

Ask The Rabbi – July 27 2021

Question:

Could you please explain the Isaiah 19 Highway?

Response:

Note: what I about to share with you was written back in 2019 in response to a narrative presented to me about the Isaiah 19 highway and that of the premise of a book by Tom Hess entitled “The Isaiah 19 Highway” Both of which focused on the current state of the Middle East and those that currently populate the region and thus the perspective by which Scripture is being interpreted. Avner Boskey, for whom I have never met and was first introduced to through an article he wrote back in 2016 pertaining to Isaiah 19 as further research for tonight's “Ask the Rabbi” question confirmed much of what Adonai had revealed to me pertaining to Isaiah 19.

Reading what you have conveyed pertaining to Isaiah 19 and specifically verses 16 - 25,

Isa 19:16 On that day Egypt will be like women trembling with fear, because Adonai-Tzva'ot is shaking his fist at them.

Isa 19:17 Just mentioning the land of Y'hudah to the Egyptians will throw them into panic; they will be afraid because of what Adonai-Tzva'ot has planned for them.

Isa 19:18 On that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Kena'an and swear loyalty to Adonai-Tzva'ot; one of them will be called the City of Destruction. [*Hebrew `ir haheres, parodying `ir hacheres, "City of the Sun," i.e., Heliopolis*]

Isa 19:19 On that day there will be an altar to Adonai in the middle of the land of Egypt, as well as a standing-stone for Adonai at its border.

Isa 19:20 It will be a sign and witness to Adonai-Tzva'ot in the land of Egypt; so that when they cry out to Adonai for help because of the oppressors, he will send them a savior to defend and rescue them.

Isa 19:21 Adonai will make himself known to Egypt; on that day, the Egyptians will know Adonai. They will worship him with sacrifices and offerings, they will make vows to Adonai and keep them.

Isa 19:22 Yet Adonai will strike Egypt, both striking and healing, so they will return to Adonai. He will listen to their prayers, and he will heal them.

Isa 19:23 On that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Ashur. Ashur will come to Egypt and Egypt to Ashur, and Egypt will worship with Ashur.

Isa 19:24 On that day Isra'el will be a third partner with Egypt and Ashur, a blessing here on earth;

Isa 19:25 for Adonai-Tzva'ot has blessed him: "Blessed be Egypt my people, Ashur the work of my hands and Isra'el my heritage."

...there are a few things that I believe require context, thus providing a different perspective for these verses than are typically understood through today's lens of a Muslim Middle East.

I first started by asking the following question after I had read these verses.

Who are Egypt and Ashur?

Much of what you have conveyed is in the context of today. That is, the Middle East being greatly Islamic / Muslim centric where both Egypt of today and Ashur (Assyria) with today being (Iraq / Syria) experience

these influences, that is the Islamic faith. Yet, when you look at the prophecy specifically, speaking directly to Egypt and Ashur (Assyria) they were prime enemies of Israel. Egypt enslaved Israel while Ashur / Assyria were constant thorns in their side and always at them to the point Adonai used Assyria to enact His judgment upon the northern tribes of Israel.

This is who they are – they are direct enemies of Israel.

Another thing you will want to consider because the majority of the premise is focused on Islam at this time. What do I mean by this? Both Egypt as a nation and Assyria (Ashur) as a nation existed long before Ishmael. Egypt descended from Ham through his son Mizraim while Assyria descended through Shem's son Ashur. Both existed long before Ishmael as a people. So, is there another way of possibly looking at Isaiah 19?

Is Isaiah 19 even talking about Ishmael?

I believe we have already seen a very small part of Isaiah 19 happen.

What you ask?

Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1977. Keeping in mind that Egypt is still far from the total fulfillment of Isaiah 19 where they will actually worship Adonai...

Isa 19:21 Adonai will make himself known to Egypt; on that day, the Egyptians will know Adonai. They will worship him with sacrifices and offerings, they will make vows to Adonai and keep them.

