

## ***How to Apply the 5 Prophetic Decrees in Isaiah 19:16-25***

### **I. WHY THE CHURCH NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND GOD’S END-TIME PLAN FOR EGYPT**

A. Isaiah 19 describes God’s end-time purpose for Egypt and her relationship to Israel and ancient Assyria. At the center of God’s end-time purposes are three nations: Israel, Egypt and Iraq. There is more prophetic information on Egypt and Iraq (Assyria and Babylon) than any other Gentile nations. (The Gentile kings of the east will also be emphasized; Rev. 16:12-14; Dan. 11:44).

***<sup>24</sup> In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria-- a blessing in the midst of the land (earth), 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (Isa. 19:24-25)***

B. The ancient Assyrian empire included significant parts of modern day Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, along with parts of the Gulf countries, Arabia, eastern Turkey and northern Iran.

C. The end-time drama involving Israel, Egypt and Iraq will affect all nations politically (military), economically, and spiritually both in positive and negative ways. These nations are a prototype of God’s mercy for all nations. It reveals how far God will go for any who repent.

D. These three nations have significant implications in establishing the millennial kingdom. They will experience an unusual measure of glory and pressure. What happens in these three nations before the Lord returns will affect all the families of the earth positively and negatively.

E. Why has God spoken so much about these three nations? What happens in these three nations will affect the whole earth. The Devil understands this. It will be the seed bed of glory and terror. A revival spirit as well as terrorism and the Antichrist’s activity will break forth in these nations.

F. The saints in these three nations have a great opportunity and challenge. It is second to no other place on earth. These nations are at the point of the arrow of God’s end-time purpose. They will not be able to carry the weight of this alone without the entire body of Christ standing with them.

G. These five decrees will be commonly known among the body of Christ before Jesus returns. The Church will be informed and connected to God’s heart and His end-time global plans.

H. God has a strategic purpose for the church in Israel, Egypt and Iraq before the Lord returns. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is now emphasizing and blessing relationships between the believers in these three nations. The Lord wants the saints worldwide greatly supporting them.

I. Why should we care about these three nations? We want to be near Him and to do what He is doing. We must not have “opinions” about who, what, when or where God chooses to move.

***<sup>49</sup> He said..., "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Lk. 2:49)***

## II. PRAYING THE FIVE DECREES: THREE PRAYER PRINCIPLES

- A. Isaiah declared five "in that day" prophetic decrees that will be released by intercession (v. 16-17; 18; 19-22; 23; 24-25). God's judgment will be released in Egypt against those who refuse Him and He will deliver those who call on His name (Isa. 19:16-25).
- B. **Principle #1:** The glory and judgment released in fullness at Jesus' coming will be released in part now. We pray for the release in *part* of that which will be released in *fullness* at His return.
- C. **Principle #2:** Some of the measure of glory or pressure that a geographic area will experience is in the balance of the prayer movement. Various geographic regions of Egypt will receive more or less glory and will experience more or less pressure depending on the amount of prayer offered.
- D. **Principle #3:** Whatever we *give* in obedience to the Spirit always returns back to us in blessing. We cannot pray for Egypt without it returning back on our own family, ministry or nation.  
<sup>38</sup> ***Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over... For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (Lk. 6:38)***
- E. The practical application of knowing these five decrees:
1. **Perseverance:** we are encouraged to persevere when we know that victory is certain
  2. **Proclamation:** we openly declare the truths of Isaiah 19 to the Church and the nations
  3. **Intercession:** we pray for the release of these five decrees in Egypt and the nations

## III. INTERPRETING ISAIAH 19

- A. When interpreting end-time prophecies, we use the law of double reference. Prophecies concerning Israel and the nations often have two fulfillments. First, a partial fulfillment in history. Second, a complete fulfillment at the end of the age. We use the literal method of interpretation (**grammatical-historical**) which understands the Scripture in its most plain sense (i.e., face value). We look for the meaning which the author intended that his audience receive.
- B. The two most likely partial fulfillments of Isa. 19:2-15 are when Israel sought Egypt's help in conspiring against Assyria (724-721 BC) or when the Philistines did (713-711 BC). When the northern kingdom of Israel conspired against Assyria (724-721 BC), Israel's King Hoshea sent messengers to Egypt's king to gain support (2 Kings 17:4). Isaiah was trying to keep Hezekiah out of this conspiracy with Egypt. The Egyptians were defeated by Assyria at Raphia (720 BC). When the Philistines sought Egypt's help in resisting Assyria (713-711 BC), the Egyptians were of little help. Again, one of Isaiah's goals was to keep Hezekiah out of this resistance. The civil and political strife in Egypt was far greater in 724-720 BC than in 713-711 BC. Sargon did not invade Egypt again after 720 BC, but established economic relationship with Egypt.

