

Session 16

## The Isaiah 19 Vortex

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### A. Introduction

1. The Middle East is a region that has undergone many geopolitical and socioeconomic shifts throughout its long history.
2. It is a region that is well known for its intermittent periods of peace and conflict. This conflict goes as far back as the time of the Patriarchs in the Bible and especially finds its origins in the conflicts between Isaac and Ishmael, and Jacob and Esau.
3. As we escalate towards the return of Jesus, Isaiah 19 is a key and crucial Scripture as it contains a profound prophecy regarding the region of the Middle East. It prophesies of a great miracle that will be seen through the restoration of God's family situated in this region.
4. Together with other Scriptures (Joel 3, Zech. 12 – 14), it also paints a picture of the End-Time turmoil that the region will face resulting in the Isaiah 19 Vortex.

### B. Five Important Reasons for Understanding the Coming Isaiah 19 Vortex

1. The epicentre and focus of God's End-Time plan will be Egypt, together with Israel and the Arab nations.
  - a. The healing and reconciliation of Abraham's family will be the epicentre of the End-Time drama.
  - b. The Isaiah 19 vortex will be the stage for the earth to see God's glory manifest through the greatest healing and reconciliation movement in human history.
2. The End-Time drama surrounding Israel, Egypt and the Arab nations will affect every nation and individual.
  - a. The End-Time drama in the Middle East is also referred to as the "Isaiah 19 vortex" because it will affect the whole earth.
  - b. Nations and governments around the world will be drawn into what is unfolding in that region. There will be no ability to stay neutral (Joel 3:14).
3. The way that God deals with Egypt is a model and prototype that provides principles for how He will deal with individuals and other Gentile nations.
4. The Romans 11:11 call to provoke Israel to jealousy is in the context of unprecedented antisemitism. It is especially believers in the Middle East who will live out and demonstrate this call to its fullest.

- a. Believers in Egypt and the Arab nations will be used mightily as vessels to show God's mercy to the Jewish people at the cost of their own lives.
  - b. The culmination of Isaiah 19 is verse 24, which prophesies of the greatest miracle that will take place in history — the deep unification of the descendants of Abraham including those of Isaac and Ishmael, together with Jacob and Esau, in and through Yeshua.
  - c. This miracle that will take place in the Middle East will be the epicentre of the Holy Spirit's work of unifying God's people across the world (John 17:21–23).
5. As the rest of the Gentile church, we are called to contend for the fullness of Egyptian and Arab believers, and for Egypt to live out the fullness of her mandate in Isaiah 19.
- a. God desires that His people understand and agree with His restoration plan to bring His family back together. Hence, Isaiah 19 is an important passage to understand.
  - b. He calls us to pay attention to Scripture and the lineages of Abraham's descendants to see how He honours His covenant to Abraham (Gen. 15), and His words to Hagar (Gen. 16:10–12; 17:20) and Rebecca (Gen. 25:23).
  - c. This is the "divine checkmate" that God has set up in the Middle Eastern region that will ultimately usher in the Second Coming of Jesus and transit the world from this age into the Millennial Kingdom.

### **C. The Boundaries and Context of the Isaiah 19 Vortex**

1. In Isaiah 19:24–25, Scripture refers to Egypt, Assyria and Israel as being "one". Referencing the boundaries of these ancient kingdoms, they translate to the following boundaries in our modern-day context:
  - a. Ancient Egypt translates approximately to modern-day Egypt;
  - b. Ancient Assyria translates approximately to modern-day Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Armenia, northern Saudi Arabia, southeast Turkey, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, southwest Iran, and Cyprus.
2. The Context of the Isaiah 19 Vortex
  - a. Many yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecies set the context for the Isaiah 19 vortex. These consist mainly of Scriptures regarding the End Times (Ps. 2, Matt. 24) and prophecies regarding Israel, Egypt, and the Arab nations (Dan. 11:21–45, Isa. 28:14–18).
  - b. It will be the time of the Psalm 2 crisis where unholy alliances will be formed between nations who will rage against God's standards and come against His chosen nation — Israel.

- c. In Matthew 24:15–22, Jesus prophesies of unprecedented carnage that Israel will face especially in the time of the Abomination of Desolation (Dan. 11 – 12). Scripture prophesies that she will go through another Holocaust in the End Times as nations come against her (Zech. 13:8).
- d. In this time of trouble, many Jewish people will flee to the surrounding nations as they seek out places of refuge (Matt. 24:15–20). These nations would primarily be the nations in the Middle East.
- e. Amid this vortex and great persecution, God’s divine checkmate is found in Isaiah 19:23–25. There will be holy alliances and relationships between God-loving and God-fearing believers throughout nations in the Middle East.
- f. They will provide places of refuge within hostile nations and demonstrate the greater love of Yeshua by laying down their lives for the Jewish people and confounding the enemies of God.

