

## Isaiah 19,20

8-19-04

### *“Futility of Reliance on Another!”*

#### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. God is again seen as concerned w/**all** nations!
  - 1.1.1. Especially longing for them to **turn** to Him.
  - 1.1.2. He is in control of the **rise & fall** of all nations!
- 1.2. A number of people in Judah advised the king to get help from Egypt against the mighty Assyrians.
  - 1.2.1. **Read Is.31:1-3**
  - 1.2.2. Isaiah warns them here...“believe me, they won’t be able to help!”

#### 2. **EGYPT! (Ch.19)**

- 2.1. **DISCOURAGED!** (1)
- 2.2. The **Lord riding a swift cloud** - speaks of judgment!
- 2.3. **Hearts melting** – discouragement. (Ps.119:28)
- 2.4. **DIVIDED!** (2)
- 2.5. Forsees an impending civil War.
- 2.6. **DEMONIC COUNSEL!** (3)
- 2.7. **DOMINATION!** (4)
- 2.8. The mighty Nile & its tributaries dry up & cause many problems.
- 2.9. **DROUGHT!** (5-7)
  - 2.9.1. This drought creates a **stench**(6,7).
- 2.10. **ECONOMIC DESPAIR!** (8-10)
- 2.11. Continued affects of the drought.
  - 2.11.1. It affects the **Fisherman**(8).
  - 2.11.2. It affects the **Garment Industry**(9) [because **water** is needed to grow flax, *which is used to make linen*].
  - 2.11.3. Egypt’s whole economy would be destroyed(10).
- 2.12. **DELUDED FOOLS!** (11-15)
- 2.13. So a nation that would be: Discouraged, Divided, relying on Demonic counsel, Dominated by another country, & in economic Despair...
  - 2.13.1. *“How are they going to help you?”*
  - 2.13.1. By Deluded Fools? Oh, I mean by their **wise counsel!!!** – “Oh!”

- 2.13.2. They were known for their “wise guys”! – They prided themselves on their learning & wisdom.  
 2.13.2.1.1 Kings 4:30 “Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of **Egypt.**”
- 2.13.3. God's people get their wisdom from God, not from the world.
- 2.13.4. James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God,”
- 2.13.5. Q: Today, who are the world's counselors? – Dr. Phil; Laura Schlesinger; Oprah?
- 2.13.6. Q: Does your own education ever get in the way because of pride?
- 2.14. (14,15) The wisdom of Egypt would lead them into overwhelming & humiliating defeat.
- 2.15. So, once again... “*How was Egypt going to be your deliverer?*”
- 2.16. **CONVERSION OF EGYPT!** (16-25)
- 2.17. Now let's look out into the **future**(mill.), what does God have in store for both Egyptians & Jews?  
 2.17.1. The situation will be reversed. (**Egypt** will turn to **Israel** for help!)
- 2.18. (16,17) Q: **When is fear a good thing?** (When it is the beginning of **hope!** – As it was for Egypt!)
- 2.18.1. Q: What place does fear have in the Christian experience?  
 2.18.1.1. **Wrong fear** = fear of circumstances & situations.  
 2.18.1.2. **Healthy fear** = of God, sin, etc.
- 2.18.2. Look at Egypt's response to fear!  
 2.18.2.1. (18) Submission (even learning Hebrew)  
 2.18.2.2. (19) Worship  
 2.18.2.3. (23) Fellowship  
 2.18.2.4. (24,25) Acceptance w/in the family of God.
- 2.19. (20) **When they cry out to God, He will listen & become their Savior & Champion & Deliverer.**
- 2.20. (21) They'll worship with “*memorial*” **sacrifices.**
- 2.21. (22) Remember I said God is longing for the nations to turn to Him.  
 2.21.1. Here in **verses 22 & 25** we see that **more than ever!**  
 2.21.2. **Strike & heal?** – Isn't that what a doctors shot is all about? Spanking a babies rear?

- 2.22. (23) No longer **battle** each other but **visit** one another on God's **Highway!**
- 2.23. (24) Here we see another example of Abraham's great promise being fulfilled regarding *"all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through him"* (i.e. his descendants).
- 2.24. **Now wait a minute**, before we tackle ch.20's short chapter. Wasn't "going down into Egypt a problem a little earlier with Israel?"
- 2.24.1. During their wilderness wanderings, the people wanted to go back!  
 2.24.1.1. **God would not permit it!**  
 2.24.1.2. **See Ex.13:17.**
- 2.24.2. Here **Isaiah** warned against it. **Jeremiah** warned against it(42,43)
- 2.24.3. The book of Hebrews warns against **"going back in unbelief"** but to **"go forward in faith"**!  
 2.24.3.1. Heb.6:1 **"let us go on to perfection,"**

### 3. **ISAIAH – "I-See-Ya"!** (Ch.20)

- 3.1. **2 object lessons** that the Lord used to try to convince the people **not** to form unholy alliances.
- 3.2. **[1] Defeat of Ashdod** – The people of this Philistine city depended on Egypt & Ethiopia to help them,...but **their help failed**.
- 3.2.1. This happened in 711bc when Sargon II, king of Assyria, captured Ashdod.
- 3.2.2. **So why should you trust them to help you?**
- 3.2.3. Remember, **"the one thing we learn from history is that we don't learn from history!"**
- 3.3. **[2] Naked** – For 3 years he didn't wear his outer prophetic garb, or his sandals.
- 3.3.1. I guess you could say Isaiah was, **"blushing in his blue boxers as he bound down the boulevard barefoot & embarrassed."**
- 3.4. (3) **Nakedness** = shame(4).
- 3.4.1. Gen 2 – Adam & Eve were naked & **not** ashamed!
- 3.4.2. Gen 3 – Adam & Eve were naked **felt** ashamed! (cuz of sin)
- 3.5. (4-6) The Assyrians would strip the entire clothing from their captives

- 3.6. Isaiah exposed himself to **shame** at God's command, to serve as an object lesson.
- 3.6.1. Q: Would you if He asked it? Q: Would he ask this of us today?
- 3.6.2. Q: Would you go to the next outreach locally? Hand out tracts? Share your faith? Do a skit I a foreign country in front of many people? Pray in public?
- 3.6.3. Q: Are you prepared to sacrifice your pride in your service for God?
- 3.6.4. God is unlikely to ask you or me to walk about in diapers, or drag a cross like Author Blessed.
- 3.6.4.1. But there will be times when we feel a **little embarrassed** or **foolish** at the thought of doing something we feel convicted is God's will.
- 3.6.4.2. At such times let's take heart from the example of God's **bolder servants**, and put **obedience first**.
- 3.7. **Lesson again!** - They should have trusted the Lord!
- 3.7.1. **Is.31:1** "Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who **do not look** to the Holy One of Israel, Nor **seek** the LORD!"