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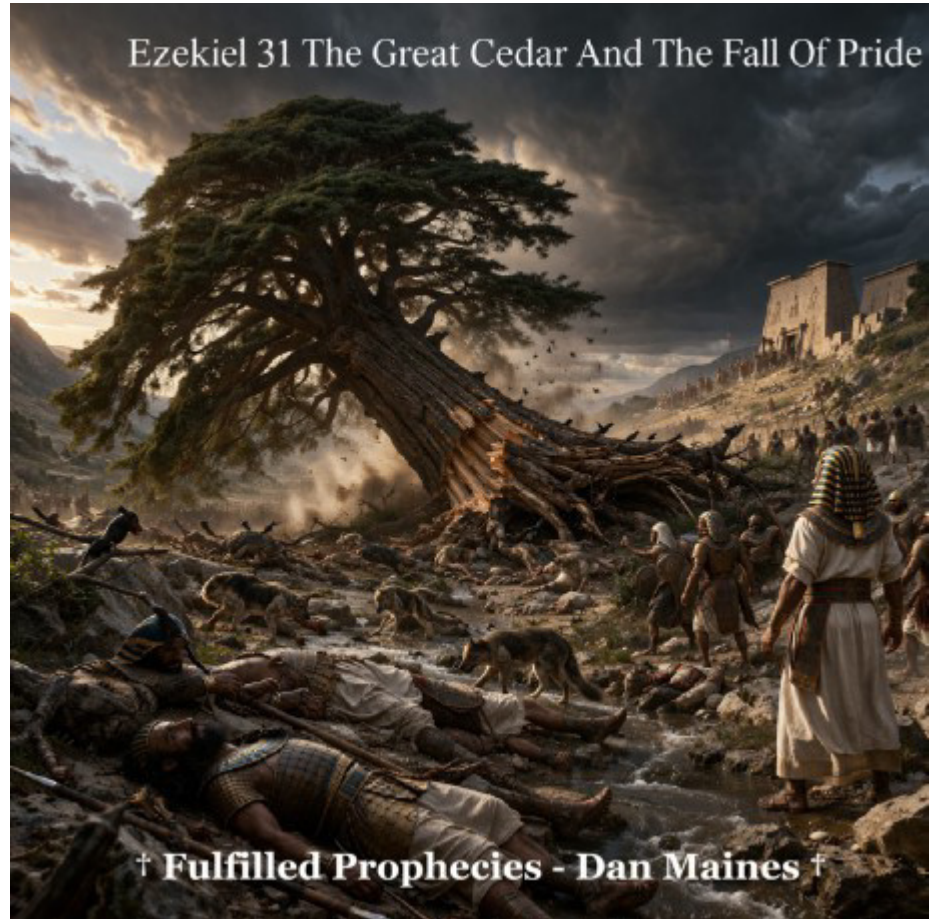
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Ezekiel 31 The Great Cedar And The Fall Of Pride



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 31 The Great Cedar And The Fall Of Pride

Introduction

† This chapter shows us a powerful picture of pride, power, and downfall through the image of a great tree. God compares Pharaoh and Egypt to Assyria, showing that even the greatest kingdoms fall when they exalt themselves.

† The message is simple and direct, no nation, no ruler, no man stands when they lift themselves above God.

† This wasn't just history, it was a warning that was fulfilled in their generation and still speaks clearly today.

Scripture

Ezekiel 31:1-2

Now in the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first of the month, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes, Whom are you like in your greatness?

† God begins by confronting Pharaoh directly, asking who he thinks he is like in greatness. This is a challenge to pride.

† This question exposes the illusion of power. Pharaoh thought he stood above others, but God brings him into comparison.

† This sets the tone, no ruler is beyond accountability, no matter how great they appear.

Ezekiel 31:3

Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon with beautiful branches and forest shade, and very high, and its top was among the clouds.

† Assyria is pictured as a massive cedar, strong, beautiful, and towering above all others.

† This represents worldly power at its peak, nations that dominate and seem untouchable.

† But the focus isn't just on strength, it's on how that strength led to pride.

Ezekiel 31:4-5

The waters made it grow, the deep made it high. With its rivers

it continually extended all around its planting place, and sent out its channels to all the trees of the field. Therefore its height was loftier than all the trees of the field, and its boughs became many and its branches long because of many waters as it spread them out.

† The growth of Assyria came from abundant provision, God allowed it to rise.

