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EZEKIEL 30: 1 the LORD's word came again to me, saying,

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This chapter describes, with great force and elegance, the ruin of Egypt and all her allies by the Chaldeans under Nebuchadnezzar, Eze 30:1-11; with an amplification of the distress of the principal cities of Egypt on that occasion, Eze 30:12-19. The remaining verses are a short prophecy relating to the same event, and therefore annexed to the longer one preceding, although this was predicted sooner, Eze 30:20-26.

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EZEKIEL 30: 2 Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Wail, Alas for the day!

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Verse 2

Howl ye, Wo worth the day! - My Old MS. Bible, - Soule gee, woo woo to the day! הילילו הוה ליום heylilu, hah laiyom! "Howl ye, Alas for the day!" The reading in our present text is taken from Coverdale's Bible, 1536. The expressions signify that a most dreadful calamity was about to fall on Egypt and the neighboring countries, called here the "time of the heathen," or of the nations; the day of calamity to them. They are afterwards specified, Ethiopia, Libya, Lydia, and Chub, and the mingled people, probably persons from different nations, who had followed the ill fortune of Pharaoh-hophra or Pharaoh-apries, when he fled from Amasis, and settled in Upper Egypt.

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EZEKIEL 30: 3 For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near; it shall be a day of clouds, a time of the nations.

EZEKIEL 30: 4 A sword shall come on Egypt, and anguish shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt; and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down.

EZEKIEL 30: 5 Ethiopia, and Put, and Lud, and all the mixed people, and Cub, and the children of the land that is allied with them, shall fall with them by the sword.

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Verse 5

Lydia - This place is not well known. The Ludim were contiguous to Egypt, Gen 11:13.

Chub - The Cubians, placed by Ptolemy in the Mareotis. But probably instead of וכוּב vechub, "and Chub," we should read וְכָל vechol, "and All the men of the land," etc. The Septuagint adds "the Persians and the Cretans."

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EZEKIEL 30: 6 Thus says the LORD: They also who uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Seveh shall they fall in it by the sword, says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 30: 7 They shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate; and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted.

Verse 7

Shall be desolate - All these countries shall be desolated, and the places named shall be chief in these desolations.

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EZEKIEL 30: 8 They shall know that I am the LORD, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and all her helpers are destroyed.

EZEKIEL 30: 9 In that day shall messengers go out from before me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid; and there shall be anguish on them, as in the day of Egypt; for, behold, it comes.

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Verse 9

Messengers go forth from me in ships - Ships can ascend the Nile up to Syene or Essuan, by the cataracts; and when Nebuchadnezzar's vessels went up, they struck terror into the Ethiopians. They are represented here as the "messengers of God."

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EZEKIEL 30: 10 Thus says the Lord GOD: I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease, by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

EZEKIEL 30: 11 He and his people with him, the terrible of the nations, shall be brought in to destroy the land; and they shall draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with the slain.

EZEKIEL 30: 12 I will make the rivers dry, and will sell the land into the hand of evil men; and I will make the land desolate, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I, the LORD, have spoken it.

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Verse 12

I will make the rivers dry - As the overflowing of the Nile was the grand cause of fertility to Egypt, the drying it up, or preventing that annual inundation, must be the cause of dearth, famine, etc. By rivers, we may understand the various canals cut from the Nile to carry water into the different parts of the land. When the Nile did not rise to its usual height these canals were quite dry.

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EZEKIEL 30: 13 Thus says the Lord GOD: I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause the images to cease from Memphis; and there shall be no more a prince from the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt.

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Verse 13

Their images to cease out of Noph - Afterwards Memphis, and now Cairo or Kahira. This was the seat of Egyptian idolatry; the place where Apis was particularly worshipped.

No more a prince of the land of Egypt - Not one, from that time to the present day. See the note on Eze 29:14.

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EZEKIEL 30: 14 I will make Pathros desolate, and will set a fire in Zoan, and will execute judgements on No.

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Verse 14

I will make Pathros desolate - See Eze 29:14.

Zoan - Tanis, the ancient capital of Egypt.

No - Diospolis, or Thebes, the city of Jupiter.

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EZEKIEL 30: 15 I will pour my wrath on Sin, the stronghold of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No.

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Verse 15

My fury upon Sin - Pelusium, a strong city of Egypt, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

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EZEKIEL 30: 16 I will set a fire in Egypt: Sin shall be in great anguish, and No shall be broken up; and Memphis shall have adversaries in the daytime.

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Verse 16

Noph - Cairo or Kahira; see Eze 30:13.

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EZEKIEL 30: 17 The young men of Aven and of Pibeseth shall fall by the sword; and they shall go into captivity.

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Verse 17

Aven - Or On, the famous Heliopolis, or city of the sun.

Pibeseth - Bubastum or Bubaste, by a slight alteration of the letters. It is situated on the eastern branch of the Nile, towards Arabia.

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EZEKIEL 30: 18 At Tehaphnehes also the day shall withdraw itself, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt, and the pride of her power shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity.

Verse 18

Tehaphnehes - Called also Tahapanes, Jer 2:16. This is the Pelusian Daphne.

Break there the yokes - The sceptres. Nebuchadnezzar broke the scepter of Egypt when he confirmed the kingdom to Amasis, who had rebelled against Apries.

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EZEKIEL 30: 19 Thus will I execute judgements on Egypt; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 30: 20 In the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, the LORD's word came to me, saying,

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Verse 20

In the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day - This was the eleventh year of the captivity of Jeconiah, and the date here answers to April 26, A.M. 3416; a prophecy anterior by several years to that already delivered. In collecting the writings of Ezekiel, more care was taken to put all that related to one subject together, than to attend to chronological arrangement.

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EZEKIEL 30: 21 Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and behold, it has not been bound up, to apply medicines, to put a bandage to bind it, that it be strong to hold the sword.

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Verse 21

I have broken the arm of Pharaoh - Perhaps this may refer to his defeat by Nebuchadnezzar, when he was coming with the Egyptian army to succor Jerusalem.

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EZEKIEL 30: 22 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong arm, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand.

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Verse 22

I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand - When the arm is broken, the sword will naturally fall. But these expressions show that the Egyptians would be rendered wholly useless to Zedekiah, and should never more recover their political strength. This was the case from the time of the rebellion of Amasis.

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EZEKIEL 30: 23 I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

EZEKIEL 30: 24 I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he shall groan before him with the groaning of a mortally wounded man.

EZEKIEL 30: 25 I will hold up the arms of the king of Babylon; and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out on the land of Egypt.

EZEKIEL 30: 26 I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them through the countries; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

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Verse 26

I will scatter the Egyptians - Several fled with Apries to Upper Egypt; and when Nebuchadnezzar wasted the country, he carried many of them to Babylon. See on Eze 29:12 (note).