

How Low Can the Monster Go?**Egypt's Descent to Sheol****Ezekiel 32:17–32****Veritas Adult Community****January 30, 2021****The Word of YHWH**

¹⁷ In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, the following message of YHWH came to me:
¹⁸ Human, wail—you and the women of the majestic nations—over the pomp of Egypt:

Send it down to the netherworld,
 to those who have gone down to the Pit.

¹⁹ “Whom do you surpass in loveliness?
 Go on down and make your bed with the uncircumcised!”

²⁰ Amid the victims of the sword they will fall.
 The sword has been appointed¹.

They have dragged her [Egypt] off,
 along with her entire horde.

²¹ The mightiest of the heroes will speak to him,
 and to his allies, from the midst of Sheol.

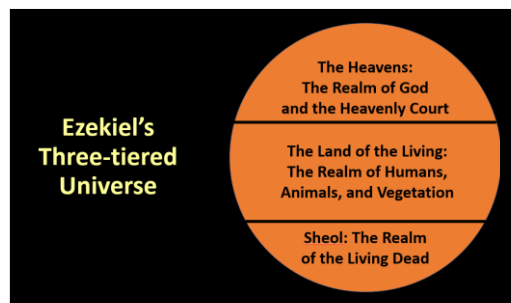
They have gone down;
 They have lain down,
 the uncircumcised,
 the victims of the sword.

²² Assyria is there with her entire company, with her graves round about her. All of them are victims, those who have fallen by the sword, ²³ whose graves have been appointed in the remotest recesses of the Pit. Her company is round about her tomb, all of them victims, having fallen by the sword—the ones who had struck terror in the land of the living.

²⁴ Elam is there with her entire horde, with her tomb round about. All of them are victims, those who have fallen by the sword, who went down uncircumcised to the netherworld. They are the ones who had struck terror in the land of the living. They have borne their disgrace with those who have gone down to the Pit. ²⁵ In the midst of the victims they have appointed a bed for her, along with her entire horde. Her graves are round about. All of them are uncircumcised, victims of the sword. Although their terror was struck on the land of the living, they have borne their disgrace with those who have gone down to the Pit. In the midst of the victims [a bed] has been appointed.

²⁶ Meshech-Tubal is there with her entire horde, with her graves round about. All of them are uncircumcised, having been slain by the sword, although they had struck their terror in the land of the living. ²⁷ But they do not lie with the fallen heroes of old, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, who placed their swords beneath their heads, and whose shields were on top of their bones, although the heroes had terrorized the land of the living. ²⁸ But you will be broken and lie among the uncircumcised, with the victims of the sword.

²⁹ Edom is there, her kings and all her chieftains, who, in spite of their heroism, are assigned [a bed] with the victims of the sword. They too will lie with the uncircumcised, with those who have gone down to the



Pit.

³⁰ The northern princes are there, all of them, along with every Sidonian, who went down in shame with the victims in spite of the terror of their might. They lie uncircumcised with the victims of the sword and bear their disgrace with those who have gone down to the Pit.

³¹ Those Pharaoh will see and be relieved for [the loss of] his entire horde, Pharaoh and his entire army, victims of the sword—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—³² for I will inflict my terror in the land of the living, and he will be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised with the victims of the sword, Pharaoh and his entire horde!

The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Exposition

Introduction

A. Preamble (vv. 17–18) Date: March 17, 585 BC

B. The Lament Over Egypt’s Descent to Sheol (vv. 19–21)

1. The Question

Whom do you surpass in loveliness?

“Mirror, mirror, on the wall,

Who in this land is fairest of all?”

2. The Inhabitants of Sheol

- The uncircumcised
- Executed criminals
- The mightiest of heroes (lit. “rams of the mighty men”)
- The allies of Egypt

C. The “Dishonor Role”: Egypt’s Company in Sheol (vv. 22–30)

1. Assyria (vv. 22–23)
2. Elam (vv. 24–25)
3. Meshech-Tubal (vv. 26–28)
4. Edom (vv. 29)
5. Sidon and the Chiefs of the North (v. 30)

D. The Final Word Concerning Egypt (vv. 31–32)

E. Ezekiel’s Vision of Sheol and the Afterlife

1. Sheol represents the lowest level in Ezekiel’s three-tiered universe.
2. Sheol is a massive communal cemetery, in which graves are arranged by nationality, with the principal grave in the center, surrounded by the graves of attendants.
3. Sheol is a place to which God consigns the wicked.
4. In Sheol the deceased live on as “living corpses.”
5. Ezekiel deliberately demythologizes life after death.

Ezekiel's "Dishonor Roll" in Sheol

Assyria	Elam A	Elam B	Meshech-Tubal	Edom	Northern Princes
Assyria is there	Elam is there		Meshech-Tubal is there	Edom is there,	The northern princes are there,
with her entire company,	with her entire horde,	with her entire horde.	with her entire horde,	her kings and all her chieftains,	all of them, along with every Sidonian,
with her graves round about her.	with her tomb round about.	with her graves round about.	with her graves round about.		
All of them are victims, those who have fallen by the sword,	All of them are victims, those who have fallen by the sword,	All of them are uncircumcised, victims of the sword.	All of them are uncircumcised, having been slain by the sword,		
			although they had struck their terror in the land of the living.		
			But they do not lie with the fallen heroes of old,		
whose graves have been appointed in the remotest recesses of the Pit.	who went down uncircumcised to the netherworld.		who went down to Sheol	who, in spite of their heroism, are assigned [a bed]	who went down in shame
			with their weapons of war, who placed their swords beneath their heads, and whose shields were on top of their bones,		
Her company is round about her tomb,					
all of them victims, having fallen by the sword—				with the victims of the sword.	with the victims
the ones who had struck terror in the land of the living.	They are the ones who had struck terror in the land of the living.	Although their terror was struck on the land of the living,	although the heroes had terrorized the land of the living.		in spite of the terror of their might.
			But you will be broken and lie among the uncircumcised, with the victims of the sword.	They too will lie with the uncircumcised,	They lie uncircumcised with the victims of the sword
	They have borne their disgrace with those who have gone down to the Pit.	they have borne their disgrace with those who have gone down to the Pit.		with those who have gone down to the Pit.	and bear their disgrace with those who have gone down to the Pit.
	In the midst of the victims they have appointed a bed for her,	In the midst of the victims [a bed] has been appointed.			