

SYMBOLIC GYMNASTICS

Isaiah 19-20

INTRODUCTION:

Need to first call attention to "the live issue" of the Prophet.

One term - "Burden" - describes the situation.

Ancient civilization - Egypt. Bible helps us see beyond the ordinary account of a nation.

Type - Egypt, Taskmaster Of Israel.

World, Independence of God.

Flesh, Hard Bondage.

Chapter 19-20 - Filled with symbols of action. Each symbol moves and suggest a phase requiring athletic skill. Give an idea.

Hence my subject "Symbolic Gymnastics".

The outline is: I. Spiraling Symbol - Verse 1-4.

II. Skrinking Symbol - Verse 5-10.

III. Staggering Symbol - Verse 11-17.

IV. Spanning Symbol - Verse 18-25.

V. Sermonizing Symbol - Verse 20:1-6.

I. Spiraling Symbol - 19:1-4.

Spiral describes 2 things - Jehovah coming down on a swift cloud and Egypt coming down through swift judgment.

What an opening - Jehovah is rolling down from Heaven. The false gods flee, an internal disruption becomes the order of the day for the nation. Distrust, animosity, no common interest to unite the people.

Jehovah spirals down using a cloud for transportation.

Takes his place upon the judges bench.

No mention of foreign armies. The Judge is above all opposition. Majesty is supreme. Judgment lingers and begins to take its toll. "Hearts Melt" - false gods flee. As Dagon before the Ark.

Verse 2 - Nation enters a spiral - what is modern day application? Look for it.

No kingdom had a better army than the Egyptians.

Reverse - Dissensions among themselves. Distrust, no confidence. They need no enemy from without, they will bring destruction upon one another.

A Kingdom divided against itself would soon be brought to desolation.

A perverse spirit of disagreements is among them.

Have you made the application yet? Race against race. Class against class.

No Russian Army is need to destroy Washington. No Chinese Army to disrupt Detroit.

All that is necessary -- A group make a few demands, distrust the leadership and bombs are not needed.

Fires are set - People literally destroy each other. Handful of students take over University. It is not an impossible prophecy! Black against black, Neighbor against neighbor, city against city, state against state. Common interest to destroy one another. It is said Egypt at one time was divided into 12 small kingdoms.

Not Long Ago - Raleigh, N.C - 5,000 Negroes Marched Through Streets - Capital - Riots. Singing - "I have decided to follow Jesus" + "On Ward, Christian Soldiers" Show their Christian faith, good citizenship - Not one National TV program carried the Demonstration - Not Reported in National News

Verse 3 - Lost all power of self-control!

Politics - blasted and not knowing the answer. All counsel destroyed. Wisdom taken from the statesmen.

Egypt noted for wise counsellors. Pharaoh famous for wise counsellors, they had become fools. Loss of all common sense. No longer boasting of great understanding or famous records.

Verse 4 - Government spirals. Serpent of tyranny and oppression.

Fierce king - Hard Lord - not external conqueror.

The "Hard Pharaoh" reversed - oppressed Israel.

II. Shrinking Symbol - Verse 5-10

Verse 5 - Nile River = Famous, wealth of Egypt practically consist in her river.

Swollen River - Flood desert, have rich deposit, Industry, food, depended upon The Nile.

Shrinking prophesied - waters to fail. Zech. 14:18. All depended upon the overflow. Now to dry up.

Wasting - drying - today?

Suez Canal - After Israel War (6 Days) - Not open - Engineers say if continues closed for certain period, no longer good for ships. Filling in with sand. Today, ships cannot pass! Require much work to re-open. Wasted! This is not impossible prophecy.

Verse 6 - Arms of the river - Creeks - Parched - smooth over.

Verse 7 - Crops - Too dry for planting - Even reed, rush shriveled - Grassy tracts by the waters edge dry up. Shrinking - Source of prosperity shriveled and disappears.

Verse 8 - Food - Fish. Fishermen lament the loss. Nets are on the shore nothing to fish for.

Verse 10 - Private Ponds - Dried up - Used to replenish with fish. Food year around.

Verse 9 - Flax = Industry shrinks. Linen, a great trade ruined.

Solomon's merchants traded with Egypt for linen = yarn. I Kings 10:28.

Their country made the world's finest.

Decay of the trade - either materials not available, or there is a lack of demand.

III. Staggering Symbol = Verse 11-17.

Verse 11 - Rulers of Zo-An. Human wisdom is folly. Point back to Pharaoh's wise counselors. Boast of their succession. Wise have disappeared. Fools.

Verse 12 - Where are your wise men? Show their wisdom by foretelling the coming ruin and prevent it. Purpose.