† Its expansion and influence spread far, affecting many nations.

† This shows that even worldly success ultimately comes under God's control.

Ezekiel 31:6

All the birds of the sky nested in its boughs, and under its branches all the animals of the field gave birth, and all great nations lived under its shade.

† Nations depended on Assyria, just like creatures depend on a great tree.

† This shows political and economic dominance, others lived under its protection.

† Yet this also reveals how fragile that system is when the source is removed.

Ezekiel 31:7-9

So it was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its branches, for its roots extended to many waters. The cedars in God's garden could not match it, the junipers could not compare with its boughs, and the plane trees were not like its branches. No tree in God's garden could compare with it in its beauty. I made it beautiful with the multitude of its branches, and all the trees of

Eden, which were in the garden of God, were jealous of it.

† God makes it clear, He was the one who made Assyria great.

† The comparison to Eden shows unmatched beauty and prominence.

† Yet even what God builds can fall when pride enters.

Ezekiel 31:10

Therefore this is what the Lord God says: Because it is high in stature and has set its top among the clouds, and its heart is haughty in its loftiness,

† The problem is identified clearly, pride.

† The issue wasn't strength, it was the heart being lifted up.

† Pride is always the turning point before judgment.

Ezekiel 31:11-12

Therefore I will hand it over to a mighty one of the nations; he will thoroughly deal with it. According to its wickedness I have driven it away. Foreigners, the most ruthless of the nations, have cut it down and left it; on the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs have been broken in all the ravines of the land. And all the peoples of the earth have gone down from its shade and left it.

† God handed Assyria over to destruction through other nations.

† What once stood tall was cut down and scattered.

† This shows how quickly power collapses when God removes protection.

Ezekiel 31:13-14

All the birds of the sky will dwell on its ruins, and all the animals of the field will be on its fallen branches, so that none of all the trees by the waters will be exalted in their stature nor set their tops among the clouds, and their mighty ones will not stand in their height. For they have all been given over to death, to the earth below, among the sons of mankind, with those who go down to the pit.

† The fallen tree becomes a place of ruin instead of life.

† This serves as a warning to all nations, don't exalt yourself.

† Death is the equalizer, every man and nation faces it.

Ezekiel 31:15-17

This is what the Lord God says: On the day when it went down to Sheol I caused mourning; I closed the deep over it and held back its rivers. And its many waters were stopped, and I made Lebanon mourn for it, and all the trees of the field wilted away on account of it. I made the nations quake at the sound of its fall when I made it go down to Sheol with those who go down to the pit; and all the well-watered trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, were comforted in the earth below. They also went down with it to Sheol to those who were killed by the sword; and those who were its strength lived under its shade among the nations.

† The fall of Assyria shook the nations.

† Those who depended on it fell with it.

† This shows the ripple effect of judgment.

Ezekiel 31:18

To which among the trees of Eden are you thus equal in glory and greatness? Yet you will be brought down with the trees of

Eden to the earth below; you will lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword. So is Pharaoh and all his hordes, declares the Lord God.

† God brings it back to Pharaoh, this is your future.

† Egypt would follow the same path as Assyria.

† Pride always ends the same way, brought down to the grave.

Historical References

† Josephus records the fall of Assyria and the rise of Babylon, confirming the shift of power exactly as Ezekiel described, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 10.

† Herodotus writes of Egypt's decline and foreign domination, showing Pharaoh's loss of power.

† Eusebius confirms the historical sequence of these empires and their downfall.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Pride still brings people down, just like it brought down nations.

† God still resists the proud and humbles those who exalt themselves, James 4:6.

† No position, wealth, or influence makes anyone untouchable.

† We're called to walk humbly, knowing everything we have comes from God.

† This reminds us that earthly greatness doesn't last, but what God builds in Christ does.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Who was the cedar in Ezekiel 31?

A: Assyria, representing a powerful empire, Ezekiel 31:3.

Q: Why did God judge Assyria?

A: Because of pride and self-exaltation, Ezekiel 31:10.

Q: What was the warning to Pharaoh?

A: That he would fall the same way as Assyria, Ezekiel 31:18.

Q: When was this fulfilled?

A: Assyria fell around 612 BC, and Egypt declined soon after under Babylonian pressure, Jeremiah 46:2.

Q: What lesson does this teach us?

A: God humbles the proud and no earthly power lasts, James 4:6.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 31

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews Book 10; Herodotus, Histories; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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