

I will destroy their idols and cause their images to cease out of Memphis." That is a strange thing to say about a great ancient city. You go to the remains of Mesopotamian cities and you will find many images and idols. Here it is said about one of the two greatest cities of ancient Egypt. The city of Memphis. "I will destroy the idols and cause the images to cease out of Memphis."

The other great city was called Thebes. The city was called often by the word No which meant the city par excellence. KJV renders it NO. All Modern Versions that I know render it as Thebes. What does it say about Thebes? It says, I will execute judgment in Thebes (v. 14). In v. 15 "I will cut off the multitude of Thebes." In v. 16 "Thebes will be rent assunder." The city of Thebes, one of the great cities of ancient times is now seven different villages. It is not a city any more. It consists of great ruins many of which have been broken down. But it does not say he will make the images and idols to cease out of Thebes. He says that of Memphis.

In Thebes I had my picture taken in front of a great idol that stood so tall that I came up only to its knees. That was only one of many great statues there of kings and of various Egyptian gods in the ruins of ancient Thebes. I came there to a little building perhaps as long as long as the length of this room and half as wide. I came to the door and presented by permit from the Egyptian Department of Antiquities to the guide. He opened the door. There were no windows. It was a stone building. I stepped into the first for a minute which was only lit by what came in through the door. We went through the door to a second room in which -- both rooms were bare, just bare walls.

You could barely see in the second room because the only light was from that door through which he had taken me. Then we went into the third room which was pitch dark and he took a little taper and lit it and held it up and there you could see up in the front of that room something like this pulpit here and on top of it was a life sized statue of the monkey-headed god Toph. One of the many idols and images that remain today in ancient Thebes. What was said about Thebes-- it would be torn assunder. I will cut off the multitude from it. It will have many distresses. That was literally fulfilled in Thebes, but similar things have happened of many other cities.

But we notice what was said of Memphis: I will destroy the idols and cause the images to cease out of Memphis. Why would that city alone lose all its images and all its idols? What a strange thing to happen? How could Ezekiel ever have known that Memphis was to have a different fate than Thebes or in fact than other cities of ancient Egypt? But in the providence of God 1000 years after Ezekiel wrote the Mohammedans galvanized the Arabs in the desert into sending them forth to conquer the world offering everybody the choice either of being killed ~~and~~ or recognizing Allah as the one great God! They allowed Jews and Christians whom they called people of the Book to live on but pay heavy taxes and be under certain restrictions but all who