nobody would have expected such a result humanly, it came to pass. And the places where formerly the great cities of Mesopotamia existed for centuries, those places today are just empty places out in the middle of the desert and the great cities today in that region are 20 or 30 miles away from them along the new course of the river.

Now I want to go to the other great empire of Ancient times -- the empire of Egypt. And we have looked at Ezekiel 30. In ch. 30 there are predictions about God's coming punishment of Egypt in ancient times and there are declarations of things that He is going to do there. I want to call your attention to one of these important declarations about Egypt, and what he said about two important cities in ancient Egypt.

These two cities, we speak of in our histories, as Thebes and Memphis. Thebes was simply called No in ancient times which meant the city, the particular city, the great city. So where you read the name No in this prediction as the name of a city, all interpreters agree it means Thebes. And Memphis was called by an abbreviated form of the word Memphis -- Noph. Tge KJV simply transliterates Noph. The RSV of 1901 translates it as Memphis, because that is unquestionably what Noph means. I'll read Memphis and Thebes then where it says Noph and No in the KJV. The passage I call your attention to is in Ezek. 30:13-16 (reading text . . .)

"Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease from Memphis". You notice it doesn't say from Thebes, it says from Memphis. "And there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt; and I will put a fire in the land of Egypt." Now I want to stop a minute over this statement: "There shall no more be a prince over the land of Egypt." In the time when Ezekiel was writing Egypt had had local kings, had had Egyptian kings for many centuries, in fact for thousands of years. They had been for a brief time under the Hyksos, when they were under foreign domination. They were so ashamed of being under foreign domination that they put up no monuments to celebrate the driving out of the Hyksos. They wanted to forget altogether they had ever been under foreign domination. The Egyptians were so very nationalistic in those days that in the ancient Egyptian writings, the sign for a foreigner is a man with his hands tied behind his back and blood flowing from a wound in his head. Whenever they refer to a foreigner it always has that sign placed before that reference to a foreigner. Even in inscriptions telling of the visit of great king from some other country to Egypt and how he was honored while he was there. His name was always preceeded by this sign. The Egyptians were so very nationalistic in those days. Ezekiel says there shall no more be a prince of the land of Egypt. One might easily think there was aperiod with no local -- no Egyptian king, but you would not expect that Egypt after these thousands of years of always having their Egyptian kings would enter a period when it would be completely under foreign domination.

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