

The city of Memphis and the City of Thebes. EEzek. 30:13, "I will destroy their idols and I will cause their images to cease from Noph( the KJV says Noph and very few people know what Noph is). Noph is the abbreviation for Men-nopher which is the regular form of what we call Memphis. The Greeks shortened it to Memphis but Mennopher is the way the Egyptians said it and that's the way it is in the Hebrew but it is shortened there to Noph. So in the NSRB we have put Memphis in the text, which is what the word really means. Then the abbreviation we have put in the margin (KJV, Noph) so you can see exactly what the KJV says in the margin, but you know what it means in the text.

Then v. 14 ends with the words "I will execute judgment in No." The margin in the NSRB says "that is Thebes". Thebes in ancient records was often called No -- another name for the city. We find it in Assyrian or other records. It is not just an abbreviation so we've kept the word in the text. No is the city of Thebes, no question about it. Noph is abbreviation for Memphis. So he says, I will execute judgment in Thebes. V. 15 ends with "I will cut off the multitude of No " Verse 16 ends, "And Memphis(~~Memphis~~) No shall be torn assunder and Memphis shall have distresses daily."

You notice he said, "I will cut off the multitude of Thebes(v.15) "I will execute judgment in Thebes"(v.14). Thebes will be rent or torn assunder (v.16). Those are rather general. You could say those about almost any ancient city that was conquered sometime. It would have distress; its multitudes would be cut off; it would be rent assunder. Yet these have been fulfilled a little more exactly than that about Thebes. Still they might have been of a good many other cities. City of Thebes is about 500 mi. S. of the Med. Sea. It was a great capitol of Egypt during a great part of ancient history. Thebes revolted against Ptolemy, and was put down and had distresses. Later it revolted again against the grandfather of Cleopatra, and he marched against it with an army, drove the people away and left the city a ruins. So he cut off the multitude. But that ruin remained the greatest outdoor museum in the world. Because ancient Thebes covered a tremendous area where the Pharaohs of Egypt over a period some thousands of years built their great temples and monuments. To this day it is perhaps the greatest outdoor museum in the world. This says "Thebes shall be rent assunder." As you look at those temples and palaces in a broken condition, you say, Yes it is rent assunder. In addition to that it ceased to be a city. In the time of Christ, Strabo, the Greek geographer said that it was divided into seven villages - no longer a city - and it remained(s) a number of villages today ie. Carnak, Luxor, different villages that occupy the large site that used to be the city of Thebes. So this has been fulfilled of Thebes, but it's not so tremendous what it says about Thebes.

Look what it said about Memphis, v.13. "I will destroy the idols and cause the images to cease from Memphis." He did not say this about Thebes, you notice. Suppose he'd said it about Thebes. What would you find? Well, I had my picture taken in Thebes standing in front of a statue which was so high my head only came to the knees of it. There was that statue standing and that was one of ~~many~~ maybe a long row of 30 statues. And another 30 on the other side facing them all as large as that. And there maybe maybe 200 large statues standing in Thebes and a great many small ones, and one or two extremely huge ones! If