

Jeremiah 50-51 – 28 September 2014

- Chapter 50:1-3
 - Babylon and its gods Bel and Merodach shall be conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire.
- 50:4-5
 - Initial picture of the Jews returning from the Babylonian Captivity in 535 BC.
 - Seems to indicate a future gathering of Israel, when they'll be returning for the purpose of seeking the Lord...this is not yet happened.
 - In these 2 chapters about Babylon, most parts seem to have already happened, but some seems yet to happen in the future.
- 50:6-8
 - Vs 8 – Judah should be like the he-goats that would be the first to leave, but they're not.
 - Vs 6 – The Jews in their Babylonian captivity were like lost sheep with bad shepherds that led them there!
 - Zec 11 speaks of this flock being led to the slaughter.

- Eventually the Anti-Christ will stand up attempting to be their shepherd but will be an idol shepherd.
- Read vs 15-17
- Many in Israel will embrace this idol shepherd b/c they reject the True Shepherd.
 - Jesus sent out His disciples to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matt 10:6)
 - In John 10 Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow Me and I give unto them eternal life!”
- O, the glory of having a Shepherd that cares for and leads us.
 - As Peter said, “For we were as sheep going astray but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.”
- **Let me tell you that, God knows how to shepherd His sheep. There's 3 parts that make this sheep and shepherd relationship work.**

- 50:9-11

- Persia came thru the dry river bed and devoured Babylon while they partied.
 - This is all laid out in Daniel 5.
- Not an archer could miss, since they were already inside the city.
- **The 1st part that makes this shepherd/sheep relationship work is for us to trust that He can conquer the seemingly impossible challenge in front of you.**

- 50:12-14

- The disrespect of using the Jewish Temple vessels in their drunken party.

- 50:15-20

- First Assyria and now Babylon to be punished for their treatment of Israel.
- God has great mercy on Israel to restore His scattered sheep.

- 50:21-25

- It is the Lord's hand that is moving the nations to do whatsoever He wills.

- 50:26-32

- We see America become this same type of nation.
- **The 2nd part that makes this shepherd/sheep relationship work is that we need to humble ourselves and submit to the shepherd's leading.**
- What God's favor and blessings
 - In your nation?
 - In your church?
 - In your family?
 - In your relationships? Humble yourself.
- 50:33-34
 - "Rest to the land" - As God moves the hand of nations to perform His will...He knows the right time.
 - The time of Israel in captivity was perfectly planned out.
 - II Chr 36:21 – Return after Babylon
 - Eze 4 and Lev 26 – Return in May 1948
 - **The 3rd part that makes this shepherd/sheep relationship work is that we need to endure thru and accept His timing.**

- 50:35-40
 - During the Persian period Babylon became more and more of a desolation.
 - Strabo wrote in 20BC that it was all desolation.
 - 1983 Hussein tried to rebuilt with no success.
- 50:41-46
 - Who is he to come against Babylon? Cyrus
 - Read Isa 45:1-6
 - “loose the loins” – Dan 5
 - I do this for Israel’s sake – vs 4
 - I do this for my glory – vs 6
- 51:1-11
 - God names the Medes as the ones to come.
- 51:12-19
 - Jeremiah just breaks into praise for his great Creator God.
- 51:20-24
 - This refers to Cyrus as God’s weapon.
- 51:25-36
 - You know, if they believed God’s Word, they would have understood to protect their

waterways with all the many references to drying up her waterways.

- 51:37-40
 - Remember the drunken party from Dan 5?
- 51:41-44
 - “The sea” is a picture of the massive amount of men the Persian had.
 - See vs 14 – “filled with men”.
 - The next verses are probably the clearest verses that show that there is yet a future destruction of Babylon.
- 51:45-52
 - Rev 17-18
 - My people get ye out of her.
 - Sing over her destruction.
- 51:53
 - This hearkens back to Babylon’s beginnings.
 - Nimrod built Babel up to heaven to avoid another flood.

- 51:54-58
 - And so end the prophecy against the great nation that the world had known up to that date.
 - It took lots of faith from Jeremiah to publish such a book.
- 51:59-64
 - Took this message right to Babylon.
 - It's easy to stand around a bunch of Christians and witness to a non-believer, but how many of us will open our mouth when we're the only Christian around?