#### **D. Isaiah 19 — An Overview and the Five Prophetic Decrees**

##### **1. Overview of Isaiah 19**

- a. Isaiah 19 reveals God’s plan to conform and transform Egypt to be His vessel in the time of Jacob’s trouble.
  - b. The nation of Egypt is mentioned more than 100 times in the Bible — the second-most mentioned nation after the nation of Israel. This reveals her significance to God and her role in His overall redemptive plan.
  - c. While God has a plan specific for Egypt (as revealed in the five prophetic decrees for her), how He deals with her also provides a general picture of how God deals with the rest of the Gentile nations. Thus, Egypt has also been ordained to be a “representation” or “prototype” of how God deals with the world and Gentile nations.
  - d. Isaiah 19 reveals that God will confront and judge the idols of Egypt. This judgement is unto Egypt’s ultimate healing, which will bring about a blessing to Israel and the region as Egypt turns to Yahweh as their God. She will be the first Gentile nation that fully turns to Yeshua at His Second Coming.
  - e. Isaiah 19 also reveals how Egyptian and Assyrian believers will be the first line of defence for Israel in her time of greatest trouble.
2. There are five prophetic decrees in Isaiah 19 pertaining to Egypt that God has determined will come to pass. Using them to prophetically pray for Egypt and God’s people there is crucial as we approach the time when this prophecy will become reality.

**Prophetic Decree 1: God will release His power and judgement on Egypt for the release of the fear of the Lord (v16–17).**

- a. God will “wave His hand” through His End-Time judgements and through Egyptian believers as they move in signs and wonders.
- b. Yahweh will demonstrate to the Egyptians that He is the one true living God — he same God as in the time of Moses.
- c. A nation that has been steeped in generations of idolatry will come to fear and worship Yahweh alone.

**Prophetic Decree 2: There will be five cities of refuge in Egypt that speak Hebrew and are filled with believers of Yeshua (v18).**

- a. There will be a great awakening in Egypt which will result in many people turning to Yeshua and pledging their allegiance to Him.
- b. God is also awakening Egyptian believers to arise and prepare places of refuge for the Jewish people. Scripture prophesies that at least five cities will be places of refuge where Egyptian believers would have learnt the Hebrew language in preparation for this.

**Prophetic Decree 3: There will be a mature prayer movement in Egypt (v19–22) **that will bring forth national deliverance and salvation.****

- a. God is awakening His Egyptian believers to take their stand in the place of prayer for Israel and their nation.
- b. As a result of God’s judgements and the prayers of His people, Egypt will be the first Gentile nation to turn to Yahweh and fully belong to Him.

**Prophetic Decree 4: Egyptian believers will be reconciled with Arab believers (v23).**

- a. Deep reconciliation between Egyptian and Arab believers will take place that will give rise to unity, oneness, and partnership.
- b. Isaiah 19:23 talks about a highway of worship that will be established between Egypt and Assyria, and that believers from these nations will come together to serve and worship God.

**Prophetic Decree 5: Egypt will come together with Israel and Assyria in oneness (v24–25).**

- a. The fullness of this will take place at Jesus’ Second Coming and as human history transits into the Millennial Kingdom.
- b. The oneness of the three traditionally hostile nations will result in worldwide blessing and the glory of God spreading throughout the earth as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14).

### **E. Birthing the Holy Seed (Isa. 6:13)**

1. God's reconciliation work in the Middle East will be a great astonishment and wonder to the world. Egyptian and Arab believers will be fashioned by God to be vessels that reveal God's mercy and goodness to Israel.
2. God's ultimate purpose is to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy and use the Egyptian and Arab believers as vessels to birth forth the Isaiah 6:13 "Holy Seed".
3. This "Holy Seed" refers to the remnant of Israel who will emerge out of the fire of God's End-Time discipline and judgement, which would have made them ready to partner Yeshua as His holy nation in the Millennial Kingdom.
  - a. The most hardened of Jewish hearts will be changed as Israel witnesses how God deals with Egypt in His severe mercies where He judges but also restores.
  - b. Their hearts will also be deeply moved as they witness how Egyptian and Arab believers choose to lay down their lives for them in their most desperate circumstances. It will result in many unbelieving Jewish people turning to Yeshua in deep repentance.
  - c. This will ultimately cause them to arise as the Holy Seed who have:
    - i. Humility and gratitude in their hearts;
    - ii. Loyal love for Yeshua their Messiah; and
    - iii. Selfless love for the Gentile nations and a heart to serve them.
4. Israel will be thus made ready to walk in the fullness of her God-given destiny to be a light to the nations and to take the inaugural governmental position in Jesus' Millennial Kingdom.

### **F. Conclusion**

1. The Middle East will be the stage for the Isaiah 19 vortex in the days ahead as we approach Jesus' Second Coming. However, we will also see the fullness and the greatest display of oneness within the family of God and the one new man being expressed.
2. This is especially important for the young generation of Arab and Egyptian believers who will live through these events in their lifetime. They will walk hand in hand with the Jewish people to step into God's destiny for them and His Kingdom purposes.
3. Hence, as the global Gentile church, we need to cultivate understanding, grow the strength to stand with Him, and arise to partner Him at the place of intercession for the fullness of His will to be done.