Like I said, a very small part of Isaiah 19 has transpired today. There is still so much ahead for Egypt the nation. The challenge today has to do with the national identity of Scripture and the convergence and dominance of the Islamic faith of the Middle East. Today, you really can't distinguish one from the other. Yet, what I am asking you to look at is not the Middle East as it appears today, but rather the prophecy as it pertains to the historical context as laid out through the Tanakh.

What I am sharing will likely be a contrarian position to what many have written, but these are my thoughts as I have studied what you have shared and prayed for understanding. The primary thing that stood out and impressed upon me was Ishmael's relationship to Egypt and Ashur according to Scripture. I know this presses heavy on your heart and I apologize for not being able to fully support what you have shared pertaining to the Muslim world. As I had conveyed previously there is still much to these verses for which I am only scratching the surface.

I believe the promises for the nations of Ishmael are equally found in Ephesians 2 and 3. Additionally, and no less impactful, Isaiah 42 and 49 regarding and thus Israel's role in Adonai's plan towards the nations. Any time we look at prophecy, we must look through the lens of biblical historical context, not our present context as the world appears today. The way I describe the Bible to people is as follows:

"The Bible documents Adonai's relationship with Israel and how it impacts the rest of the world."

We must look at Scripture as being Israel (Jewish people) centric, not world or church centric. If we are to look at it in any other way, opens the door to errors and incorrect interpretation and therefore erroneous understanding. The simplicity of replacement theology is rife with errors in understanding and yet fully embraced by many believers in Messiah. This premise flies in the face of Scripture itself. Think of it this way. In saying the church has replaced Israel, how would one explain Romans 11 and its conclusion...

Rom 11:1 "In that case, I say, isn't it that God has repudiated his people?" Heaven forbid! For I myself am a son of Isra'el, from the seed of Avraham,

of the tribe of Binyamin.

Rom 11:2 God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don't you know what the Tanakh says about Eliyahu? He pleads with

God against Isra'el,

Rom 11:3 "Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I'm the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!"

Rom 11:4 But what is God's answer to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba'al."

Rom 11:5 It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

Rom 11:13 However, to those of you who are Gentiles I say this: since I myself am an emissary sent to the Gentiles, I make known the importance of my work

Rom 11:14 in the hope that somehow I may provoke some of my own people to jealousy and save some of them!

Rom 11:15 For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead!

Rom 11:28 With respect to the Good News they are hated for your sake. But with respect to being chosen they are loved for the Patriarchs' sake,

Rom 11:29 for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable.

A good rule to follow is contextual in nature. If a writer is speaking of something specifically, such as Sha'ul writing about Isra'el in Romans 11, then throughout his writings, Israel means Israel. Nowhere does the context of Isra'el ever change and thus becomes understood as the church. This is poor grammar regardless of whatever language you are reading.

I would encourage you to read Romans 9 - 11 in its entirety for a full context of what Sha'ul presents in relation to Isra'el, the Jewish people and their proximity to Yeshua and Adonai's "plan" of salvation.

Avner Boskey conveys these six prophetic truths pertaining to Isaiah 19:

Isaiah 19 describes astounding future events which will take place between Egypt and the Jewish state. Though verses 1-15 may speak of a future day, it is clear that verses 16-25 are prophetically spoken about days to come. The prophecy stresses six times that these events will come to pass "in that day" (verses 16, 18, 19, 21, 23-24).

- ***Each one of these six prophecies needs to be blended into a final composite of the prophetic picture, and each of them must be seriously weighed in order that our prophetic perspective be biblically balanced***

Prophecy #1 – *The nation of Egypt will tremble in terror because of how God will strategically use the Jewish state to judge the Egyptians (vv. 16-17)*

Prophecy #2 – *Five Egyptians cities will speak fluent Hebrew, and will unashamedly declare their fealty to the God of the armies of Israel (see 1 Samuel 17:26, 45). It seems that one city of Egypt will have been totally destroyed in war and then will later be rebuilt (verse 18)*

Prophecy #3 – *Two outstanding monuments will be dedicated to YHVH, the God of the armies of Israel. One will be in the center of the country, one at the border between Egypt and Israel. These will be signs of Egypt's respect for and faith in the God of Israel, and of His deliverance and rescue of the Egyptians (verses 19-20)*

