

LETTER 83
1992

THE PREDICTION ABOUT MEMPHIS

Dear Dr MacRae,

Thank you for your letter, I was pleased to learn how God gave such clear evidence of His power and wisdom through enabling His prophet to tell what would happen to Tyre, two hundred years ahead of time. It was also very interesting to see how God caused evidence to be preserved in distant Assyria that would refute the efforts of sinful men to deny this evidence.

You referred to "the even more striking evidence from Memphis in Egypt". Why is it more striking? Please tell me what happened there.

Dear ...

The reason the evidence from Memphis is even more striking than that from Tyre is that while the prophecy about Tyre was fulfilled two hundred years after it was given, nearly a thousand years passed before the one about Memphis was fulfilled, and this occurred in a way that no one could possibly have foreseen.

In Ezek 29 and 30 the prophet told of God's future judgments against Egypt. In these chapters he spoke particularly about the two leading cities of Egypt -- Memphis and Thebes. Thebes, in southern Egypt, was its capital during many centuries. Memphis, several hundred miles north of Thebes, was equally prominent.

There are many verses in these two chapters of Ezekiel that predict disasters for each of those great cities. (In seven places the Hebrew Bible and KJV refer to Memphis as "Noph"; in five places they refer to Thebes as "No".) Several of these verses speak of future judgments against these cities in terms of general destruction, such as most ancient cities experience in the course of the centuries. Thus we read that God will cut off the multitude