

## Stay Where You Are Until Your Cloud Moves

(July 12, 2020, By Rev. Anthony Menzel)

We are in a time of great spiritual warfare...

It is more important than ever to know where the Lord Jesus wants you to be and carry out the mission that He has for your life...

### **Exodus 13:17-18,20-22**

**17** Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them *by way* of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” **18** So God led the people around *by way* of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

**20** So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. **21** And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. **22** He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people.

\*\*\*We see here that God often has a purpose for guiding us a certain way... Going a different way will lead us into failure...

### **Numbers 13:1-16, 21, 25-33**

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **2** “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.”

**3** So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the Lord, all of them men who *were* heads of the children of Israel. **4** Now these *were* their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; **5** from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; **6** from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; **7** from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; **8** from the tribe of Ephraim, [a]Hoshea the son of Nun; **9** from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; **10** from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; **11** from the tribe of Joseph, *that is*, from the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi; **12** from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; **13** from the tribe of Asher,

Sethur the son of Michael; **14** from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; **15** from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

**16** These *are* the names of the men whom Moses sent to [b]spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea[c] the son of Nun, Joshua.

**17** Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, **18** and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it *are* strong or weak, few or many; **19** whether the land they dwell in *is* good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit *are* like camps or strongholds; **20** whether the land *is* [d]rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now the time *was* the season of the first ripe grapes.

**21** So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath. **22** And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, *were* there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) **23** Then they came to the [e]Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They also brought* some of the pomegranates and figs. **24** The place was called the Valley of [f]Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there. **25** And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

**26** Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. **27** Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly [g]flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. **28** Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. **29** The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

**30** Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

**31** But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.” **32** And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men

of *great* stature. **33** There we saw the [h]giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like[i] grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

\*\*\*Spying out the land was a very important job...

Joshua, Moses' successor, was one of the spies...

However, we will see in the next chapter that what is most important is not getting a position but what you do in the positions the Lord Jesus blesses you with...

### **Numbers 14:1-45**

So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. **2** And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! **3** Why has the Lord brought us to this land to [a]fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” **4** So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”

**5** Then Moses and Aaron [b]fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

**6** But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who* were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; **7** and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land. **8** If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ **9** Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they[c] *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord *is* with us. Do not fear them.”

**10** And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

### **Moses Intercedes for the People**

**11** Then the Lord said to Moses: “How long will these people reject[d] Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the [e]signs which I have performed among them? **12** I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

**13** And Moses said to the Lord: “Then the Egyptians will hear *it*, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, **14** and they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Lord, *are* among these people; that You, Lord, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. **15** Now *if* You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, **16** ‘Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.’ **17** And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, **18** ‘The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generation*.’ **19** Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”

**20** Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; **21** but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord— **22** because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, **23** they certainly shall not see the land of which I [f]swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. **24** But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. **25** Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.”

### **Death Sentence on the Rebels**

**26** And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, **27** “How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. **28** Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: **29** The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. **30** Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I [g]swore I would make you dwell in. **31** But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall [h]know the

land which you have despised. **32** But *as for* you, your[i] carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. **33** And your sons shall be [j]shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. **34** According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your [k]guilt one year, *namely* forty years, and you shall know My [l]rejection. **35** I the Lord have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.’ ”

**36** Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, **37** those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the Lord. **38** But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.

### **A Futile Invasion Attempt**

**39** Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly. **40** And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, “Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, for we have sinned!”

**41** And Moses said, “Now why do you [m]transgress the command of the Lord? For this will not succeed. **42** Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the Lord *is* not among you. **43** For the Amalekites and the Canaanites *are* there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the Lord, the Lord will not be with you.”

**44** But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed from the camp. **45** Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.

\*\*\*I do not believe in seeking out unnecessary suffering or danger...  
At the same time, the most dangerous place to be is not being in a dangerous place; the most dangerous place to be is being out of God’s Will...

\*\*\*My family and I recently went on vacation to the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York, near the border of Canada...  
There are less problems with COVID there...

There is breathtaking natural beauty...  
It is quiet and peaceful...

