

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 49:1-39

“The Intersection of Justice and Mercy”

Introduction: Understanding the holiness of God helps us better understand this section of prophetic passages in Jeremiah. The Babylonian invasion of Judah was a cataclysmic event in world history and affected all nations in close proximity.

Abraham family tree:

Lot – nephew of Abraham/son of Haran	Ammonites
Esau – grandson of Abraham/ son of Isaac	Edomites
Aram – son of Shem (Abraham is descended from the line of Shem)	Syria/Arameans - Damascus
Kedar – grandson of Abraham/son of Ishmael	Kingdoms of Hazor
Elam – son of Shem (Abraham is descended from the line of Shem)	People of Elam
Dedan – grandson of Abraham/son of Jokshan	Dedanites

I. Ammon (Jeremiah 49:1-6)

- Milcom/Molech was the false god worshipped by the Ammonites (1 Kings 11:5-7). The worship of Molech involved human sacrifice (Leviticus 18:21, 20:2-5; Amos 5:25-26; 1 Kings 11:7; Jeremiah 32:35; 2 Kings 23:10). Verses 1-2: The territory of Gad (one of the 12 tribes of Israel) was next to Ammon. Judgement was coming to restore Israel to their land.
- Verse 3: Paul identifies the false gods/idols as demons (1 Corinthians 10:20). The daughters of Rabbah are told to lament over the captivity of Molech. Verses 4-5: Ammon is guilty of trusting in their geographical location and material wealth to keep them safe instead of trusting in God.
- Verse 6: The promise of restoration to their ancestral land will have complete fulfillment during the Millennial reign of Christ. In the time of Christ, the territory of Ammon was part of the Decapolis (Mark 7:31). And known today as Amman in modern day Jordan.

II. Edom (Jeremiah 49:7-22)

- The Edomites dwelt in Mount Seir (Genesis 25:30; Genesis 36:1-9). Verse 8: Dedan is told to flee because Edom will be punished. Dedanites were known for trading (Isaiah 21:13).

- Verse 9-10: It was common practice for harvesters to leave food for the poor. Similarly, thieves would eventually stop stealing when they had enough. However, God will completely punish Esau.
- Verse 12: A cup is used as a symbol of judgement. Some experienced the negative effects of punishment even though they were not responsible (sentenced). In other words, if innocent people had to drink the guilty will surely drink.
- Verse 16: The pride of their heart deceived them. Mount Seir provided a fortress like protection. Verse 18: God references Sodom and Gomorrah to demonstrate how thorough the destruction will be.
- Verse 19: Lion metaphor used to reiterate how quickly God will remove Edom from their territory. Verse 21: The fall of Edom will be so impactful that the earth will shake. Their cry will be so loud it will be heard for a great distance. Verse 22: Eagle metaphor used to express that God will execute judgement and no one can stop it.

III. Syria (Jeremiah 49:23-27)

- Syria is the Aramean kingdom of Damascus (Deuteronomy 26:5). Paul was baptized in Damascus (Acts 9:3-19). The people of Hamath and Arpad worshipped false gods (2 Kings 18:34; 2 Kings 19:10-13). Ben-Hadad means “son of Hadad”. Hadad was a false god worshipped in Damascus. Ben-Hadad was the royal title (not personal name) of the king of Damascus.
- Verse 25: If the city was deserted then the men would not be killed. Verse 26-27: God will destroy Damascus by fire – literally or figuratively representing judgement.

IV. Kedar (Jeremiah 49:28-33)

- Kingdoms of Hazor is a designation of nomadic tribes in northern Arabia comprised of the descendants of Kedar who dwelt in tents and functioned as merchants.
- Verses 28-30: Nebuchadnezzar will attack and their tents and flocks will be taken. Verse 31-32: The people were wealthy dwelling in tents with no fortifications. They would be attacked from every angle. Verse 33: The area will remain desolate.

V. Elam (Jeremiah 49:34-39)

- Verse 35: God will break the bow of Elam which is a signal of defeat (Hosea 1:5). Verse 36: the inhabitants will be scattered to all nations. The phrase “four winds from four quarters of heaven” refer to complete power to scatter from all sides. In other words, there will be no escape.
- Verse 37: God will allow their enemies to defeat them. Verse 38: God will destroy the king and princes of Elam. Verse 39: Promise to regather the captives of Elam (Acts 2:9).

In Conclusion: Predictive prophecy is the clearest evidence of the divine origin and inspiration of Scripture. Some prophecy was fulfilled within the lifetime of the prophet and some much later. Every unconditional predictive prophetic message has been fulfilled with 100% accuracy.

This statement is key to understanding what God is doing in human history.

“This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men” (Daniel 4:17).

At the consummation of human history:

“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:24).

“Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Have you surrendered to the King of Kings?

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Sunday, August 16, 2026