Verse 13 - Princes. A. Fools ✓
B. Proud ✓
C. Deceived ✓
D. Seduced ✓

Those who were corner stone now undermining it. Those who suppose to help have helped on to destruction. Their physicians made the disease worse.

Denied root of evil.

Verse 14 - Summary - Staggering Symbol

Every step they took was false. Unsteady, uncertain, staggering as a drunken man!

Bewildered counsels - no security.

Verse 15 - Politics failed. United Nations. League of Nations - Staggering.

Verse 16 - Fear - Egyptians - Two Things:

A. What they see in their land! Shaking - Counsel fails, river fails, politics fail - destruction.

B. What they hear from Judah!

Hear what Sennacherib has done in Judah, Egypt expects a bitter cup.

Remnant - Strange people. Jews coming more and more into their own. Egypt stands for the Gentiles.

IV. Spanning Symbol - 18-25.

Verse 18 - A span is to be built across this visitation. Changes take place. Sun shines. Mercy is in store for Egypt.

For complete fulfillment this must wait for the conversion of Egypt to faith in Christ.

Language - Holy language - Language of the Scripture. Introduced to the people of God.

Jews going to replenish 5 cities and reside in Egypt and multiply and embrace their religion.

Language of Canaan is strange to Egypt but express Holy truths.

How many words have you learned since turning to God. Speech of grace is different. Speech of the world (Egypt) is different.

Verse 19 - Altar to Span - Public worship of God in their land. Must understand this spiritually.

Serve God not be ashamed to own him, but do something for a witness. That is why you as a Christian should be in God's house each Lord's Day!

Not just Lip Service.

Altar - A sign of conversion - built to Jehovah! Plenty of idol altars.

Pillar - Jacob set up on the night of distress and welcomed the figure of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Not pyramid!

Verse 20 - In distress they seek God - Prayer.

Why have an interest in The Redeemer?

Jesus, is the Saviour and great one spoken of here.

Verse 21 - Knowledge of the Lord. For ages Judah had the knowledge of God, now the Lord's name will be known in Egypt.

Knowledge here - Do you know him?

Vow - And keep the vow! Why not promise God?

Verse 22 - Healing will span Egypt.

No need for Force - Now or in far off day.

Blow that - Smites.

Blow that - Heals.

Discipline, chastening - now love, recovery.

Verse 23 - Real symbol - Highway Spanning.

Fellowship.

Joined to the Lord - Joined to each other - Feuds - Wars over.

Highway - Trade between.

Friendly Between.

A road free between extremes Egypt and Assyria. The world and violence and God's people. Great change when Egypt accepts this knowledge of God.

Noah - Evil covered earth - Span by the Ark.

No longer do all roads lead to Rome but to Jerusalem. And you can enter that land from Egypt or Assyria. Prophecy come to pass that Abraham heard "In Thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed".

Verse 24 - Gentiles not only unite with each other in the Gospel, but they shall all unite with the Jews "Third". Ceremonial law, partition wall, removed and all blessed.

Verse 25 - Final Spiritual Blessing.

Israel be blessing to them - Christ come.

Own him together.

V. Sermonizing Symbol 20:1-6.

20:1 - Visitation on Egypt and Ethiopia Dated.

Ashdod - Strong city of Philistines, taken by the Assyrians.

Verse 2 - Prophets Sermon in Symbol.

Unusual dress. Some think sackclothes - some clothes of mourner.

Take off outter garment in East give this impression. Nocked. Not literal.

Upper garment - Tunic - Skirt showing.

Shoes - Barefoot.

Boys in street hoot him. Ridicule

Spring of Year - Danger catching cold!

Show himself in public.

Verse 3 - Sign to Egypt - Ethiopians.

To obey is better than sacrifice. 3 years or 3 days. Humiliation of Egypt within 3 years.

Verse 4 - Shame of Egypt - Led away - Proud people.

Verse 5 - Humiliation on those who put their trust in Egypt.

Now ashamed of them. Over run. Made them their glory. So put it in the

place of God. Sooner or later be ashamed. Disappointment in it will bring and increase in their fear.

Verse 6 - Isle - Land of Judah situated upon the sea-surrounded. Satan has used the negative "Misery Loves Company".

Egypt as a type still serves Satan.

God over ruling purpose.

Isle - Church - Greatest need of the Church of Jesus Christ Today
is to catch fire,

World not impressed with orthodox creeds, organizations,
But - " " " " when it senses that God is in our midst -
When there is power & men are changed by the power of the Gospel.

British lawyer: The world does not believe that the
"Believers Believe" "

Is our faith a fake?

What do we have to offer? Not empty promises -