If we were in a time of peace and I could move all of my loved ones with me,  
I could see myself moving there...

I love writing poetry...

I could get my doctorate in Creative Writing at SUNY Albany and spend my  
time writing...

However, we are in a time of spiritual warfare...

The Lord Jesus needs me closer to the front lines of the battle...

Shirking my responsibilities is equivalent to going outside of God's Will...

My soul is safer in the thick of the battle than in a place that is safer and  
quieter by worldly standards...

\*\*\*During my vacation, part of my Bible study was in Jeremiah...

When I do my devotional or daily Bible study, I generally alternate between  
the Old Testament and the New Testament...

Currently I am studying Jeremiah from the Old Testament and Luke in the  
New Testament...

\*\*\*The passage that inspired this message was

### **Jeremías 42.13, 14, y 16**

**13** “But if you say, ‘We will not dwell in this land,’ disobeying the voice of the Lord your God, **14** saying, ‘No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell’— **15** Then hear now the word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah! Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘If you wholly[c] set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, **16** then it shall be *that* the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there *in* Egypt; and there you shall die.

Now I will translate the prayer I wrote based on this passage, which will be sent out as one of Abundant Love's “Passages of the Day,” which God usually uses me to write. He uses Sister July Falquez to record the passage

and its corresponding prayer, and He uses Rev. Juana to distribute these messages.

One thing I cannot emphasize enough about Bible study is that we should study the Bible as a means of getting to know the Lord Jesus better and as a means of becoming better people...

We will always be improving:

### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

**18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as [b]by the Spirit of the Lord.

That's why I like to ask God to change me whenever I study the Bible...

We get to know the Lord Jesus better because one of His names is the Word of God.

### **John 1:1-5, 14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not [a]comprehend it.

**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

\*\*\*To finish today's message, I will go back to Jeremiah 42...

A whole group of people had already been deported from Judah to Babylon, which is in modern day Iraq...

Jeremiah was allowed to stay behind with a remnant of his people...

Unfortunately, even after seeing how God had judged Judah for their sins, the Jews that remained in the land refused to listen to the warnings and instructions that God sent through the prophet...

### **Jeremiah 42:1-22**

Now all the captains of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near **2** and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to the Lord your God, for all this remnant (since we are left *but* a few of many, as you can see), **3** that the Lord your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do.”

**4** Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to the Lord your God according to your words, and it shall be, *that* whatever the Lord answers you, I will declare *it* to you. I will keep nothing back from you.”

**5** So they said to Jeremiah, “Let the Lord be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which the Lord your God sends us by you. **6** Whether *it is* [a]pleasing or [b]displeasing, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the Lord our God.”

**7** And it happened after ten days that the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. **8** Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces which *were* with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest, **9** and said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your petition before Him: **10** ‘If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull *you* down, and I will plant you and not pluck *you* up. For I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought upon you. **11** Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,’ says the Lord, ‘for I *am* with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand. **12** And I will show you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land.’

**13** “But if you say, ‘We will not dwell in this land,’ disobeying the voice of the Lord your God, **14** saying, ‘No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell’— **15** Then hear now the word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah! Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘If you wholly[c] set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, **16** then it shall be *that* the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there *in* Egypt; and there you shall die. **17** So shall it be with all the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to dwell there. They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them.’



**18** “For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘As My anger and My fury have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more.’

**19** “The Lord has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt!’ Know certainly that I have [d]admonished you this day. **20** For you [e]were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to the Lord your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to the Lord our God, and according to all that the Lord your God says, so declare to us and we will do *it*.’ **21** And I have this day declared *it* to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord your God, or anything which He has sent you by me. **22** Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell.”

### **Jeremiah 43:1-13**

Now it happened, when Jeremiah had stopped speaking to all the people all the words of the Lord their God, for which the Lord their God had sent him to them, all these words, **2** that Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, “You speak falsely! The Lord our God has not sent you to say, ‘Do not go to Egypt to dwell there.’ **3** But Baruch the son of Neriah has [a]set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may put us to death or carry us away captive to Babylon.” **4** So Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces, and all the people would not obey the voice of the Lord, to remain in the land of Judah. **5** But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to dwell in the land of Judah, from all nations where they had been driven— **6** men, women, children, the king’s daughters, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah. **7** So they went to the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the Lord. And they went as far as Tahpanhes.

