SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 30

The Day of the LORD: Pharaoh's Broken Arm

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 30:21

"Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and, behold, it has not been bound up for healing or wrapped with a bandage, that it may be strong to hold the sword."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 30

This week God shows you a strong man's arm hanging broken. Egypt's idols, cities, allies and king all fell, and no one could bind them up. Let the Lord show you what arm you have been trusting, and then rest your weight on His arm, which never breaks.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Ezekiel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Alas for the Day

READ · EZEKIEL 30:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does God tell Ezekiel to cry out, and what four things will happen when the sword comes upon Egypt (vv2–4)?

REFLECT

God told His prophet to wail, not cheer (v2). How do you usually react when someone who hurt you, or who looked down on you, finally falls?

REFLECT

The day of the LORD was near for Egypt (v3). What would change in how you live this week if you believed God's day of reckoning is near for this world too?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one person far from God whom you care about, and pray for him or her by name every day this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 30:21)

DAY 2 OF 5

Secure Ethiopia

READ · EZEKIEL 30:6–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happens to those who support Egypt, and why does God send messengers in ships to Ethiopia (vv6, 8–9)?

REFLECT

Ethiopia felt safe because it was far away (v9). Where have you told yourself, 'It won't catch up with me'? What happened when it did?

REFLECT

Egypt's helpers broke along with Egypt (v8). Who are the 'helpers' you lean on, and are they leaning on something that will hold?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring one hidden thing into the light today: tell your sponsor, chaplain or a trusted brother the truth about it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 30:21)

DAY 3 OF 5

I the LORD Have Spoken

READ · EZEKIEL 30:10–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Whose hand does God use against Egypt, how does He describe that king and his people, and what does God say at the end of v12?

REFLECT

God used "The most ruthless of the nations" (v11) to carry out His plan. How does it help you to know that even hard, cruel people do not move outside God's control?

REFLECT

The guarantee in v12 is "I the LORD have spoken." Which promise of God do you most need to believe is just as certain?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one promise from Scripture and carry it in your pocket or on your bunk. Read it out loud three times today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 30:21)

DAY 4 OF 5

Idols First

READ · EZEKIEL 30:13–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does God destroy first in v13, and how many cities does He name in vv13–18?

REFLECT

God took down Egypt's idols before its cities (v13). What do you look to for protection or comfort that God may need to take down first?

REFLECT

"The pride of her power will cease in her" (v18). Where has pride in your own power — strength, reputation, being feared — set you up for a fall?

RESPOND — TODAY

Get rid of one thing today that functions as an idol for you, and thank God out loud that He is enough without it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 30:21)

DAY 5 OF 5

Broken Arms, Strong Arms

READ · EZEKIEL 30:20–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What has God already done to Pharaoh's arm, and what will He do for the king of Babylon (vv21–25)?

REFLECT

Pharaoh's arm was broken and not bound up for healing (v21). What strong arm — a person, a paycheck, a connection — has failed you when you needed it?

REFLECT

God decides whose arm is strong (v24). Where do you feel weak right now, and what would it look like to let His strength carry you there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray: Lord, I stop trusting my own arm and the arms of others. Hold me up with Yours. Then tell one man what you prayed.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 30:21)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Ezekiel 30 calls the judgment of Egypt "the day of the LORD" (v3). How can past days of judgment in Scripture help us take the final Day seriously without living in fear?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Egypt's allies and hired soldiers fell with her (vv5–8). How have you seen men go down together because they leaned on the same wrong person or crew?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

God calls Babylon's weapon "My sword" (vv24–25). How does it change things to know God rules even over the powers that seem to be against us?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, You break the arms of the proud and strengthen the weak, so today I lay down my own strength and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 30:21

"Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and, behold, it has not been bound up for healing or wrapped with a bandage, that it may be strong to hold the sword."