#### IV. CONTEXT FOR ISAIAH 19: THE ANTICHRIST'S REIGN OF TERROR IN ISRAEL

- A. The Antichrist will establish one of his palace headquarters in the land of Israel.  
*<sup>45</sup> He (Antichrist) shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas (Mediterranean and Dead Seas) and the glorious holy mountain (Jerusalem); yet he shall come to his end... (Dan. 11:45)*
- B. Daniel prophesied of the Antichrist's military campaigns in the end times (Dan. 11:40-45). Three groups of leaders are identified as standing against the Antichrist in end-time prophecy. They are the king of the south (Egypt) and the king of the North (Syria) and the kings of the East or a coalition of Asian nations (Rev. 16:12-14; Dan. 11:44).  
*<sup>40</sup> At the time of the end the king of the South (Egypt) shall attack him (Antichrist); and the king of the North (Syria) shall come against him (Antichrist) like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them...<sup>41</sup> He shall enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown...<sup>42</sup> He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and...Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup> He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt... (Dan. 11:40-43)*
- C. Egypt will be temporarily occupied and oppressed by the Antichrist (Dan. 11:41-43).

#### V. EGYPT AND ISRAEL

- A. Egypt has served God's purposes at strategic times in Israel's history including providing refuge for *Abraham* in a famine (Gen. 12:10), for *Israel in her infancy* as a nation in Joseph's day (Gen. 46), for *Jesus in his infancy* (Mt. 2:13-15), and for end-time *Jewish refugees* fleeing from the Antichrist to Egypt (Isa. 11:11, 16; 27:13; Hos. 11:10-11; Zech. 10:10-11; 14:2).
- B. When Jesus returns, Jewish refugees will return to Israel from Egypt and Assyria.  
*<sup>10</sup> I will bring them back from the land of Egypt...into the land (Israel)... (Zech. 10:10)*  
*<sup>12</sup> The Lord will thresh, from the channel of the River (Euphrates) to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. <sup>13</sup> In that day: the great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord...at Jerusalem. (Isa. 27:12-13)*  
*<sup>10</sup> They shall walk after the Lord. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, then His sons...<sup>11</sup> shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt ...from the land of Assyria... (Hos. 11:10-11)*  
*<sup>16</sup> There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt. (Isa. 11:16)*
- C. Half of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity. Today, about 600,000 Jews live in Jerusalem, thus, using today's numbers, as many as 300,000 Jewish people would be deported in this crisis.  
*<sup>2</sup> For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off... (Zech. 14:2)*

**VI. DECREE #1 (INDIVIDUAL): RELEASE THE FEAR OF GOD AND POWER (ISA. 19:16-17)**

- A. Unbelievers in Egypt will be gripped with the fear of the Lord in seeing God's power on the church and His judgments on the wicked (v. 16). Those who refuse the grace of God will also be terrified by hearing the report of the Antichrist's reign of terror in Judah (v. 17).

***<sup>16</sup> In that day Egypt will...be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He waves over it. 17 And the land of Judah will be a terror to Egypt; everyone who makes mention of it will be afraid in himself (individual focus), because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts which He has determined against it. (Isa. 19:16-17)***

- B. Fear or terror is mentioned four times in Isa. 19:16-17. This oracle is against those who refuse God's grace. They will be afraid both of Jesus' judgments and the Antichrist's rage.

- C. Jesus will wave or stretch forth His hand to release power including signs in the sky and on earth (Lk. 21:25-26; Acts 2:18-19; 4:29-30). The power seen when Jesus stretches forth His hand is often manifest through believers, especially the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3-6).

***<sup>29</sup> Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus... (Acts 4:29-30)***

***<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth... (Acts 2:19)***

- D. The two witnesses will release plagues similar to those released by Moses on Egypt.

***<sup>5</sup> Fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies...<sup>6</sup> These have power to shut heaven...they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues...<sup>10</sup> These two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. (Rev. 11:5-10)***

- E. The waving of Jesus' hand will release the seven bowls with pestilence and fever (Rev. 16). Jesus will wave His hand to destroy the tongue or gulf of Egypt (*Gulf of Suez or Aqabah*) at the Red Sea and cause the Euphrates River to dry up.

***<sup>15</sup> The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue (gulf) of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams... (Isa. 11:15)***

- F. The Antichrist's reign of terror is described as a scourge going through Judah (Isa. 28:14-19).