Prophecy #4 – *The God of Israel will reveal Himself to the Egyptians, and they will know the Lord, worshiping Him and taking vows in YHVH's name. Though the God of Israel will need to strike Egypt, the purpose behind that bruising is so that Egypt would turn to Him. Upon that turning, YHVH will heal Egypt*

(verses 21-22)

Prophecy #5 – After Egypt's repentance and turning to the God of Israel, the prophesied highway will come into its own. Both Egypt and Assyria (northern Iraq) will worship YHVH the God of Israel at an acceptable time and in an acceptable way (see also Psalm 69:13). Peace will come to this region after Assyria and Egypt turn to the Lord, accept His sovereign rule and align themselves wholeheartedly with YHVH's sovereign choice of Israel (verse 23)

*Prophecy #6 – Now comes a prophecy of a divinely blessed cooperation between three countries – Israel, Egypt and Assyria (northern Iraq). Whereas Egypt and Assyria were once mortal enemies – always at each other's throats – now they will find peace with each other by first finding peace with God. And this **highway** which will join former superpower enemies to each other runs through the land and the people of Israel. Israel is described here as a blessing in the midst of these two earthly superpowers, the 'golden clasp' that brings harmony to the Middle East and to the world (verses 24-25; see also Romans 11:12,15)*

Excerpts were used from David's Tent Ministry:

<https://davidstent.org/the-isaiah-19-highway-prophecies-amidst-the-potholes/>

When approaching such a challenge, that is in understanding a passage of Scripture.

- First read the Scripture.
- Second, pray about it - "Lord, how am I to understand these verses within your context.
- Third, wait.
- Fourth, confirm what He has shared with you. You may want to consult with a teacher you trust and will share with you their Biblical perspective.

Question:

My "ask the Rabbi" question revolves around Lev. 19:18

18 Don't take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbor as yourself; I am ADONAI.

The first part isn't easy, but the second part for some people is impossible. How do you fulfill the mitzvot if you don't love yourself? There are many people that don't love themselves. Would it mean to love your neighbor as yourself mean a foreigner or next door neighbor as you would one of your family, or do you really have love yourself?

Response:

This question pertaining to Leviticus 19:18 can be seen as the next logical progression for tonight in that I shared with you two of Isra'el's and therefore Adonai's enemies, Egypt and Assyria. We experienced through Isaiah 19 a miraculous occurrence whereby Egypt and Assyria will come to know Adonai and thus be reconciled to Him.

We are witnessing Adonai's Word in action and thus come to see Him practice what He preaches. For we know the relationship between Isra'el and Egypt through the Passover story. Adonai brought them to their knees to where they would never again come to be the prominent world power, yet their presence within the life of Isra'el did not disappear. Egypt became a prominent place for Yeshua, who would reside in Egypt for a

time.

Mat 2:13 After they had gone, an angel of Adonai appeared to Yosef in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave. For Herod is going to look for the child in order to kill him."

Mat 2:14 So he got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt,

Mat 2:15 where he stayed until Herod died. This happened in order to fulfill what Adonai had said through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

For which a prophecy associated with the Jewish people would gain its own prominence through Yeshua...

Out of Egypt I called my son. [Hos 11:1](#) clearly refers not to the Messiah but to the people of Israel, who were called God's son even before leaving Egypt ([Exo 4:22](#)). The previous two *Tanakh* quotations ([Mat 1:23](#), [Mat 2:6](#)) involved literal fulfillment, but this does not. In what sense, then, does Yeshua's flight to Egypt **fulfill what Adonai had said through the prophet?**

Thus we witness through Isaiah 19 that Adonai does not hold a grudge against Egypt the nation, comprising the people and thus will redeem the nation from their transgression against Adonai and His people.

How does one love others if one doesn't love themselves?

This is a rather complex matter and will be different for each individual, thus I don't believe I can answer this in one way, but will at least offer some questions to pose to yourself.

1. Why don't you love yourself?

For some this is a question we tend to suppress and ignore. This question may not appear to be common among people, particularly among believers, yet I believe it is.

