

# Isaiah 19:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

## Analysis

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'And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.' The altar and pillar serve as 'sign and witness'—testimony to God's presence and character. Future oppressed Egyptians will cry to Yahweh, and He will send 'a saviour'—deliverer and defender. This parallels Israel's Egyptian experience—they cried out in slavery, God sent Moses as deliverer (Exodus 3:7-10). Now Egyptians will experience similar salvation. The 'great one' (rav) likely refers to a significant leader God raises to deliver Egypt. Reformed theology sees this as typologically fulfilled in Christ, the ultimate Savior who delivers all who call upon Him (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13), including Egyptians. The prophecy demonstrates God's consistent character—He hears cries and sends deliverance to all who turn to Him.

## Historical Context

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Historically, this pattern occurred multiple times: oppressed Egyptian Jews cried to God and found deliverance, Egyptian Christians under persecution experienced divine sustaining, Coptic Church survived various oppressions through centuries. No single historical 'great savior' clearly fulfills this, suggesting either cumulative fulfillment through multiple deliverers or awaiting eschatological fulfillment.

Theologically, Christ is the ultimate Savior for all nations including Egypt—His death and resurrection provide deliverance not from political oppression primarily but from sin, death, and God's wrath. All who cry to Him, including Egyptians, receive salvation (Romans 10:12-13). This transforms the prophecy from political deliverance to spiritual salvation—the greater reality.

## **Related Passages**

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Study Questions**

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1. What does God hearing Egyptian cries and sending a savior teach about His universal compassion?
2. How does this parallel Israel's exodus experience, now extended to Egypt?
3. In what ways is Christ the ultimate fulfillment as Savior of all who call upon Him?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה הַ	לֹא וְת	וְלֵעַד ד	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְת		
H1961	And it shall be for a sign	and for a witness	unto the LORD	of hosts		
	H226	H5707	H3068	H6635		
בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	כִּי	יִצְעָק ו	אֶל	יְהוָה	מִפְּנֵי י
in the land	of Egypt	H3588	for they shall cry	H413	unto the LORD	because
H776	H4714		H6817		H3068	H6440
לְחַצֵּי יָם	וַיִּשְׁלַח ח	לָהֶם	מוֹשֶׁה יֵשׁ	וְגָד ב		
of the oppressors	and he shall send	H0	them a saviour	and a great one		
H3905	H7971		H3467	H7227		
וְהִצִּילָם:						
and he shall deliver						
H5337						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 50:15** (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

**Titus 2:13** (Salvation): Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**Luke 2:11** (Salvation): For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.