**8** Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, **9** “Take large stones in your hand, and hide them in the sight of the men of Judah, in the [b]clay in the brick courtyard which *is* at the entrance to Pharaoh’s house in Tahpanhes; **10** and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will send and bring Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will set his throne above these stones that

I have hidden. And he will spread his royal pavilion over them. **11** When he comes, he shall strike the land of Egypt *and deliver to death those appointed for death, and to captivity those appointed for captivity, and to the sword those appointed for the sword.* **12** [c]I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt, and he shall burn them and carry them away captive. And he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd puts on his garment, and he shall go out from there in peace. **13** He shall also break the *sacred pillars of [d]Beth Shemesh that are in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians he shall burn with fire.*” ’ ”

\*\*\*Just like we often see today, people just want to hear what they want to hear...

They want religious leaders to be a rubber stamp for their behavior and thoughts instead of raising up a standard for the Lord...

## **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

I charge *you* [a]therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead [b]at His appearing and His kingdom: **2** Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; **4** and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **5** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

\*\*\*In the face of people who don't want to hear the truth, we have to continue to be faithful to the Lord Jesus...

## **Jeremiah 44:1-30**

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Noph,[a] and in the country of Pathros, saying, **2** “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they *are* a desolation, and no one dwells in them, **3** because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense *and* to serve other gods whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers. **4** However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising

early and sending *them*, saying, “Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!” **5** But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods. **6** So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they [b]are wasted *and* desolate, as it is this day.’

**7** “Now therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Why do you commit *this* great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, out of Judah, leaving none to remain, **8** in that you provoke Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell, that you may cut yourselves off and be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth? **9** Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah, the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? **10** They have not been humbled,[c] to this day, nor have they feared; they have not walked in My law or in My statutes that I set before you and your fathers.’

**11** “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for [d]cutting off all Judah. **12** And I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to dwell there, and they shall all be consumed *and* fall in the land of Egypt. They shall be consumed by the sword *and* by famine. They shall die, from the least to the greatest, by the sword and by famine; and they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach! **13** For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, **14** so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or survive, lest they return to the land of Judah, to which they desire[e] to return and dwell. For none shall return except those who escape.’ ”

**15** Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying: **16** “As *for* the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you! **17** But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem.

For *then* we had plenty of [f]food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. **18** But

since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.”

**19** *The women also said*, “And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands’ *permission?*”

**20** Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people—the men, the women, and all the people who had given him *that* answer—saying: **21** “The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the Lord remember them, and did it *not* come into His mind? **22** So the Lord could no longer bear *it*, because of the evil of your doings *and* because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as *it is* this day. **23** Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against the Lord, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as *at* this day.”

**24** Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, “Hear the word of the Lord, all Judah who *are* in the land of Egypt! **25** Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: ‘You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, “We will surely keep our vows that we have made, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her.” You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!’ **26** Therefore hear the word of the Lord, all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: ‘Behold, I have sworn by My great name,’ says the Lord, ‘that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, “The Lord God lives.” **27** Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who *are* in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them. **28** Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs. **29** And this *shall be* a sign to you,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity.’”

**30** “Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as

I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life.’ ”

### **Jeremiah 46:1-26**

The word of the Lord which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the nations. **2** Against Egypt.

Concerning the army of Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt, which was by the River Euphrates in Carchemish, and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

**3**

“Order[a] the [b]buckler and shield,  
And draw near to battle!

**4**

Harness the horses,  
And mount up, you horsemen!  
Stand forth with *your* helmets,  
Polish the spears,  
Put on the armor!

**5**

Why have I seen them dismayed *and* turned back?  
Their mighty ones are beaten down;  
They have speedily fled,  
And did not look back,  
*For fear was all around,*” says the Lord.

**6**

“Do not let the swift flee away,  
Nor the mighty man escape;  
They will stumble and fall  
Toward the north, by the River Euphrates.