***<sup>18</sup> When the overflowing scourge (of the Antichrist) passes through, then you will be trampled down by it... <sup>19</sup> It will be a terror just to understand the report. (Isa. 28:18-19)***

- G. Jesus will show Himself to Egypt as the Lord of Hosts or the captain of the armies of heaven. Isaiah emphasized this name seven times in this chapter (Isa. 19:4, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 25).

- H. We pray, "Lord, wave Your hand of power to shake Egypt so they cry out for Your salvation. Release the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Stop ungodly leaders who resist You. Release Your hand over the house of prayer, raise up apostolic and prophetic leadership".

**VII. DECREE #2 (REGIONAL): RELEASE A SPIRIT OF REVIVAL (ISA. 19:18)**

- A. The spirit of revival will rest in an unusual way on five cities in Egypt before Jesus returns. This will happen to such a degree that these cities will swear to follow Jesus. They will be renowned for their dedication and boldness in the face of Islam and the Antichrist's oppression (v. 20).  
*<sup>18</sup> In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction (lit. City of the Sun). (Isa. 19:18)*
- B. As end-time Jerusalem will be spiritually referred to as Sodom (for her perversion) and Egypt (for her oppression of God's people) so Israel under the Antichrist's reign may be referred to as Canaan. He will present the land of Israel under his control as the "new promise land". The language in much of the social infrastructures (such as the road signs) will still be in Hebrew.  
*<sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city (Jerusalem) which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (Rev. 11:8)*
- C. To speak the "language of Canaan" means they will speak the primary language of the people who live in Canaan or Israel in the end times. It probably means to speak Hebrew. The official language of Canaan was Arabic for 1400 years. In 1948, the primary language changed to Hebrew. It would not be a noteworthy prophetic event for five cities in Egypt to speak Arabic.
- D. Why will they speak Hebrew? Does this refer to Jews speaking Hebrew in these five cities because they gathered to them in such large numbers? Or will some Egyptians be called by the Holy Spirit to learn Hebrew in preparation for the Jews who will seek refuge in these cities?
- E. The City of Destruction is often translated as the City of the Sun in reference to the ancient city of Heliopolis or On. In ancient times it was the principal seat of sun worship, thus it is called the "city of the Sun". This city today is located in a suburb of Cairo (Masr al-jidedah).
- F. We pray, "Lord, release a spirit of revival, dedication and boldness in five cities and come in power to awaken five regions with an unusual outpouring of the Spirit".

**VIII. DECREE #3 (NATIONAL): PRAYER MINISTRY AND NATIONAL SALVATION (ISA. 19:19-22)**

- A. The grace of prayer leading to a great revival and supernatural deliverance from the Antichrist will be released in Egypt before Jesus returns.  
*<sup>19</sup> In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. <sup>20</sup> It will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. <sup>21</sup> Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. <sup>22</sup> The LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. (Isa. 19:19-22)*

- B. ***Five stages:*** Egypt's national oppression (stage #1) will create the context for a national prayer movement to mature (stage #2). This will lead to a national deliverance (stage #3) then national salvation (stage #4), then national healing of the land and social infrastructures (stage #5).
- C. A mighty prayer movement will be raised up that will cry out for God to remove wickedness until the nation repents and is fully healed (v. 22). Prayer will release grace that prevents Egypt's political leaders from joining the Antichrist by yielding to either his seductions or threats.
- D. The Antichrist will function as an end-time Pharaoh who will oppress God's people. The end-time saints will cry out for deliverance from oppression as Israel did in Moses' day.  
***<sup>7</sup> I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry...<sup>8</sup> So I have come down to deliver them...<sup>9</sup> The cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. (Ex. 3:7-9)***
- E. As Israel's national salvation will come after Jesus returns, so will Egypt's and other nations.  
***<sup>6</sup> I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; <sup>7</sup> and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations (Jesus)... (Hag. 2:6-7)***  
***<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved...He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob... (Rom. 11:26)***  
***<sup>11</sup> Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)***  
***<sup>15</sup> The nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth... (Ps. 102:15)***
- F. God will strike the wicked infrastructures in Egypt and will then heal them as the nation prays.  
***<sup>19</sup> Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness... (Joel 3:19)***
- G. The prayer movement will continue to entreat the Lord until God fully heals the land.  
***<sup>13</sup> When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, <sup>14</sup> if My people...will humble themselves, and pray... then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chr. 7:13-14)***
- H. Egypt will build an altar and a pillar as expressions of gratitude. These will be memorials to their national deliverance and salvation (v. 19-20). Egypt will follow through on their vows (v. 21).
1. The altar will be national worship center in the midst of the land that will include activities such as making sacrifices, offerings and vows to Jesus (v. 21).
  2. The pillar will be a national monument at the border to testify of their devotion to Jesus.
- I. We pray, "Lord, release grace on a national prayer movement to contend with prevailing faith for national deliverance, salvation and healing".

