

court. Finally the court made a ruling that he should pay \$35 to them as rent for the hill! So it was well worth his time. He purposely did it this way because the hill was owned in 30 shares, and sometimes a share would be owned by 5 or 6 people jointly. To hunt them out and have made a deal with each one would have been a far harder job than to go to court and let the court decide what he should pay.

But certainly it could not be said even then, Her towns will be desolate a dry and desert land a land in which no one lives." I'm sure that Jeremiah could not have seen how this would happen in the land of Babylon. When I was in Palestine in 1929 some friends came back from a visit to Mesopotamia. These were archaeologists from the U. of Chicago, men who had no particular interest in the Bible and probably had read very little of it. But they told me Babylonia in Mesopotamia is an excavators paradise. They said here in Israel if you start to excavate you'll have all kinds of tourists coming through, all kinds of people in the area coming up taking to you and slowing you up in your work. But there they said it's an archeologist's paradise. Since the ruins of the old cities are practically all of them 10 or 20 miles away from anyplace where anybody lives.

There is no water there. You have to haul your water in (they said) but it's well worth the effort because you are not bothered by people round about. There's nobody there. But a dry and desert land a land where no one lives. How did this come about? A thousand ~~xxxx~~ years or so after Jeremiah wrote, the Euphrates R. up in the mountains, hundreds of miles north of Babylon, broke it way through from one little valley to another. That happens occasionally with many streams in various countries. This great river broke through in a different place and came out to the valley at a different spot. The result is that today you have the great ~~g~~ river there that is from 10 to 20 miles away from the old place. At the old place where it was there is just an empty channel and the ruins of many great cities which had been.

Now if this had been said of Egypt, if it had been said of Israel, it would quite probably be in not fit condition. It came about in a way that no man could have predicted and God put it in there as just a little indication of the fact that He knew in advance ~~xxxx~~ what no man would have guessed that the cities of Babylon would disappear in a way that is not true as far as I know of the great cities of any other section of the world. (What about the Aztecks?)

Now we'd like to turn to the book of Ezekiel and look at some things it says about Egypt. I think in this case the KJV is just a little more literal than the NIV and I'm going to real from Ezek. 30. It may be brought out clearly in the NIV but it takes a little more explanation. I will turn to the KJV in Ezek. 30:13 --"Thus sayth the Lord God I will also destroy the idols and I will cause their images to cease out of Noth." Everybody realizes that Noth is an abbreviation for Memphis and the NIV and I think all other modern versions render it Memphis.