If you start listing things about yourself that are the foundation for why you don't love yourself, the next question to ask is...

2. Are these true?

Are these aspects you have listed about yourself true?

How can we determine whether they are true or not?

Simply put, how does Adonai see you?

Num 23:19 "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.

What does Scripture say about you?

Psa 139:13 For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:14 I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders—I know this very well.

Psa 139:15 My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had been shaped before any of them existed.

As one who calls Yeshua Lord, you have been redeemed from the lies of the adversary...

1Co 6:19 Or don't you know that your body is a temple for the Ruach HaKodesh who lives inside you, whom you received from God? The fact is, you don't belong to yourselves;

1Co 6:20 for you were bought at a price. So use your bodies to glorify God.

He does not lie because the truth, His truth and lies can not reside together. The lies that you have come to believe about yourself are the product of the adversary and result in a house, yourself being divided.

Mar 3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom can't survive;

Mar 3:25 and if a household is divided against itself, that household can't survive.

Mar 3:26 So if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he can't survive either; and that's the end of him.

The intent of the adversary is to divide you from the Love of Messiah through lies, manifesting themselves in doubt leading to discouragement and ending in defeat.

Joh 8:39 They answered him, "Our father is Avraham." Yeshua replied, "If you are children of Avraham, then do the things Avraham did!

Joh 8:40 As it is, you are out to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Avraham did nothing like that!

Joh 8:41 You are doing the things your father does." "We're not illegitimate children!" they said to him. "We have only one Father—God!"

Joh 8:42 Yeshua replied to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me; because I came out from God; and now I have arrived here. I did not come on my own; he sent me.

Joh 8:43 Why don't you understand what I'm saying? Because you can't bear to listen to my message.

Joh 8:44 You belong to your father, Satan, and you want to carry out your father's desires. From the start he was a murderer, and he has never stood by the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is speaking in character; because he is a liar—indeed, the inventor of the lie!

Joh 8:45 But as for me, because I tell the truth you don't believe me.

Joh 8:46 Which one of you can show me where I'm wrong? If I'm telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

Joh 8:47 Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says; the reason you don't listen is that you don't belong to God."

For many of you in our congregation who are gentiles remember this truth...

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth—called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised—

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without

God.

Eph 2:13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

Eph 2:14 For he himself is our shalom—he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

Eph 2:15 by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

Eph 2:16 and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

Eph 2:17 Also, when he came, he announced as Good News shalom to you far off and shalom to those nearby,

Eph 2:18 news that through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

You are no longer foreigners and aliens to the promises of Adonai.

You are no longer in this world without hope and without God. For you have been brought near.

Thus the challenge should anyone be experiencing this dynamic about loving yourself, The world may have beaten you down, family may have beaten you down, the body of Messiah may have beaten you down, yet there is one and will always be one who lifts you up...

Psa 63:1 [*A psalm of David, when he was in the desert of Y'hudah.*] O God, you are my God; I will seek you eagerly. My heart thirsts for you, my body longs for you in a land parched and exhausted, where no water can be found.

Psa 63:2 I used to contemplate you in the sanctuary, seeing your power and glory;

Psa 63:3 for your grace is better than life. My lips will worship you.

Psa 63:4 Yes, I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psa 63:5 I am as satisfied as with rich food; my mouth praises you with joy on my lips

Psa 63:6 when I remember you on my bed and meditate on you in the night watches.

Psa 63:7 For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice;

Psa 63:8 my heart clings to you; your right hand supports me.

Psa 63:9 But those who seek to destroy my life—may they go to the lowest parts of the earth.

Psa 63:10 May they be given over to the power of the sword; may they become prey for jackals.

Psa 63:11 But the king will rejoice in God. Everyone who swears by him will exult, for the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Thus remember how you were created and by whom you were created and by whom you were redeemed for Adonai only desires the best. Further, remember that you were created in the image and likeness of Adonai and there is only truth that resides in Him. Anything else are lies and there is only one source for lies...the adversary. Don't allow him to take you with him to his already determined fate.