**IX. DECREE #4 (INTERNATIONAL): RELEASE RECONCILIATION (ISA. 19:23)**

- A. A highway of communication will facilitate international relationships and cooperation. The sons of Ishmael will be reconciled as believers in Egypt are unified with believers in Assyria (Iraq).  
*<sup>23</sup> In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria. The Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. (Isa. 19:23)*
- B. First, Arabs will reconcile with Arabs. Next, the unified Arab nations will reconcile with Israel.
- C. Isaiah often referred to this literal millennial highway (Isa. 11:16; 19:23; 35:8; 49:11; 62:10).  
*<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there (desert), and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it...<sup>9</sup> The redeemed shall walk there... (Isa. 35:8-9)*  
*<sup>16</sup> There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria... (Isa. 11:16)*
- D. This highway will serve various purposes. One possibility is in being similar to the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem. The nations may bring their children to retrace the steps of Jesus' conquest from Egypt to Jerusalem.
- E. We pray, "Lord, fully unify Egyptian and Iraqi believers now as a firstfruit so they fully cooperate together in Your purposes.

**X. DECREE #5 (GLOBAL): RELEASE SUPERNATURAL UNITY (ISA. 19:24-25)**

- A. Arabs will be fully reconciled with Israel resulting in a blessing in the midst of the "land". The word for land is often translated "earth" as in the NIV, NAS and RSV.  
*<sup>24</sup> In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria-- a blessing in the midst of the land (earth), 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (Isa. 19:24-25)*
- B. Isaac and Ishmael will be fully united and the blessing of Abraham will fill the earth.  
*<sup>3</sup> In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen. 12:3)*
- C. God's glory will be poured out resulting in the supernatural unity of Israel, Egypt, and Assyria and on the whole earth resulting in the evangelism of all nations.  
*<sup>21</sup> That they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one. (Jn. 17:21-22)*
- D. Israel's two longest standing enemies will be fully reconciled to Jesus, then to Israel.  
*<sup>15</sup> So as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace... (Eph. 2:15)*  
*<sup>4</sup> The mystery of Christ...6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs... (Eph. 3:4-6)*

- E. Unity comes as their national identity and destiny is understood by revelation (v. 24-25). The names once reserved only for Israel will be given to Egypt and Assyria.
- F. It is not enough for these nations to know their identity in God. All the nations must know it so that we participate in unity around the Father's table with a spirit of servanthood and rejoicing, not bitterness and rivalry.
- G. It is a great privilege for God to call a nation His people, His inheritance or the work of His hands. This requires that the nation walk with Him. He will jealously pursue them until they do. To the degree that they resist Him, He will release His judgments to awaken them spiritually.
- H. Nations will relate together based on the identity that God gives them.
- I. In Hebrew, the word *aretz* has two meanings: the whole *earth* or the *land* of Israel in particular.  
<sup>24</sup> ***In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria-- a blessing in the midst of the land (earth), 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless (Isa. 19:24-25)***
- J. I believe these three nations provide the initial boundaries of the restored garden of Eden in the Millennium that will have an open heaven (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12).  
<sup>35</sup> ***They will say, "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden..." (Ezek. 36:35)***
- K. This garden will slowly spread through all the nations in the millennial kingdom until the whole earth is filled with the glory of God. Abraham's blessing will spread to all the earth (Gen. 12:3).  
<sup>14</sup> ***For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD... (Hab. 2:14)***  
<sup>6</sup> ***Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. (Isa. 27:6)***
- L. We pray, "Lord, unify Arab and Jewish believers as a firstfruit and cause all to see Your calling on each of these nations and to serve You together with joy."
1. In contending for this, we contend for Jesus' coming and the establishing of the garden of Eden to fill the earth with glory.
  2. We pray for the identity of Egypt and Assyria to be made manifest to them and all the nations in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas, etc. God wants all nations to see and rejoice in what He has ordained and planned for these nations.

## **XI. SUMMARY**

There is a progression in Jesus' power and judgment. It starts with releasing fear on ungodly individuals. Next, five cities in Egypt are visited by the grace of God releasing a revival spirit. Then the entire nation will worship Jesus. This is followed by deep international relationships among Arab brothers in Assyria. Finally, global impact comes when Israel, Egypt and Assyria are unified.