

Now we move over to the book of Ezekiel, and in Ezekiel we find in the 30th chapter a number of predictions about Egypt. Now if we had another hour we could look at quite a number of these, and learn some very interesting things about ancient Egypt and the changes which were taking place, but that clock is moving a little faster than I had realized it would, so I am going to have to confine our attention here to the most striking thing in connection with this particular chapter. This is found in verse 13. Now in verses 13-16 he speaks of various cities in Egypt. Two of those cities in which I am particularly interested today are the city of Memphis, the Egyptian is Memnoph and is often abbreviated to No. The Hebrew says Noph and you find it as Noph here. That's an abbreviation for Memphis. I'm going to read Memphis because that's the name we usually use for that city. The other city in which I am particularly interested is a city which was the great capital of ancient Egypt which the Greeks called Thebes, and we usually speak of it as Thebes, but the Assyrians called it No, which means the city par excellence. When it says No here I'm going to read Thebes; and when it says Noph I'm going to read Memphis because they are the names usually used today in speaking of these cities. Those are the terms the Greeks gave to those cities. "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Memphis; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt." Now we'll skip verse 14, but see how verse 14 at the end says, "I will execute judgement in Thebes." Verse 15 ends, "I will cut off the multitude of Thebes." Verse 16, "I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, Thebes shall be rent asunder, and Memphis shall have distresses daily." Now, "have distresses daily", "pour out my fury upon", terms like that are terms that could be applied to almost any city in days when wars and tumult are apt to come as they do come in the course of thousands of years in every section of the world. So they are general statements of denunciation which don't prove anything as to the accuracy of the prediction of the future, but what do we read in the very first verse about Memphis? "I will destroy the idols and cause the images to cease out of Memphis." That's a very unusual prediction. We don't read that about Thebes. What do we read about Thebes? "I will cut off her multitude," and in verse 16, "Thebes shall be rent asunder." Under the grandfather of Cleopatra there was a revolt of the people of the city of Thebes. He attacked the city and left so much devastation that most of the people moved away to other places, and the remains of Thebes became just a collection of villages, and when Strabo in his first century A.D. geography described different parts of Egypt, he described Thebes as just a collection of villages. It was "rent sunder", it was no longer a city.

It was rent asunder in another way; many of the buildings were broken up and lay there in pieces. Buildings and statues were sacked and broken in pieces, but still Thebes is the greatest outdoor museum in the world today. You can go up to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and right next to it you will find an obelisk brought from Thebes. Go over to London and you'll find a obelisk brought from Thebes, another one in Rome, another one in Constantinople. Go to any museum in the world that has remains from ancient Egypt and you'll find some brought from Thebes. And still there are in Thebes thousands of remains of the greatness of the ancient pharaohs. Now look at this verse 13 about Memphis. "I will destroy the idols and cause the images to cease out of Memphis." Suppose he had said that about Thebes. Well, in Thebes I have walked down the street there where on each side there was a row of statues that stood so high that my head would come just up to the knees, and the statues built in proportion, and here on each side of the street was this great row of statues of that size, many of them. There are hundreds of images there in Thebes. One of them stands perhaps fifty percent higher than this house here. The great image stands alone out in what today is a field right on the edge of these. There are hundreds of great statues.

I came to one building in Thebes which was maybe fifty percent longer than this room and about the width of this room and about two-thirds as high as this room, with no windows in it. I came to the front of it, stepped up to the Egyptian who was sitting there, showed him my permit from the Egyptian Department of Antiquities. He immediately got up, stepped