

He says, The Lord may come one time or another. He'll come when He chooses. Why should we be terribly curious about it? He wants us always to live in such a way that we are ready for His coming no matter if He should come today. That's why He says in Luke 12, This is the kind of men you are, men who are waiting for their ~~fx~~ master and ready no matter when he comes. Predictions of the future are mostly given for their effect upon the readers; for the improvement of our lives and for our loyalty to the Lord. To show how wickedness suffers and how righteousness triumphs as God chooses to cause it to do so. But occasionally as in the case of the cities of Babylon God has given a specific prediction, not to satisfy our curiosity about the future, but as a little indication or evidence that here was knowledge that no one but God Himself could have had?

How could any man know that the rivers would change their courses in that way in Babylon and Assyria and would not do so in Egypt? or in Israel? How would any man ~~k~~ have know that this would happen so long after?

We have predictions about Egypt in various places. I call your attention to the predictions contained in Ezekiel 30. There are general predictions about Egypt, but there are specific predictions about certain cities and particularly about two ~~sxx~~ cities Memphis and Thebes. Memphis and Thebes were the two most important cities of ancient Egypt. Thebes was in S. Egypt, the place where the great kings had their monuments and where they went back to honor their ancestors. Memphis was at the edge of the delta in N. Egypt, the place where the greater amount of commerce and activity took place. Now Memphis is written in Hebrew as Noph, an abriviation for Mene-noph, the Egyptian name for Memphis. The KJV simply calls it Noph. For that reason I am going to read it from the NASB which properly like most translations represents it Memphis. And No was a title used for Thebes. Since we are familiar with the name Thebes for this ~~x xox~~ town in Egypt, it is better I think to use the term we're familiar with. The KJV simply has the word No, but all scholars recognize it stands for Thebes and all recent translations have translated it as Thebes.

So I read from Ezek. 30 beginning with v.13. Note what it says about Memphis and Thebes. "Thus says the Lord God I will also destory the idols and cause the images to cease from Memphis." He certainly did not say that about Rome. Rome had beautiful statues all over the city. That was one of the things I loved when visiting Rome to see the wonderful statues they have. Also many statues some call idols in Rome. But he says this about Memphis, I will cause the images to cease from Memphis, and there will no longer be a prince in the land of Egypt." That's a strange statement. The Egyptians had always hated foreigners in those days. In those days if they represented a foreigner on an Egyptian inscription, the name of the foreigner is preceeded in the heiroglyphics with a picture of a ~~man~~ standing with his hands behind his back and blood flowing from his forehead. Even in Egyptian inscriptions when you find an account of the treaty between the king of Egypt and the king of the Hitties in which they agree to stand on equal terms in every regard, wherever he mentions the king of the Hittites in the treaty, he has this picture first which ~~xxxxxx~~ became simply the Egyptian symbol for foreigners, a picture of a man standing with his hands behind his back and with blood streaming from his head!

Up to the time of Ezekiel Egypt had always been ruled by Egyptian princes and it is inconceivable that a change would ever take place. But within a few years after Ezekiel wrote Egypt was conquered by the Babylonians who held it in subjection for a long time, then the Persians took it over from them, and the Greeks took it over from them, and the