

~NO-AMON - THEBES (130)

(No-a'mon) [from Egyptian, meaning, City of Amon, an Egyptian god]

- .. Becomes Egypt's Capital
- .. Center Of Priesthood
- .. Brought To Ruin

- A prominent city and onetime capital of Egypt, located on both banks of the upper Nile about 530 kilometers (330 miles) South of Cairo. The Greeks knew it as **Thebes**, the name commonly used today. Some scholars in the past have held that the Hebrew **No** is an incorrect rendering of the Egyptian name.

- Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am turning my attention upon Amon from **No** and upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt and upon her gods and upon her kings, even upon Pharaoh and upon all those trusting in him. (**Jeremiah 46:25**)

- However, **Professor T. O. Lambdin** points out that, recent investigations in Egypto-Coptic phonology indicate that the Hebrew spelling may well be correct and may reflect an earlier Egyptian pronunciation. The problem is further complicated by uncertainty on the part of Egyptologists regarding the precise consonantal reading of the Egyptian word itself. [The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, edited by G. A. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 4, pp. 615, 616]

- In ancient Egyptian texts the city is called, **the City of Amon**. This is because it became the principal center of the worship of the god **Amon**, who rose from being a minor deity to the position of chief god of the nation, equated by the Greeks with Zeus or Jupiter.

See Also AMON 4

- Here the pharaohs built enormous monuments and temples, covering an extensive area on the East bank of the Nile, at Karnak and Luxor, with other magnificent temples and a huge burial ground on the West bank. The temple of **Amon** at Karnak is considered the largest columnar structure ever built, some of its massive columns measuring some 3.5 meters (12 feet) in diameter.

- .. Becomes Egypt's Capital

- Particularly during the period that is termed the New Kingdom or Empire: Dynasties 18-20, **Thebes** attained great prominence, becoming the capital of the land. Here, the long distance from the sea and from the land bridge to Asia afforded good protection from that direction.

- It may be that, because of a very weak and discredited government in Lower Egypt following the Israelite Exodus, the royalty of Upper Egypt took advantage of the situation and gained the ascendancy. At any rate, there is evidence of considerable reorganization at this time.

· Center Of Priesthood

- Even when administrative control shifted to other sites, **No-amon, Thebes**, continued to be a wealthy and prominent city, the center of the powerful priesthood of Amon, whose chief priest ranked next to Pharaoh himself in power and wealth.

- But in the **Seventh Century B.C.E**, Assyrian aggression spread into Egypt during the rule of Assyrian King Esar-haddon. His son and successor Ashurbanipal renewed the conquest, reaching **Thebes** and thoroughly sacking the city. It is evidently to this devastation that the prophet Nahum referred when warning Nineveh, Assyria's capital, about a destruction of similar magnitude.

- And it must occur that everyone seeing you will flee away from you and will certainly say; Nineveh has been despoiled! Who will sympathize with her? From where shall I seek comforters for you? (**Nahum 3:7**)

- Are you better than **No-amon**, that was sitting by the Nile canals? Waters were all around her, whose wealth was the sea, whose wall was from the sea. (**Nahum 3:8**)

- Ethiopia was her full might, also Egypt, and that without limit. Put and the Libyans themselves proved to be of assistance to you. (**Nahum 3:9**)

- She, too, was meant for exile, she went into captivity. Her own children also came to be dashed to pieces at the head of all the streets, and over her glorified men they cast lots, and her great ones have all been bound with fetters. (**Nahum 3:10**)

- **No-amon's** defenses, stretching across the road from Palestine and on up the Nile, failed, and the riches from her commercial traffic and religious temples became the prize of the ransacking Assyrians.

.. Brought To Ruin

- Yet, by the close of the **Seventh Century** or the early part of the **Sixth Century B.C.E**, **No-amon** had regained a position of some prominence.
- Jeremiah and Ezekiel foretold a judgment by Jehovah God upon Egypt's chief god, **Amon** of **No**, and upon Pharaoh and all the Egyptian gods, which judgment would come by the hand of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar.
- Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am turning my attention upon **Amon** from **No** and upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt and upon her gods and upon her kings, even upon Pharaoh and upon all those trusting in him. (**Jeremiah 46:25**)
- And I will give them into the hand of those seeking for their soul and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon and into the hand of his servants, and afterward she will be resided in as in the days of old, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 46:26**)
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; I will also cause the crowd of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon. (**Ezekiel 30:10**)
- And I will bring Pathros to desolation and set a fire in Zoan and execute acts of judgment in **No**. (**Ezekiel 30:14**)
- And I will pour out my rage upon Sin, the fortress of Egypt, and cut off the crowd of **No**. (**Ezekiel 30:15**)
- Persian ruler Cambyses dealt another severe blow to **No-amon** in **525 B.C.E**, and the city steadily declined, finally being completely ruined by the Romans under Gaius Cornelius Gallus because of its share in a revolt against Roman rule, **30/29 B.C.E**. Today only small villages are to be found around the massive ruins of the temples of the impotent gods of **No**.