

Isaiah Series Part 7

Chapters 19-20

Security in God not in Earthly Powers



Introduction

We live in a world of alliances. Nations form treaties. Businesses forge partnerships. Families and individuals look for something strong enough to lean on when times are uncertain. But here's the question: *What happens when the thing you trust most to save you is itself crumbling?*



God's Sovereignty Over Egypt(19:1–15)

A. The Lord Comes in Judgment (19:1–4)

The Lord rides on a swift cloud (19:1) – Yahweh is no tribal god but sovereign over Egypt's gods (Motyer).

Egypt's idols tremble – divine powers Egypt trusted in are powerless before Yahweh.

Internal strife and oppression – Egypt will be torn apart by civil war and tyrannical rulers.

Oswalt's insight: The true threat is not foreign nations but the Lord's judgment.

God's Sovereignty Over Egypt(19:1–15)

B. Collapse of National Strength (19:5–10)

Natural resources fail – the Nile, source of life, dries up (symbolic of utter dependence on God).

Economic ruin – fishing, textile, and commerce collapse.

Every level of society shaken – from common laborers to skilled craftsmen.

God's Sovereignty Over Egypt(19:1–15)

C. Leadership in Disarray (19:11–15)

Egypt's wise counselors confounded – supposed wisdom proves folly.

Confusion from the Lord – a spirit of foolishness blinds rulers.

No remedy or stability left – every sector fails
(Motyer: “a total disintegration of society”).

God's Purpose of Redemption for Egypt (19:16–25)

A. Egypt Humbled Before the Lord (19:16–17)

Fear and trembling at Yahweh's hand.

Judah becomes a terror to Egypt – reversal of expected roles.



God's Purpose of Redemption for Egypt (19:16–25)

B. Egypt's Turning to God (19:18–22)

Five cities speaking the language of Canaan – symbolic of allegiance to the Lord.

An altar to Yahweh in Egypt – worship spreading to foreign soil.

The Lord responds to their cries – striking and healing them.

Oswalt: Judgment is a means toward redemption.



God's Purpose of Redemption for Egypt (19:16–25)

C. Egypt, Assyria, and Israel United (19:23–25)

A **highway of reconciliation** between former enemies.
Egypt and Assyria worshiping with Israel – a vision of global unity in the Lord.

Climax: Egypt “My people,” Assyria “the work of my hands,” Israel “my inheritance.”

Motyer: A breathtaking vision of universal salvation.

God's Sign Against False Alliances(20:1–6)

A. The Historical Setting (20:1–2)

Assyria advances under Sargon, threatening nations.

Judah tempted to seek security in Egypt and Cush.

God's Sign Against False Alliances(20:1–6)

B. Isaiah's Prophetic Sign-Act (20:2–4)

Three years walking naked and barefoot – a shocking symbol of humiliation.

A sign of Egypt and Cush led into captivity.

Oswalt: What seems like strength (Egypt) is destined for shame.

God's Sign Against False Alliances(20:1–6)

C. The Warning to Judah (20:5–6)

Judah's misplaced hope exposed – those who trusted in Egypt will be dismayed.

Only the Lord is a sure foundation.

Motyer: God's people must learn that salvation is not in political power but in covenant trust.

Conclusion: God is Our Strong Tower

Isaiah 19–20 gives us two lessons we cannot ignore:

God will topple every false hope. Egypt's rise and fall. Human alliances collapse. Leaders stumble. Wealth evaporates.

God will redeem even the least likely. The ones you fear, despise, or dismiss—God delights to bring near through Christ.

The good news is that Christ has already borne our shame, just as Isaiah walked in shame before Judah. He was stripped, humiliated, and led away—not because He failed, but because He was winning our redemption. And now He builds a highway where enemies are reconciled and nations are called His people.