era called eternity, described in Revelation 21 and 22, when there will be a new heaven and a new earth, the old having passed away. The Bible gives a shadowy picture of nations on the earth at that time, but they are neither named nor described — except for Israel. Israel is the only specific nation existing today that is named as having a part in the new heaven and the new earth. The Bible reveals nothing further.

In the previous chapter of this book we described the wonderful healing that God will minister to Egypt at the early part of the thousand-year Millennium, bringing the scattered Egyptians back to their land and allowing them to know and serve Him as Lord. But at the close of the Millennium, it appears that Egypt will be deceived and will

make the same tragic mistake that other nations of the world will make: aligning themselves with Magog against tiny Israel. You might wonder how Egypt, after receiving such wonderful treatment by the Lord during the Millennium, could be so thoroughly deceived by Satan and his earthly servants, Russia and its leaders. After all, Satan and his evil powers will have been imprisoned for one thousand years during that era, eliminating his direct diabolical influence from the affairs of mankind. Also, there is a thousand-year reign of peace and good government under the righteous administration of Messiah, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Wouldn't these beneficial circumstances extending over a thousand-year period of rehabilitation be sufficient to totally and permanently perfect the national character of Egypt?

Unfortunately, not every nation will voluntarily yield to the Lord and pay homage to Him during the Millennium. The Bible reveals that there will be some rebellion against the Lord, a reluctance to yield to His rule during this thousand-year period, and God has a special treatment for them. In Zechariah 14:16-19, the prophet describes some of the conditions that will prevail during the Millennium, saying, *“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go tip from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, (liar whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.*

“And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that hare n rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.” In this passage of Scripture, God sternly warns the nations of impending punishment if they fail to observe His rules and commandments regarding proper homage and duty toward Him — and Egypt is the only nation to be specifically named in the warning. There is strong inference that Egypt will rebel against Messiah, even in that great era of peace and righteousness.

There is also another similar instance wherein Egypt as a national entity is specifically warned of punishment — eternal punishment to come — and it is recorded in Ezekiel 3 1. We find in this chapter of Scripture that Pharaoh and his multitude are likened to the Assyrian, comparing elements of the Assyrian's greatness in worldly power and accomplishment, but also showing the awful latter end. Although some may feel that this allegorical comparison refers only to ancient Assyria, there is very obvious reference to the Antichrist and more particularly to the perpetrator of all evil — Satan himself. It was he that walked in the garden of God and lifted himself up above all others, and it was he that was cast down into the nether parts of the earth — as seen by Ezekiel several thousand years before it is to happen. This picture links directly with Revelation 20: 10, where we read that the devil finally shall be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, to be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And Ezekiel prophesied that at the time of Satan's ultimate and final fall, the nations will shake at the sound of it; and many will descend into the pit with him — all of like sinful mind and purpose and heart. And again, special reference and comparison is made to Pharaoh and all his multitude. There is no more distant shadow in the Bible which concerns the future and final destiny of Egypt.

The Apostle Peter, in II Peter 3: 12, tells us that we should be *"looking for and hasting unto (earnestly desiring) the coming of the day of God."* I believe this shall be the time of final and complete extermination of all evil from the earth, because God will purge the whole earth with fire. In II Peter 3:10 and 13, the Word of God says, "... the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

It is in that eternity to come that the redeemed of all nations will enjoy the benefits of eternal life as it will flow forth from Jerusalem. Many Egyptians will be there as a part of the family of God, having previously received Messiah as their personal Saviour and Lord. But at that time, the nation of Egypt as a national entity will be no more, having perished and been judged to eternal damnation with all the other nations that rebelled against God and came against Israel.

Herein concludes the Scriptural revelation of things to come concerning the nation of Egypt. May these sober and sometimes staggering truths work in all our hearts a recognition of the greatness and sovereignty of Almighty God. As we now behold these prerecorded events of current history springing forth before our eyes. may it result in the personal commitment and dedication of our lives unto the Lord.

EGYPT

TRIGGER OF ARMAGEDDON

Armageddon is a Biblical term emblematic of the great conflict between the forces of good and evil which will conclude this present age. According to the Scriptural outline set forth in Daniel 11:40-45, several military campaigns will directly precede the literal return of Messiah to this earth. The main focal point of these campaigns will be in the Middle East.

It is our understanding of Scripture that the initial military campaign of Armageddon will be an explosive war between Egypt and Israel, one instigated by Egypt. It is apparent that this inevitable event is very near and that both Egypt and Israel are rapidly preparing themselves for the conflict. When the time is right, Egypt will pull the trigger of Armageddon, and then will begin the greatest and most awesome time of war and bloodshed this world has ever known.

The reality that Egypt holds its finger to the trigger of Armageddon has prompted this author to diligently search the Scriptures for truths regarding this nation's place in latter day prophecy. An abundance of Biblical texts speak with clarity on this fascinating subject.

Regarding the amazing revelations contained in this book, may the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob be highly exalted, for He alone in great wisdom and sovereignty is able to declare with perfection the great events of the future, hundreds and even thousands of years prior to their fulfillment.