

to the wooden door they had put into the door entering this building, unlocked the door, stepped inside. There was a room there, maybe half as big as this room, nothing in the room except a door at that end and a door at the other end. The only light came in through those doors. From the door on this end you could see fairly well in that room. We walked through this door into the next room which was the same size and in that room it was quite dim light, but you could see. There was nothing there. At the other end of that there was another door. We stepped through that door. Now all the light had to come in through these three doors and it was practically pitch dark. He took a little taper out of his pocket and he lit it, and held it up and at the far end of that room there was a pedestal about so high, and on the pedestal was seated a statue of the monkey-headed god Toph, which had been there for perhaps 3000 years and it's still there today. He held up the taper and we looked at it. There are dozens of the idols of ancient Egypt still there in Thebes today. Well, God didn't say about Thebes, "I will destroy the idols and cause the images to cease." He said it about Memphis. 2500 years after Ezekiel wrote, Thebes is still full of images and idols.

What about Memphis? When Thebes was desolate as a result of the attack of Cleopatra's grandfather, Memphis remained a great city of Egypt. 1000 years after Ezekiel wrote, Memphis was the capital, the center of Roman government in Egypt. It was a great city, a city that had thousands and thousands of idols and images in it, probably just as great a city as Thebes, and remained for a thousand years after Ezekiel wrote, an active city. Would these words ever be fulfilled?

A thousand years after Ezekiel wrote, a people began a great movement in the Arabian desert, a people saying, "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." They came out from the Arabian desert, attacked the neighboring nations, offering everybody the choice of the Koran or the sword. Those who denied the existence of Allah they killed. If they found Jews or Christians who believed in one God they permitted them to live, but made them pay a very high tax unless they became Moslems, and within a few years after Mohammed's death the Mohammedan armies came into Egypt and conquered it. Then they decided to build a new capital city for themselves, a city in which idolatry should never have been practiced, and they selected a fine site for their new city. The site they chose for their new city happened to be just ten miles from Memphis. The result was that, needing stone for building their buildings, they went over to the remains of Memphis which now had become deserted. They knocked down the buildings, they knocked down the statues, they knocked down the idols, and they used it as a quarry, carrying the stones the ten miles to use in building Cairo. You go to Memphis today and there's a fine forest there. There is one statue of Ramses II, a statue perhaps twice as long as this room, but it lies flat on its back and is broken into three pieces. There's also a little sphinx which is perhaps slightly bigger than this table, and that is all that remains of the images and idols in Memphis, that great city with thousands of images and idols in it in ancient times. How would Ezekiel know that this would happen a thousand years after his time, that the Mohammedans would come into existence and build their new city just ten miles from Memphis? He couldn't know anything about it. But God directed in such a way that Ezekiel, in his denunciation of these enemies of the people of God, would make this specific statement here about Memphis which has been, as we noticed, literally fulfilled in this fashion.

We don't have time to speak about Ezekiel 26, the prediction about Tyre, a most remarkable prediction, because I'd like to say a word about a prediction in the New Testament. This is a prediction which we find in the book of Luke where we read that Jerusalem is going to be trodden down of the Gentiles. It's in Luke 21 where we read the great prediction Jesus made of the future, and He said in Luke 21:24 that Jerusalem should be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. This prediction was made about Jerusalem by Jesus, and for forty years after Jesus' time Jerusalem continued a great Jewish city. Then in 70 A.D., Jerusalem was conquered by the Romans,