

But in the providence of God it was not so very long after Ezekiel wrote that the Assyrians conquered Egypt. Then the Persians conquered the Assyrian empire and held Persia as part of their empire ~~and~~ until a little before 300 B.C. when Alexander the Great conquered the Persian empire. Then a group of Greek kings, descendands of one of the generals of Alexander the Great, became the rulers of Egypt, and for 300 years ruled Egypt, these foreign Greek kings. They called themselves the Pharaohs of Egypt. The last of them was Cleopatra, and then it was taken over by the ~~Roman~~ Romans who ruled Egypt until the early middle agest until the Arabs came and conquered Egypt and took it over. The most recent rulers of Egypt were the Turks for a time and finally it was a Turkish family to which the last kings of Egypt before they were removed from the kingship just a few years ago belonged.

So for all these centuries there was no more a prince out of the land of Egypt. A most remarkable prediction~~s~~ that certainly no human being could have made as a guess. You notice it was about Egypt that this was said. I don't notice any other great ancient empire of which precisely this might have been spoken.

Now let's look at these cities. There's some mention of other cities, but let's see what it says about Memphis and about Thebes. Reading Ezekiel 30:13 again . . . "I will cause the images to cease from Memphis". You notice he doesn't say Thebes. He says Memphis. Those are the two greatest cities of ancient Egypt. There was a third later which Alexander the Great founded and named after himself, but these were the two greatest cities of ancient Egypt, Memphis and Thebes.

He continues, v.14, And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in Thebes. And I will pour my fury upon Sin, the strength of Egypt, add I will cut off the multitude of Thebes. And I will set fire in Egypt. Sin shall have great pain, and Thebes shall be torn asunder, and Memphis shall have distresses daily.

Now you notice He says, I'm going to destroy the idols and cause the images to cease from Memphis. He doesn't say that about Thebes. What he says about Thebes is he will execute judgment in Thebes. He will cut off the multitude of Thebes, and Thebes will be torn asunder. Now this to cut off the multitude and cause distresses -- that might be said of almost any ancient city, ~~but~~ because most of them did have that experience at some time or other.

But this statement "he will cut off the Multitude of Thebes" is particularly appropriate because Thebes which was one of the greatest cities of ancient Egypt is now a place in Egypt where there are just some small villages, it is not even a city any more and has not been for the last 2000 years. He says that Thebes will be rent asunder, and this can be interpreted in two ways, and both ways were fulfilled. One of these ~~would~~ would be that the city= of Thebes when under the grandfather of Cleopatra there was a revolt there, his troops attacked the city, drove most of the people away and did away with it being a city.