**7**

“Who *is* this coming up like a flood,  
Whose waters move like the rivers?

**8**

Egypt rises up like a flood,  
And *its* waters move like the rivers;  
And he says, ‘I will go up *and* cover the earth,  
I will destroy the city and its inhabitants.’

**9**

Come up, O horses, and rage, O chariots!  
And let the mighty men come forth:  
[c]The Ethiopians and [d]the Libyans who handle the shield,  
And the Lydians who handle *and* bend the bow.

**10**

For this *is* the day of the Lord God of hosts,  
A day of vengeance,  
That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries.  
The sword shall devour;  
It shall be [e]satiated and made drunk with their blood;  
For the Lord God of hosts has a sacrifice  
In the north country by the River Euphrates.

**11**

“Go up to Gilead and take balm,  
O virgin, the daughter of Egypt;  
In vain you will use many medicines;  
You shall not be cured.

**12**

The nations have heard of your shame,  
And your cry has filled the land;  
For the mighty man has stumbled against the mighty;  
They both have fallen together.”

### **Babylonia Will Strike Egypt**

**13** The word that the Lord spoke to Jeremiah the prophet, how  
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon would come *and* strike the land of Egypt.

**14**

“Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol;  
Proclaim in [f]Noph and in Tahpanhes;  
Say, ‘Stand fast and prepare yourselves,  
For the sword devours all around you.’

**15**

Why are your valiant *men* swept away?  
They did not stand  
Because the Lord drove them away.

**16**

He made many fall;  
Yes, one fell upon another.  
And they said, ‘Arise!

Let us go back to our own people  
And to the land of our nativity  
From the oppressing sword.'

**17**

They cried there,  
'Pharaoh, king of Egypt, *is but* a noise.  
He has passed by the appointed time!'

**18**

"As I live," says the King,  
Whose name *is* the Lord of hosts,  
"Surely as Tabor *is* among the mountains  
And as Carmel by the sea, so he shall come.

**19**

O you daughter dwelling in Egypt,  
Prepare yourself to go into captivity!  
For [g]Noph shall be waste and desolate, without inhabitant.

**20**

"Egypt *is* a very pretty heifer,  
*But* destruction comes, it comes from the north.

**21**

Also her mercenaries are in her midst like [h]fat bulls,  
For they also are turned back,  
They have fled away together.  
They did not stand,  
For the day of their calamity had come upon them,  
The time of their punishment.

**22**

Her noise shall go like a serpent,  
For they shall march with an army  
And come against her with axes,  
Like those who chop wood.

**23**

"They shall cut down her forest," says the Lord,  
"Though it cannot be searched,  
Because they *are* innumerable,  
And more numerous than grasshoppers.

**24**

The daughter of Egypt shall be ashamed;  
She shall be delivered into the hand

Of the people of the north.”

**25** The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: “Behold, I will bring punishment on [i]Amon of No,[j] and Pharaoh and Egypt, with their gods and their kings—Pharaoh and those who trust in him. **26** And I will deliver them into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of his servants. Afterward it shall be inhabited as in the days of old,” says the Lord.

### **God Will Preserve Israel**

**27**

“But do not fear, O My servant Jacob,  
And do not be dismayed, O Israel!  
For behold, I will save you from afar,  
And your offspring from the land of their captivity;  
Jacob shall return, have rest and be at ease;  
No one shall make *him* afraid.

**28**

Do not fear, O Jacob My servant,” says the Lord,  
“For I *am* with you;  
For I will make a complete end of all the nations  
To which I have driven you,  
But I will not make a complete end of you.  
I will rightly correct you,  
For I will not leave you wholly unpunished.”

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Even though he was living in Egypt, Jeremiah was still brave enough to speak words of correction about the country he was living in, even though he was a foreigner...

In the end, historical tradition records Jeremiah as being martyred for his faith...

But it is better to die for the Lord Jesus than to go to hell...

### **Luke 9:23-26**

**23** Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross [b]daily, and follow Me. **24** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. **25** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is



himself destroyed or lost? **26** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels.