

Jeremiah Lesson 10

Jeremiah 46:1 – 51:64

The Oracles Against the Nations

- Remember God's Earliest Words to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:10
- Up to Now, the Oracles Have Been About Judah and Israel
- God Now Turns His Attention to Other Nations and Kingdoms
- Keep in Mind Jeremiah 12:14-17

Egypt

- Only the Oracle Against Egypt Can Be Specifically Dated by Jeremiah 46:2
- 605 BC
- This Oracle is the Promised Retribution Against Any Judeans Who Fled to Egypt (Jeremiah 42-44)
- The Oracles Are in Jeremiah 46:13 and 46:26

Egypt

- How Were the Prophecies Fulfilled?
- Nebuchadnezzar Invaded Egypt Twice
 - 582 BC, 4 Years After Destroying Jerusalem
 - 567/566 BC
- Egypt Continued to Survive Under Native Rulers Until It Was Defeated by the Persian King Cambyses 525 to 522 BC; Starting with the 27th Dynasty, the Pharaohs Were Persian Puppets

Egypt

- Alexander the Great Conquered Persia in 330 BC and Egypt in 332 BC
- After Alexander's Death, Egypt Was Put Under the Control of Alexander's General Ptolemy
- Lastly, Rome Came to Call and Conquer Egypt Under Julius Caesar
- The Rest is History



The Kingdoms of Ammon, Moab, and Edom ca. 830 BC. Photo credit: Richardprins / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-SA-3.0 /

Philistia

- The Philistines Were Likely One of the Sea People Who Swept Into Palestine From Anatolia From 1200 to 1001 BC
- How They Arrived is Subject to Some Debate
- Pharaoh Ramses III Defeated Them in the Nile Delta and Settled Them in Coastal Canaan in 1190 BC
- The Philistines Formed A Federation of 5 City-States: Ashdod; Ashkelon; Ekron; Gath; and Gaza

Philistia

- The Philistines Were Israel's Greatest Enemy Until the Assyrians Came on the Scene
- King David Subdued the Philistines and They Were No Longer Considered a Rival Power in the Regions
- In 722 BC, The Assyrians Conquered the Northern Kingdom and Made the Philistine Kings Their Vassals
- King Hezekiah Defeated the Philistines But Did Not Blot Them Out

Philistia

- What Was the Prophecy?
 - God Would Use the Babylonians to Destroy Philistia
- How Was the Prophecy Fulfilled?
 - Ashkelon Was Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar Circa 604 BC; It Became A Heap of Ruins as Prophesied by Jeremiah in Jeremiah 47:5-7
 - Nebuchadnezzar Destroyed the Remaining Philistine Cities and Exiled the Survivors in Babylon
 - 6th Century BC Cuneiform Tablets From Babylon Speak of Men From Gaza and Ashkelon
 - The Philistines Disappear From Written History After the Babylonian Exile



The Kingdoms of Ammon, Moab, and Edom ca. 830 BC. Photo credit: Richardprins / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-SA-3.0 /

Moab

- Descendants of Abraham's Nephew Lot
- Genesis 13:8-12 Records That Lot Settled in the Base of the Jordan Valley
- After the Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and His Family Moved Farther North Into the Jordan Valley
- The Moab Territory Was Originally on Both Sides of the Arnon River and East of the Dead Sea
- Today, This Land is the Southern-most Part of Jordan

Moab

- In Addition to King Balak of Moab and Baalam, We Also Have the Record of Numbers 25 and Revelation 2:14
- Balaam Tricked the Israelites Into Sexual Immorality, Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols, and Bowing Down to Moabite Gods
- Judges 3 States that Israel Served the Moabites for 18 Years Due to Their Sins
- 2 Samuel 8:2 Records King David's Actions Against the Moabites

Moab

- Well Into the Divided Kingdom, the Moabites Quit Paying Tribute to Israel
- King Mesha of Moab Fought King Jehoram of Israel (852-841 BC) and Was Defeated (2 Kings 3:4-28)
- King Mesha Then Sacrificed His Oldest Son to the Moabite God Chemosh
- The Mesha Stele (840 BC) Records the Battle But Declared Moab the Victor. This Stele Has the Earliest Extrabiblical Reference to Yahweh



The Mesha Stele; The Louvre Museum, Paris, France;
photograph courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Moab

- King Sargon of Assyria Invaded Moab Circa 715 to 713 BC But Did Not Totally Destroy It
- What Was the Prophecy About Moab?
 - God Will Lay Waste to Moab and Destroy Its Strongholds
 - God Will Restore the Fortunes of Moab in the Latter Days
 - Other Prophecies in Isaiah 15-16, Amos 2, Zephaniah 2, and Ezekiel 25

Moab

- How Was the Prophecy Fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar Invades and Lays Waste to Moab in 582 BC
- Why Will the Fortunes of Moab Be Restored, Per Jeremiah 48:47?
 - Several Commentators Interpret This as the Moabites Converting to Christianity in the Messianic Age
 - Food For Thought: Deuteronomy 34:5-8 Speaks of the Death of Moses



The Kingdoms of Ammon, Moab, and Edom ca. 830 BC. Photo credit: Richardprins / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-SA-3.0 /

Ammon

- Descendants of Abraham's Nephew Lot
- Their Territory Was Between the Arnon and Jabbok River Valleys
- This is Modern-day Jordan; Amman is the Capital
- Deuteronomy 2:18-21; God's Instructions to Moses About Ammon
- Deuteronomy 23:3-6; the Ammonites Were a Party to Balam's Efforts to Lure the Israelites Into Sexual Sins and Idolatry
- Joshua 13:24 Gad Granted Half the Land of the Ammonites

Ammon

- In Addition to Being Banned From the Assembly of God Forever, There Was Continual Strife Between Israel and Ammon
- Judges 10:6-9 Records That God Made Israel Serve the Ammonites For 18 Years Due to Their Idolatry
- 2 Samuel 10:6-8 Records That the Ammonites Hired the Syrians to Do Their Dirty Work For Them; This May Have Contributed to the Oracle Against Damascus
- 2 Chronicles 20:1 Records That the Ammonites Ganged Up With the Moabites to Fight Jehoshaphat, King of Judah

Ammon

- Amos 1:13 Provides an Example of the Ammonites' Viciousness
- The Ammonites Always Claimed the Tribe of Gad's Land as Theirs and Moved Right In When the Gadites Were Taken Into Exile by the Assyrians in 734 BC
- When the Assyrians Moved Into the Transjordan in the 700's BC, the Ammonites Paid Tribute to the Assyrians
- When the Babylonians Arrived Circa 605 BC, the Ammonites Paid Tribute to Babylon (See 2 Kings 24:1-2)
- The Ammonites Participated in the Murder of Gedaliah (Jeremiah 40)

Ammon

- How Was the Prophecy Fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar Subjugated Ammon in 582 BC and Removed It As a Political Power
 - Circa 550 BC, Arabs Invaded Ammon and Judah, Further Weakening Both Nations
- Some Ammonites Survived As Noted in Ezra 9:1-2
- 1 Maccabees Records that Judas Maccabeus Fought the Ammonites in the 1st Century BC

Ammon

- Why Will the Fortunes of Ammon Be Restored Per Jeremiah 49:6?
- Scripture is Silent on This Topic
- Note That This Oracle Differs From That of Moab in That No Date is Given For Ammon's Restoration
- Perhaps God is Waiting to See How Jordan, Which is 96% Muslim and 4% Christian, Treats Its Neighbor Israel
- Are the Current Fortunes of Jordan Meant to Be the Restoration of the Fortunes of Ammon?

Edom

- The Edomites Descend From Esau, Jacob's Brother (Both Sons of Isaac)
- After Jacob Departed to Rebecca's Family to Seek a Wife, Esau Settled in Seir, Circa 1929 BC
- Seir Refers to Mount Seir, a Canaanite Land East of the Dead Sea and Extending to the Gulf of Aqaba
- Alternatively, Esau Moved to Seir After the Reconciliation With Jacob (Genesis 36:8)
- Esau, Like Jacob, Had 12 Sons; Edom Had Chieftains and Kings

Edom

- Edom prospered due to the north-south caravan route through its territory and also its iron and copper mines
- Edom refused to let the Israelites pass through their country on the way to the promised land (Numbers 20:14-21)
- The King's Highway was an ancient trade route from the Gulf of Aqaba to Damascus, Syria
- The King's Highway runs through the middle of Edom; a preferable route for the Israelites to traverse
- The Israelites had to swing west to bypass Edom and then east to bypass Moab

Edom

- Do Not Despise an Edomite (Deuteronomy 23:7)
- Edom is Absent From Biblical Narratives Until King Saul, Who Warred With Them
- King David Warred Against the Edomites and Subjugated Them (2 Samuel 8:13-14)
- Joab Struck Down All the Men of Edom (1 Kings 11:15)
- Was This the End of the Edomites? Hardly!
- The Edomites Bided Their Time Until After the Death of King Solomon

Edom

- The Divided Monarchy Was a Period of Mostly Weak Kings in Israel and Judah
- They Were Preoccupied With Fending Off Attacks from Philistia, Egypt, and Assyria
- Edom Rebelled Against Judah When Jehoram Was King (2 Kings 8:20-22); They Had Been Subjects to the Israelites For Over 117 Years
- King Amaziah of Judah Defeated 10,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt (2 Kings 14:7)

Edom

- Edom Retaliated Against King Ahaz of Judah (735-715 BC) By Attacking and Taking Prisoners (2 Chronicles 28:17)
- In 734 BC, the Edomites Were Subjugated by the Assyrians and Began Paying Tribute
- The Edomites Appear to Have Prospered Under Assyrian Control
- The Edomites Probably Also Paid Tribute to Nebuchadnezzar
- Jeremiah 49:10-18 States That All the Men of Edom Will Be Destroyed and Edom Will Become a Wasteland; Only Widows and Orphans Will Remain

Edom

- How Was the Prophecy Fulfilled?
- Obadiah Prophesied Soon After Babylon Conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC
 - The Edomites Captured Judeans Fleeing From the Babylonians and Turned Them Over to the Babylonians
 - The Edomites Moved in and Occupied Judean Villages
 - Obadiah Prophesied That the Edomites Would Be Destroyed For Their Mistreatment of Fellow Israelites
- Within 100 Years of Obadiah's Prophecy, Edom Was in Ruins

Edom

- In 553 BC, Edom Fell to Nabonidus of Babylon
- Around 550 BC, The Nabatean Arabs Began Subjugating the Edomites
- By 400 BC, The Nabateans Ran the Remaining Edomites Out of Their Territory; They Settled in Southern Judah and Made Hebron Their Capital
- The Edomites Became the Idumeans (a Greek Form of Their Original Name); King Herod Was an Idumean
- In 120 BC, John Hyrcanus, a Maccabean and Jewish High Priest, Forcibly Converted the Idumeans to Judaism

Edom

- During the First Jewish Roman War in Judea in 66 AD, The Jewish Converts of Upper Idumea Were Attacked, Bringing Near Complete Destruction to the Region
- According to Josephus, During the Roman Siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD, 20,000 Idumeans Helped the Zealots Fight for Independence From Rome
- After the Jewish Roman Wars, the Idumaeans People Are No Longer Mentioned in History



The Kingdoms of Ammon, Moab, and Edom ca. 830 BC. Photo credit: Richardprins / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-SA-3.0 /

Damascus

- What Were the Prophecies About Damascus?
 - The Young Men and Soldiers Would Be Destroyed
 - The City Walls and Strongholds Would Be Destroyed
- Damascus Was the Chief Aramean (Syrian City)
- It Was Home to Kings Ben-Hadad (Who Fought King Ahab of Israel; 1 Kings 20) and Hazael, Anointed King of Syria by the Prophet Elisha (2 Kings 8:7-15)
- The Old Testament Mentions 2 Kings Named Ben-Hadad (900-860 BC: 874-853 BC; 805-778 BC); This Was a Throne Name

Damascus

- Jeremiah's Prophecy Also Mentions 2 Other Syrian Cities:
 - Hamath, 115 Miles North of Damascus
 - Arpad, 95 Miles North of Hamath
- All 3 Were City States Which Were Part of the Aramean Coalition
- Aram Was One of the Sons of Shem, Son of Noah; Shem Also Fathered Arpachshad, From Whose Lineage We Get Abraham

Damascus

- The Interactions Between Syria and Israel Were Primarily With the Northern Kingdom, But Troubles Started Under King David
- King David Defeated the Syrians of Damascus; He Forced Them to Pay Tribute and He Garrisoned Soldiers in Damascus (2 Samuel 8:5-6)
- King Solomon Took More Syrian Territory, From Kadesh to the Euphrates River; This Territory Was Called Hamath and Solomon Built Fortified Cities and Store Cities There (2 Chronicles 8:3-6)

Damascus

- Because Solomon Began Worshipping Idols, God Raised Adversaries Against Solomon
- One Was Rezon, a Leader of a Band of Marauders; He Was Made King in Damascus (1 Kings 11:23-25). Hamath May Have Been Lost to Israel at This Time
- The Syrians Killed King Ahab of Israel in 853 BC (1 Kings 22:29-40)
- About ½ of the Northern Kingdom Was East of the Jordan River in the Area Called the Transjordan

Damascus

- When Jehu Was King of Israel (841-814 BC), King Hazael of Syria Captured All the Land of the Tribes of Gad and Reuben and the Southern Portion of East Manasseh, Including Gilead (2 Kings 10:32-33)
- When Jeroboam II Was King of Israel, He Restored Damascus and Hamath to Israel
- During the Divided Monarchy, Syria Paid Tribute to Assyria, But Was Free to Wage War Against Israel
- When King Ahaz of Israel, Vassal to Assyria, Complained to King Tiglath Pileser III of Assyria About Syrian Harassment, Tiglath Pileser III Invaded Damascus, Killed the Kings, and Took All the People Captive to Kir in 732 BC (2 Kings 16:9); Hamath and Arpad Fell in 738 BC

Damascus

- After the Decline of the Assyrian Empire, Syria Had a Period of Independence Before Becoming a Babylonian Vassal From 605 to 539 BC
- Syria Fell to the Persians Under Cyrus the Great in 539 BC, the Greeks Under Alexander the Great, and the Romans Thereafter. Rule by the Byzantines and Muslims Followed
- There is No Biblical Mention of Issues Between Syria and Judah Other Than 2 Kings 24:1-2 When Nebuchadnezzar Sent Bands of Syrians Along With the Babylonian Army to Attack Judah in 598 BC

Damascus

- So Why is the Damascus Oracle Included in Jeremiah 49?
- The Prophet Amos Had Already Prophesied About the Syrian Exile to Kir in Amos 1:3-5
- For Jeremiah to Include This Oracle Suggests Some Events Which Were Not Recorded in Scripture and Of Which Details Have Not Yet Been Recovered
- How Was the Prophecy Fulfilled?
 - Damascus Has Been Conquered and Rebuilt Many Time; It is One of the Oldest Continually Occupied Cities in the World
 - Syria Has Been Experiencing a Vicious Civil War for 10 Year
 - Is This the End or is the End in the Last Days?

Damascus

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Map of Syria; copyright: Adobe Stock



5th Century BCE

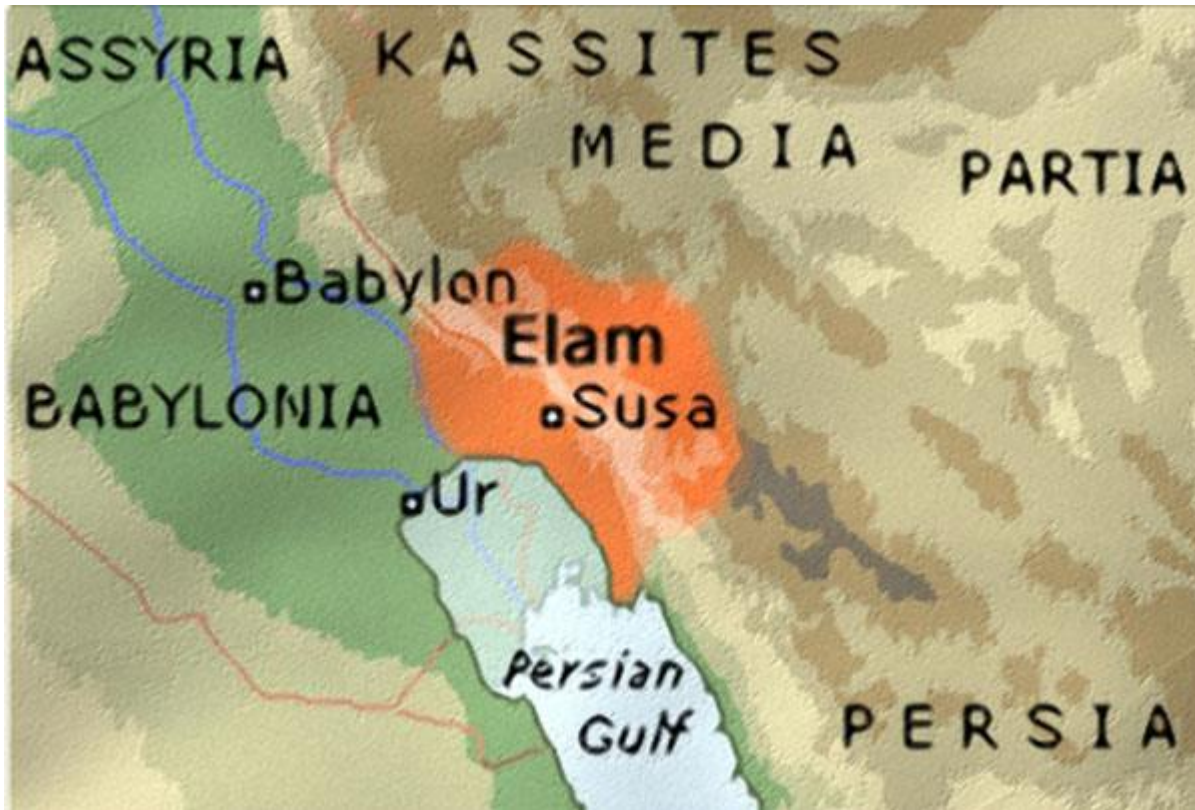
Kedarite Territory, 5th Century
BC; copyright: Mwahibii;
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Kedar and Hazor

- Kedar Was a Son of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13)
- Kedar Was a Significant Arab Clan, Engaged in Sheep Breeding and Trading With Phoenicia
- The People of Kedar Were Among the Most Powerful of the Arabian Bedouin Between the 8th and 4th Centuries BC
- Hazor (Not the Hazor North of Galilee in Israel) Was Also in Northern Arabia
- Both Nations Liked to Raid Settled Territory for Plunder; They Were Problematic for the Assyrians and the Babylonians
- The Fulfillment of the Prophecy is Already Stated in Jeremiah 49:28a

Kedar and Hazor

- What Was the Prophecy?
 - The Tribes of Kedar Would Lose Their Tents, Flocks, and Camels
 - Hazor Would Lose Its Camels and Plunder; Its People Would Be Scattered to the Wind; The Land Would Become an Everlasting Waste
- How Was the Prophecy Fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar Conducted a Punitive Raid Against Kedar and Hazor in 599/598 BC
 - Jeremiah 49 Refers to Hazor As an Unwalled City; It May Have Been Fully Destroyed in Nebuchadnezzar's Raid



Map of Ancient Elam; copyright:
[earlyworldhistory.blogspot.com/2012/03/
elam.html](http://earlyworldhistory.blogspot.com/2012/03/elam.html)

Elam

- Like the Oracle About Egypt, the Oracle About Edam Is Dated to the Start of Zedekiah's Reign, Circa 597 BC (Jeremiah 49:34)
- Elam Was a Son of Shem and Grandson of Noah
- Elam Was a Very Old Civilization, Dating As Far Back as 3200 BC, Which Predates Abraham; Susa, the Capital, Was Founded Circa 4000 BC
- The King of Elam Fought in the Valley Near the Dead Sea in the Time of Abraham (Genesis 14)
- Elam Was East of Babylon in the Lower Tigris River Valley

Elam

- The Assyrian King Ashurbanipal Conquered Elam in 639 BC and Destroyed Susa; After He Died in 627 BC, His Empire Started to Fall Apart
- In 616 BC, the Iranian Medes Took Control of Elam
- Cyrus of Persia Merged the Median and Persian Empires, After a War From 553-550 BC
- Alexander the Great Conquered Persia in 324 BC, After a 10-Year War
- Elam is Part of Modern-Day Iran

Elam

- What Were the Prophecies About Elam?
 - God Is Going to Send Invaders Against Elam and Scatter the People in All Directions
 - God Is Going to Bring Disaster Upon Elam. The 4 Winds Are the Winds of God's Judgment
 - God Will Set His Throne in Elam and Destroy Its Kings and Officials
 - In the Latter Days, God Will Restore the Fortunes of Elam

Elam

- How Were the Prophecies Fulfilled?
 - Some Bible Footnotes Suggest That Nebuchadnezzar May Have Warred With Elam in 596-595 BC, But There Are No External Records to Substantiate This
 - *The Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament* makes the Following Points:
 - The Catastrophe Is So Vague As to Defy When It Will Occur And Who Are God's Agents
 - Was It Nebuchadnezzar, the Medes, Cyrus the Great, Alexander, Someone Else, or All of the Above?
 - We Should Consider Elam Not In Its Historical Relationship to Israel and Judah But As a Heathen Nation Which Will Face God's Judgment (Revelation 19:11-15)

Elam

- In This Context, God Will Rule On Earth (Revelation 21:3)
- Ezekiel 32: 24-25 Speaks About Elam and Other Conquered Nations Around Israel and Judah Gathered in Sheol, the Place of the Dead
- Ezekiel's Description of Elam and the Other Judged Nations Fits Well With the Final Judgment of Revelation
- As to God Restoring the Fortunes of Elam, These Words May Reference the Medes, the Persians, or the Messianic Age

Provinces of Iran



*Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari

**Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad

Map of Iran; copyright: Alireza Nemati;
<https://www.researchgate.net/figure/A-simple-map-of-Iranian-provinces>

Babylon

- The Oracle Against Babylon (Chapters 50-51)
- Certainly, This Oracle is Addressed to the Nation of Babylon Ruled by Nebuchadnezzar II (605 – 562 BC), Who Made the Nation the Ruler of the Civilized Middle Eastern World, After the Decline of the Assyrian Empire
- But This Was Actually the 2nd Period of Babylonian Prominence
- The 1st Period of Dominance Came Under the Amore Ruler Hammurabi (1792 – 1750 BC)
- Hammurabi Conquered Southern Mesopotamia, Freed Babylon From Elamite Dominance, and Compiled the Babylonian Law Code
- A Copy of the Code Was Discovered in Susa in Elam in 1901 Where It Had Been Taken For Plunder; The Stele is Now in the Louvre



The Babylonian Empire Under Hammurabi;
copyright: www.worldatlas.com

The First Babylonian Empire



Photograph of the Hammurabi Stele Containing the Hammurabi Code; copyright: photo by Deror Avi; Stele Housed at the Louvre Museum, Paris, France



Map of the Babylonian Empire Under Nebuchadnezzar II; copyright: www.worldatlas.com

Babylon

- After Hammurabi's Death, His Empire Crumbled; Babylon Was Ruled By Various Nations Until the Rise of the Assyrians
- The City of Babylon Dates Back to About 2200 BC
- Why Is There An Oracle Against Babylon, God's Chosen Instrument to Destroy Judah For Its Disobedience and Apostasy?
 - Tremper Longman: "The Babylonians Did Not Do Their Bloody Work Motivated By the Glory and the Will of God, But For Their Own Imperialistic Interests"
 - Jeremiah 51:9, 49
 - The Babylonians Would Not Permit Exiled Judahites to Return
 - The Destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple, and the People of Judah Was Particularly Vicious

Babylon

- What Are the Prophecies About Babylon?
 - Babylon Will Be Taken By Nations “From the North”
 - The Medes Will Destroy Babylon
 - Babylon’s Chief god, Bel-Marduk, and Its Other Idols Will Be Put to Shame
 - Babylon Will Be Plundered
 - Babylon Will Be Punished For Divination and Idolatry
 - Jeremiah 51:57
 - Jeremiah 51:63-64

Babylon

- How Were the Prophecies Fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar II Died Around 562 BC; The Kings Who Followed Did Not Rule Long
 - In 556 BC, Nabonidus, Who Married One of Nebuchadnezzar's Daughters, Came to the Throne; He Later Moved to Tema
 - While Nabonidus Was Gone, He Left Babylon in the Hands of His Son Belshazzar
 - During Belshazzar's 1st Year as Vice Regent, Daniel Had a Vision Recorded in Daniel 7
 - He Saw 4 Great Beast Rising Out of the Sea, Symbolizing the 4 Great Powers Who Would Rule Until the Messiah
 - Lion (Babylon); Bear (Persia); Leopard (Greece); Iron Beast With 10 Horns (Rome)

Babylon

- While Nabonidus and Belshazzar Were Ruling Babylon, Cyrus Was Ruling An Isolated District of Persia and Paying Tribute to His Grandfather, the Median King Astyages; Cyrus' Mother Was a Mede
- Nabonidus Urged Cyrus to Join the Babylonians In a Revolt Against the Medes; A Brief War Within Media-Persia Resulted in Cyrus the Winner Over Both Empires
- Cyrus Then Marched On Babylon From the North And Defeated His Army; He Diverted the Euphrates River and Marched Under the City Walls of Babylon in 539 BC

Babylon

- In Daniel 5, Belshazzar Was Celebrating a Great Feast
 - King Belshazzar Gave a Great Banquet For a Thousand of His Nobles and Drank Wine With Them (Daniel 5:2)
 - That Very Night, Belshazzar, King of the Babylonians, Was Slain, and Darius the Mede Took Over the Kingdom, At the Age of Sixty-two (Daniel 5:31-32)
- Darius the Mede is Likely Someone Who Was a Vassal to Cyrus and Whom He Put in Charge of Babylon; There is No Recorded History of Him Outside of Daniel 5; He May Have Been Gubaru, A Governor Appointed by Cyrus

Jeremiah

Lesson 10: Jeremiah 46:1-51:64

- Chapters 46 to 51 are oracles against the nations around Judah.
- These oracles remind us of God's earliest words to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:10:
 - See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.
- Up to now, the oracles have been about Judah and Israel. Now, we see God turning his attention to the other nations and kingdoms.
- Before we dig into each of the oracles, let's look at the word of the Lord to Jeremiah from Jeremiah 12:14-17. Keep this word in mind as we review each nation's oracle.
 - Thus says the LORD **concerning all my evil neighbors who touch the heritage that I have given my people Israel to inherit:** "Behold, I will pluck them up from their land, and I will pluck up the house of Judah from among them. ¹⁵ **And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again each to his heritage and each to his land.** ¹⁶ **And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, 'As the LORD lives,' even as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people.** ¹⁷ **But if any nation will not listen, then I will utterly pluck it up and destroy it, declares the LORD."**
- Among this series of oracles, only the oracle against Egypt specifically states when God spoke it to Jeremiah.
 - About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: Jeremiah 46:2
 - This would be 605 BC.
- We saw in Chapters 42-44 that God had promised destruction on any Judeans who fled to Egypt for safety, instead of surrendering to the Babylonians. Here is the promised retribution.

- What were the prophecies about Egypt?
 - The word that the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt Jeremiah 46:13
 - I will deliver them into the hand of those who seek their life, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, declares the LORD. Jeremiah 46:26
- How were the prophecies fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt twice after the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - In 582 BC, 4 years after the destruction of Jerusalem
 - In 567/566 BC. In this invasion, the Pharaoh Amasis, who had deposed and executed Pharaoh Hophra, was defeated in the battle with the Babylonians, but managed to maintain his crown and independence from Babylon. So, this fulfills Jeremiah 44: 30, “Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life.”
 - Egypt continued to survive under native rulers until it was defeated by the Persian King Cambyses in wars which lasted from 525 to 522 BC. He ruled 530-522 BC, and he was the successor to Cyrus of Persia. Starting with the 27th dynasty, the Pharaohs were Persian puppets.
 - Alexander the Great conquered Persia in 330 BCE and Egypt in 332 BC.
 - After Alexander’s death, Egypt was put under the control of one of Alexander’s generals: Ptolemy.
 - Lastly, Rome came to call upon Egypt under Julius Caesar. And the rest, as they say, is history.
- The 2nd oracle concerns Philistia.
 - The Philistines were likely one of several groups of Sea Peoples who swept into Palestine from Anatolia (the Asian portion of modern-day Turkey) and the Mediterranean in the twelfth and eleventh centuries BC (1200 to 1001 BC), leaving in their wake a trail of ruins.

- However, how they arrived in Palestine is the subject of some debate — some arguing they came by sea, others that they came overland via Anatolia and down through Syria.
- It seems their original goal was to settle in the Delta of Egypt, but Rameses III was able to defeat them in about 1190 BC. He settled the vanquished forces in the coastal towns of southern Canaan, but in the mid-twelfth century BC, the Philistines succeeded in driving out their Egyptian overlords and forming the Philistine Pentapolis, a federation of five major city-states: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza.
- The Philistines were Israel's greatest enemy until the Assyrians came onto the scene.
- King David subdued the Philistines and they were no longer considered a rival power in the region.
- In 722 BC, the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. At the same time, they made the Philistine Kings their vassals, effectively stripping them of their power.
- The Philistines are defeated under King Hezekiah, who reigned 715 – 687 BC, but they were not entirely blotted out.
- What was the prophecy about Philistia?
 - God promises to destroy the Philistines, using the Babylonians as his instrument.
- How was the prophecy fulfilled?
 - Ashkelon, one of the 5 cities of the Philistine Pentapolis, was likely destroyed during Nebuchadnezzar's invasion circa 604 BC.
 - Ashkelon was defeated and utterly destroyed. It became a heap of ruins as prophesied by Jeremiah in Jeremiah 47:5 – 7. There is archaeological evidence that the city was thoroughly burned, and a complete skeleton of one of the victims was found lying amid the burned debris.
 - Nebuchadnezzar then destroyed the remaining Philistine cities and took the survivors into exile in Babylon. Sixth-century BC cuneiform tablets have been unearthed near Babylon in modern-day Iraq that describe people as “men of Gaza” or “men of Ashkelon.”

- The Philistines disappear completely from written history after the Babylonian exile.
- The 3rd oracle concerns Moab, whose people were descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot.
 - Genesis 13:8-12 records that Abram and Lot parted ways when their respective flocks got too large and were creating conflict among their servants. Abram offered Lot the first choice of land in Canaan and Lot chose the Jordan Valley, but he settled at the very bottom of it near Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - After God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, only Lot and his 2 daughters survived the destruction.
 - Presumably, Lot, his 2 daughters, and his 2 sons Ben-Ammi and Moab moved farther north into the Jordan Valley.
 - The Moabite territory was originally on both sides of the Arnon River and east of the Dead Sea. At some point in its history, the Amorites captured the territory north of the Arnon river.
 - Today, this land is the southern-most part of modern-day Jordan.
 - In addition to the dismal story of Balak, King of Moab, and Baalam, we also have the record from Numbers 25 and Revelation 2:14 where Baalam tricked the Israelites into sexual immorality, eating food sacrificed to idols, and bowing down to the Moabite gods.
 - In Judges 3, we read that the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and so God strengthened Eglon, King of Moab. As a result, the Israelites served the Moabites for 18 years.
 - At some point, the Moabites must have made trouble for King David, who ruled 1010-970 BC. Here is what is recorded in 2 Samuel 8:2:
 - David also defeated the Moabites. He made them lie down on the ground and measured them off with a length of cord. Every two lengths of them were put to death, and the third length was allowed to live. So, the Moabites became subject to David and brought him tribute.

- Well into the divided monarchy, the Moabites decided to quit paying tribute to Israel. King Mesha of Moab fought a large battle against King Jehoram of Israel (852-841 BC), but Mesha was soundly defeated. He then sacrificed his son to the Moab god Chemosh (2 Kings 3:4-28). The Mesha stele (840 BC) records the battle, but it declared Moab the victor. It contains the oldest extrabiblical reference to Yahweh.
- King Sargon of Assyria invaded Moab circa 715 to 713 BC. He did not totally destroy Moab.
- What was the prophecy about Moab?
 - God promises to lay waste to Moab and destroy its strongholds.
 - God will restore the fortunes of Moab in the latter days.
 - We should also note that there are prophecies about Moab in Isaiah 15-16, Amos 2, Zephaniah 2, and Ezekiel 25. Clearly, there was no love lost between the nations of Israel, Judah, and Moab.
- How was the prophecy fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar invades and lays waste to Moab in 582 BC.
- Why will the fortunes of Moab be restored in the latter days (Jeremiah 48:47)?
 - Several commentators interpret this wording to imply that any remaining Moabite descendants will be converted to Christianity in the Messianic age.
 - Just food for thought: Deuteronomy 34:5-8 records the following:
 - And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. ⁶ He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.
- The 4th oracle concerns Ammon, whose people were descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot.
 - The territory occupied by the Ammonites was between the Arnon and Jabbok River Valleys. This territory is in modern-day Jordan. Jordan's capital is Amman.

- Deuteronomy 2:18-21 records God’s instructions to Moses:
 - Today you are to cross the border of Moab at Ar. ¹⁹ And when you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them or contend with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession.’ ²⁰ (It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there—but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim—²¹ a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim; but the LORD destroyed them before the Ammonites, and they dispossessed them and settled in their place.
- Deuteronomy 23:3-6 states the Ammonites were a party to Baalam’s efforts to lure the Israelites into sexual sins and idolatry.
- When Moses gave Promised Land inheritances to each of the tribes, the tribe of Gad was granted half of the land of the Ammonites. (Joshua 13:24).
- Notice that the Joshua passage conflicts with the Deuteronomy passage. This is likely the result of the Ammonites’ activities with Baalam and the Moabites in leading the Israelites into sin.
- As a result (in addition to being banned from the Assembly of God forever), there was continual strife between the Israelites and the Ammonites.
 - The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him. ⁷ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites, ⁸ and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. ⁹ And the Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed. Judges 10:6-9

- On one occasion, the Ammonites hired the Syrians to do their dirty work for them. This may have contributed to the oracle against the Syrians.
 - When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David, the Ammonites sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob, 12,000 men. ⁷ And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the host of the mighty men. ⁸ And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country. 2 Samuel 10:6-8
- In 2 Chronicles 20:1, we read that the Ammonites ganged up with the Moabites to fight Judah when Jehoshaphat was king:
 - After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.
- The Ammonites were noted for the viciousness of their attacks. Amos 1:13 provides an excellent example:
 - For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border.
- The Ammonites always claimed the tribe of Gad's land as theirs and moved right back into the territory of Gad after the Gadites were taken away into exile by the Assyrians in 734 BC.
- As the Assyrians moved into Transjordan in the 700's BC, the Ammonites were conquered but not exiled. They paid tribute to the Assyrians.
- When the Babylonians arrived on the scene circa 605 BC, the Ammonites swapped their allegiance to Babylon and continued to pay tribute.

- We see evidence of this in 2 Kings 24:1-2 when King Jehoiakim of Judah paid tribute to Nebuchadnezzar. After 3 years, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.
 - In his days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him. ² And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servants the prophets.
- We just read in Jeremiah 40 that the Ammonites participated in the murder of Gedaliah, the governor of Judah, appointed by Nebuchadnezzar after the destruction of Jerusalem.
- How was the prophecy fulfilled?
 - In 582 BC, Nebuchadnezzar subjugated Ammon and removed it from the scene as a political power.
 - Circa 550 BC, Arabs invaded the territory of both Ammon and Judah, further weakening both nations.
- Some Ammonites survived, for the following is noted in Ezra 9:1-2, which takes place after the return from the Babylonian exile.
 - After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. ² For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost.”
- The extra-Biblical book of 1 Maccabees records that Judas Maccabeus fought the Ammonites in the 1st century BC.

- Why will the fortunes of Ammon be restored (Jeremiah 49:6)?
 - Scripture is silent on this topic.
 - Note that this oracle differs from that of Moab in that Moab's fortunes will be restored in the latter days, whereas for Ammon, no date is given. Perhaps God is still watching and waiting to see how Jordan, an Arabic state, and its citizens (who are 96% Muslim, 4% Christian) treat their neighbor Israel.
- The 5th oracle concerns Edom. The Edomites are descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother, both of whom were sons of Isaac.
 - At some point after Jacob had stolen Esau's birthright and departed to Rebecca's family to seek a wife, Esau had settled in the land of Seir.
 - Seir refers to Mount Seir which was in Canaanite land east of the Dead Sea and extending to the Gulf of Aqaba.
 - The NIV dates Jacob's trip to Haran (to get a wife and escape from his brother Esau) to about 1929 BC.
 - Esau could have moved to Seir at this time. Or, as suggested by Genesis 36: 8, he waited until his reconciliation with Jacob 20 years later to move to Seir. At either rate, it is clear from Genesis 32 and Genesis 36 that both Jacob and Esau had so many wives, children, flocks and servants that neither family unit could remain in Canaan without conflict.
 - Genesis 36 records that Esau, like Jacob, also had 12 sons, giving him parity with his brother. Genesis 36 also records that Edom had chieftains and later, kings.
 - Edom prospered because a portion of the major north-south caravan route ran through its territory. Edom also had iron and copper mines.
 - Little is known about Edomite religious practice.
 - Numbers 20:14-21 records that Edom refused to let the Israelites pass through their country on the way to the Promised Land.
 - The King's Highway was an ancient trade route which ran from the Gulf of Aqaba in Egypt and Saudi Arabia to Damascus, Syria. Remains of many famous archaeological sites litter sides of the road.

- The King's Highway runs through the middle of Edom and that would have been a preferable route for the Israelites to traverse, as it meant a safer and better road for travel as well as places to find food and water, especially food that was not manna or quail.
- Since they were not allowed to gain passage, the Israelites kept to the west of Edom's territory and then had to swing east to bypass Moab. Talk about circuitous routes!
- God had a rule about Edom with this statement from Deuteronomy 23:7:
 - Do not despise an Edomite, for the Edomites are related to you .
- Edom is then absent from the Biblical narratives until King Saul, who went to war against them.
- King David also warred against the Edomites and successfully subjugated them. Listen to this passage from 2 Samuel 8:13-14:
 - And David became famous after he returned from striking down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt. ¹⁴ He put garrisons throughout Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.
- What had the Edomites been up to between the settling of the Promised Land and King Saul that forced the 2 nations into war? We do not know.
 - 1 Kings 11:15 adds this additional commentary:
 - Earlier when David was fighting with Edom, Joab the commander of the army, who had gone up to bury the dead, had struck down all the men in Edom.
 - Should we assume that this was the end of the Edomites? Hardly! Either some of the men of Edom escaped or the women of Edom married others for the Edomites will come back from the dead, as we will see.
- The Edomites bided their time. The Divided Monarchy after the death of King Solomon gave them the perfect opportunity to flex their muscle.

- Remember that the time of the Divided Monarchy was a period of mostly weak kings in both Israel, the Northern Kingdom, and Judah, the Southern Kingdom. Their armies were preoccupied with fending off attacks from their neighbors in Philistia, Egypt, and Assyria.
- 2 Kings 8:20-22 records what the Edomites did:
 - In the time of Jehoram, Edom rebelled against Judah and set up its own king. ²¹ So Jehoram went to Zair with all his chariots. The Edomites surrounded him and his chariot commanders, but he rose up and broke through by night; his army, however, fled back home. ²² To this day Edom has been in rebellion against Judah.
 - Jehoram reigned as King of Judah from 853-841 BC.
 - This passage also tells us that the Edomites were still subjects to the Israelites 117 years after the death of King David.
- The Edomites must have continued to put pressure on Judah for the Bible records in 2 Kings 14:7 that King Amaziah of Judah, who ruled 796 to 767 BC had to fight them again:
 - He was the one who defeated ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt
- The Edomites retaliated about 35 years later when King Ahaz was on the throne of Judah (735-715 BC):
 - The Edomites had again come and attacked Judah and carried away prisoners (2 Chronicles 28:17)
 - In 734 BC, the Edomites were subjugated by the Assyrians and began paying tribute to them. Apparently, the Edomites prospered under Assyrian control because it appears their population increased at this time.
 - It is probable that the Edomites also paid tribute to Nebuchadnezzar.
 - The prophecy against Edom in Jeremiah 7:10-18 states that all the men of Edom will be destroyed, and that Edom will become a horror and a wasteland. Widows and fatherless children will remain.

- How was the prophecy fulfilled?
 - Obadiah prophesied soon after the Babylonian armies conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC. Obadiah said that:
 - During this time, many people of Judah fled the Babylonians. They were captured by the Edomites and turned over to the Babylonians.
 - The Edomites even moved in and occupied Judean villages.
 - This angered God and Obadiah prophesied that the Edomites would be punished for their mistreatment of their fellow Israelites.
 - Within 100 years of Obadiah's prophecy against Edom in 586 BC, Edom was in ruins.
 - In 553 BC, Edom fell to Nabonidus of Babylon.
 - Starting around 550 BC, the Nabatean Arabs began subjugating the Edomites.
 - Eventually, by 400 BC, the Nabateans ran the remaining Edomites out of their territory to the east of the Dead Sea. The Edomites settled in what was once Southern Judah and made Hebron their capital.
 - At some point, the Edomites became called the Idumeans, a Greek form of their original name.
 - In 120 BC, John Hyrcanus, a Maccabean and Jewish High Priest, forcibly converted the Idumaeans to Judaism. This is the first recorded forced conversion to Judaism.
 - King Herod the Great was an Idumaeen.
 - During a civil war in Judea in 66 AD, called the First Jewish Roman War, the Jewish converts of Upper Idumea were attacked, bringing near complete destruction to the villages and countryside of the region.
 - According to the historian Josephus, during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD, 20,000 Idumaeans helped the Zealots fight for independence from Rome. After the Jewish Roman wars, the Idumaeen people are no longer mentioned in history.
 - Hence, the words of the prophets came to pass.

- The 6th oracle concerns Damascus.
 - What were the prophecies about Damascus?
 - The young men and soldiers of Damascus would be destroyed. The city walls will be destroyed by fire and the strongholds of the king (Ben-hadad) will be destroyed.
 - Damascus was the chief Aramean (Syrian) city. It was home to kings Ben-hadad, who fought King Ahab of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 20) and Hazael, anointed King of Syria by the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 8:7-15).
 - Note: there are 3 kings of Syria named Ben-hadad mentioned in the Old Testament, who ruled at different times (900-860 BC; 874-853 BC; 805-778 BC). This was a throne name used for the king.
 - Jeremiah's prophecy also mentions 2 other Syrian cities: Hamath, which was 115 miles north of Damascus, and Arpad, which was 95 miles north of Hamath.
 - All 3 were city states which were part of the Aramean coalition.
 - Aram was one of the sons of Shem, son of Noah. Shem also fathered Arpachshad, from whose lineage we get Abraham.
 - The interactions between Syria and Israel were primarily with the Northern Kingdom, but the troubles actually started under King David.
 - King David (1010 – 970 BC) defeated the Syrians of Damascus. He forced the Syrians to pay him tribute and he also garrisoned Israeli soldiers in Damascus (2 Samuel 8: 5-6).
 - King Solomon (970-930 BC) then took more Syrian territory when he was king. He took the territory of Syria from Kadesh to the Euphrates River. This territory was called Hamath, and Solomon built fortified cities and store cities here. (2 Chronicles 8: 3-6)
 - Because Solomon turned away from God and began worshipping the gods of his many wives, God raised adversaries against Solomon. One such adversary was Rezon, who became the leader of a band of marauders. They went to Damascus, where he was made king (1 Kings 11: 23-25). Although not mentioned in Scripture, Hamath may have been lost to Israel about the same time.

- The Syrians fought multiple wars against the Northern Kingdom during the reign of King Ahab. Eventually, the Syrians killed King Ahab in battle in 853 BC (1Kings 22: 29-40).
- About half of the territory of the Northern Kingdom was east of the Jordan River in the area called the Transjordan.
- When Jehu was King of Israel (841-814 BC), King Hazael of Syria captured all the land of the tribes of Gad and Reuben and the southern portion of the land of East Manasseh, including Gilead, which were all in the Transjordan (2 Kings 10:32-33).
- When Jeroboam II reigned as King of Israel, he restored the Syrian territory which included Damascus and Hamath to Israel.
- During the period of the Divided Monarchy, Syria paid tribute to the Assyrians but was free to wage war against its neighbor Israel. After King Ahaz of Israel, also an Assyrian Vassal, complained to King Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria that the Syrians were harassing him, Tiglath-Pileser III invaded Damascus, killed the king, and took all the people captive to Kir in 732 BC (2 Kings 16:9). (Hamath and Arpad had fallen earlier in 738 BC).
- After the decline of the Assyrian empire, Syria had a period of independence before becoming a vassal state to the Babylonians from 605 to 539 BC. Syria then fell to the Persians under Cyrus the Great in 539 BC, the Greeks under Alexander the Great, and the Romans thereafter. Rule by the Byzantines and the Muslims followed.
- There is no Biblical mention of issues between Syria and Judah other than that mentioned in 2 Kings 24:1-2 when Nebuchadnezzar sent bands of Syrians along with the Babylonian army to attack Judah after Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar in 598 BC.
- So, this begs the question as to why the oracle against Damascus is included in Jeremiah 49.
 - The prophet Amos had already prophesied about the Syrian exile to Kir by the Assyrians (Amos 1:3-5).

- For Jeremiah to include an oracle against Damascus suggests that some events between the Syrians and the nation of Judah had occurred during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar which are not recorded in Scripture and of which no details have yet been recovered.
- How was the prophecy about Damascus fulfilled?
 - Damascus has been conquered and rebuilt many times. The United Nations states that Damascus is one of the oldest continually occupied cities in the world.
 - Syria has been experiencing a vicious civil war for the past 10 years. Perhaps we are seeing the end of Damascus or perhaps that is yet to come in the Last Days.
- The 7th oracle is about Kedar and Hazor.
 - Kedar was a son of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13).
 - Kedar was a significant Arab clan which engaged in sheep breeding and traded with Phoenicia.
 - The people of Kedar were among the most powerful of the northern Arabian Bedouin between the 8th and 4th centuries BC.
 - Hazor (not to be confused with the Hazor north of Galilee in Israel) was also in Northern Arabia.
 - Both nations liked to make raids on settled territory for plunder. They were problematic for both the Assyrians and the Babylonians.
 - This oracle is somewhat unique for the oracle itself is in Jeremiah 49: 28b-33, but the fulfillment of the prophecy is already stated in Jeremiah 49: 28a.
 - What was the prophecy?
 - The tribes of Kedar would lose their tents, flocks, and camels.
 - Hazor would lose its camels and plunder. Its people would be scattered to the wind and the land would become an everlasting waste.

- How was the prophecy fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar conducted a punitive raid against Kedar and Hazor in 599/598 BC.
 - Jeremiah 49 refers to Hazor as an unwalled city. It may have been fully destroyed in Nebuchadnezzar's raid.

- The 8th oracle is about Elam.
 - Like the oracle about Egypt, the oracle about Elam is dated. Jeremiah 49:34 states that this oracle was delivered in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, circa 597 BC.
 - Elam was a son of Shem and grandson of Noah.
 - Elam was a very old civilization, dating as far back as 3200 BC, which predates the patriarch Abraham. Susa, the capital of Elam, was founded even earlier, circa 4000 BC.
 - The King of Elam was one of the kings who fought in the valley near the Dead Sea in the time of Abraham. The King of Elam was defeated by other kings who had paid tribute to him for 12 years. (Genesis 14).
 - Elam was a nation east of Babylon in the lower Tigris River Valley. It was conquered by the Assyrian King Ashurbanipal in 639 BC who destroyed Susa. Ashurbanipal died in 627 BC and the empire he had built began to fall apart.
 - In 616 BC, the Iranian Medes took control of Elam.
 - Cyrus of Persia merged the Median and Persian Empires, after a war from 553-550 BC.
 - Alexander the Great conquered Persia in 324 BC, after a 10-year war.
 - Elam is part of modern-day Iran.

- What were the prophecies about Elam?
 - God is going to send invaders against Elam and scatter the people in all directions.
 - God is going to bring disaster upon Elam. The 4 winds are the winds of God's judgment.
 - God will set his throne in Elam and destroy its king and officials.
 - In the latter days, God will restore the fortunes of Elam.
- How were the prophecies fulfilled?
 - Some Bible footnotes suggest that Nebuchadnezzar may have warred with Elam in 596-95 BC, 2 years after the destruction of Jerusalem, although there are no external records to substantiate this.
 - The Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament makes the following points about the oracle against Elam:
 - The catastrophe brought on by God is so vague as to defy when the disaster will occur and who are God's agents.
 - Was it Nebuchadnezzar, the Medes, Cyrus the Great, Alexander, someone else, or all the above?
 - We should consider Elam, not in its historical relationship to Israel and Judah, but rather as a heathen nation which will face the coming judgment by God against all the nations, as noted in Revelation 19:11-15:
 - Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.

- In this context, then God will rule on earth, as specified in Revelation 21:3
 - And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

- Ezekiel 32 contains an oracle about all the conquered nations around Israel and Judah. The nations are all gathered together in Sheol, the place of the dead. Verses 24-25 speak about Elam:
 - Elam is there, and all her multitude around her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who went down uncircumcised into the world below, who spread their terror in the land of the living; and they bear their shame with those who go down to the pit. ²⁵ They have made her a bed among the slain with all her multitude, her graves all around it, all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for terror of them was spread in the land of the living, and they bear their shame with those who go down to the pit; they are placed among the slain.

- Ezekiel’s description of Elam and the other judged nations fits well with the final judgment of Revelation.

- As to God restoring the fortunes of Elam, these words may reference the Medes, the Persians, or the Messianic age.

- The 9th and final oracle is about Babylon.
 - Our lesson concludes with Chapters 50-51, the oracle against Babylon.
 - Certainly this oracle is addressed to the nation of Babylon ruled by Nebuchadnezzar II (605 to 562 BC), who made the nation the ruler of the civilized Middle Eastern world, after the decline of the Assyrian empire.
 - But this was actually the 2nd period of prominence for the Babylonians. The 1st period of dominance came under the Amorite ruler Hammurabi who ruled 1792 to 1750 BC. Hammurabi conquered southern Mesopotamia, freed Babylon from Elamite dominance and compiled the Babylonian law code.

- According to Wikipedia, in 1901, a copy of the Code of Hammurabi was discovered on a stele by Jacques de Morgan and Jean-Vincent Scheil at Susa in Elam, where it had later been taken as plunder. That copy is now in the Louvre.
- After Hammurabi's death, his empire crumbled. Babylon was ruled by various nations until the rise of the Assyrians.
- The city of Babylon dates back to about 2200 BC.
- We might ask ourselves why there is an oracle against Babylon, since this nation was God's chosen instrument for destroying Judah due to its apostasy and failure to follow God's laws and decrees.
 - Tremper Longman states, "The Babylonians did not do their bloody work motivated by the glory and will of God, but rather for their own imperialistic interests. They were oppressors of other nations to the highest magnitude."
 - We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Jeremiah 51:9
 - Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel, just as for Babylon have fallen the slain of all the earth. Jeremiah 51:49
 - The Babylonians would not permit exiled Judahites to return to Judah.
 - The destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple, and the people of Judah was particularly vicious.
- What are the prophecies about Babylon?
 - Babylon will be taken by nations "from the north". Remember that in Jeremiah, all trouble comes "from the north." Specifically, the Medes will destroy Babylon.
 - Babylon's chief god, Bel-Marduk and its other idols will be put to shame.
 - Babylon will be plundered.
 - Babylon will be punished for divination and idolatry.
 - I will make drunk her officials and her wise men, her governors, her commanders, and her warriors; they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. Jeremiah 51:57

- When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, ⁶⁴ and say, Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her Jeremiah 51:63-64
- How were the prophecies fulfilled?
 - Nebuchadnezzar II died around October 562 BC. The kings who followed did not rule long.
 - In 556 BC, Nabonidus came to the throne. He was not of royal blood, but he married one of Nebuchadnezzar's daughters. After rebuilding the temple of the moon-goddess Nanna-Sin in Haran, he later moved his residence 500 miles south to Tema, on the Arabian Peninsula.
 - While Nabonidus was gone, he left Babylon in the hands of his son Belshazzar.
 - During Belshazzar's first year as vice-regent, Daniel had a vision which is recorded in Daniel 7.
 - He saw 4 great beasts rising out of the sea which symbolized the 4 great powers who would rule until the time of the Messiah. Each nation would devour the next in a succession of greater, yet still pagan, glories.
 - The lion with eagle's wings representing Babylon
 - The bear representing Persia
 - The leopard representing Greece
 - The iron beast with 10 horns representing Rome
 - While Nabonidus and Belshazzar were ruling Babylon, a young prince, Cyrus of Persia, was ruling over an isolated district of Persia and was paying tribute to his grandfather, the Median king Astyages. (az tie a geez) Cyrus' mother was a Mede.
 - Nabonidus urged Cyrus to join the Babylonians in a revolt against the Medes. Cyrus agreed. A brief war within Media-Persia resulted with Cyrus the winner over both empires.

- Cyrus then turned on the Babylonians. He marched on Babylon from the north and defeated its army. He then diverted the flow of the Euphrates River and marched under the city walls to take the city by surprise in 539 BC.
- Belshazzar was celebrating a great feast at the time which is recorded in Daniel 5. Here are select verses:
 - King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. (Daniel 5:2)
 - That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two. (Daniel 5:31-32)
- The reference to Darius the Mede is likely someone who was a vassal to Cyrus and whom he put in charge of Babylon. However, there is no recorded history of anyone named Darius the Mede outside of Daniel 5. Darius the Mede may have been Gubaru, a governor appointed by Cyrus.

Jeremiah

Lesson 10: Jeremiah 46:1-51:64

God Will Judge Egypt (46:1-28)

1. The people who remained in Judah decided to flee to Egypt after Gedaliah, the Babylonian-appointed governor, was murdered. God had warned the people through Jeremiah not to seek refuge in Egypt, and here in Jeremiah 46:1-28 his reason becomes clear: just as he brought judgment on Judah, he will judge Egypt as well. The first taste of this came in 605 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar defeated Pharaoh Neco on the banks of the Euphrates (46:1-12). What imagery is used to portray Babylon and Egypt? What specific reason does God give for judging Egypt?
 - About Egypt:
 - They are dismayed and have turned backward. Their **warriors are beaten down and have fled in haste**; they look not back— **terror on every side!** Jeremiah 46:5
 - The swift **cannot flee away**, nor the warrior escape; in the north by the river Euphrates they have **stumbled and fallen**. Jeremiah 46:6
 - **Egypt rises like the Nile**, like rivers whose waters surge. He said, **‘I will rise, I will cover the earth**, I will destroy cities and their inhabitants.’ Jeremiah 46:8
 - **Go up to Gilead, and take balm**, O virgin daughter of Egypt! **In vain you have used many medicines; there is no healing for you**. Jeremiah 46:11
 - The **nations have heard of your shame, and the earth is full of your cry**; for warrior has stumbled against warrior; they have both fallen together. Jeremiah 46:12
 - Why are your **mighty ones face down**? They do not stand because the LORD thrust them down. Jeremiah 46:15
 - Call the name of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, **‘Noisy one who lets the hour go by**’ Jeremiah 46:17
 - Prepare yourselves **baggage for exile**, O inhabitants of Egypt! For Memphis shall become a waste, a ruin, without inhabitant. Jeremiah 46:19

- A beautiful heifer is Egypt, Jeremiah 46:20
 - Even her **hired soldiers in her midst are like fattened calves**; Jeremiah 46:21
 - She makes a **sound like a serpent gliding away**; Jeremiah 46:22
 - About Babylon:
 - **The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord GOD of hosts holds a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.** Jeremiah 46:10
 - **like Tabor among the mountains and like Carmel by the sea**, shall one come. Jeremiah 46:18
 - **a biting fly from the north** has come upon her Jeremiah 46:20
 - for her **enemies march in force and come against her with axes like those who fell trees.** Jeremiah 46:22
 - **They shall cut down her forest, declares the LORD, though it is impenetrable, because they are more numerous than locusts; they are without number.** Jeremiah 46:23
 - Egypt is judged:
 - As the perennial enemy of Israel, including the 400 years of slavery
 - For removing Josiah's son Jehoahaz from the throne of Judah. Jehoahaz subsequently died in Egypt (2 Kings 23)
 - For placing Josiah's son Eliakim on the throne of Judah, renaming him Jehoiakim (2 Kings 24)
2. Judgment on Egypt will not be limited to the banks of the Euphrates; it will come to the land of Egypt as well (46:13-28). In addition to Pharaoh and the people of Egypt, who else is the target of God's judgment? How is this similar to what God did in the exodus? (Hint: look at Exodus 12:12). What distinction does God make between his people and the Egyptians (46:27-28)?
- The Egyptian gods, including Amon, the chief god of Thebes

- In the exodus, God had plagued the Egyptian people with multiple plagues. Each plague targeted a specific Egyptian god or goddess, to show that God's power was superior to the Egyptian gods and goddesses. He killed the first-born (man and beast) of all Egyptians, including Pharaoh's son. He killed Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea.
- God will rescue his chosen people from far away and their offspring from captivity. They will return to quiet and ease, with no nation to make them afraid. God will not let Israel's and Judah's sins go unpunished but will only discipline them with measure.
- Egypt will survive this prophetic destruction, but will never again achieve its prior glory. God does not promise to use measured discipline with Egypt. A companion verse in Isaiah 19:19-25 states that in the future, Egypt will worship the one true God.

God Will Judge the Philistines (47:1-7)

3. The Philistines were a thorn in Israel's side from her earliest days. What were some prior conflicts between Israel and the Philistines (Judges 13:1-7; 1 Samuel 17:1-58)? What does God promise to do to the Philistines (Jeremiah 47:1-7)? Who/what will be his instrument?
 - And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. Judges 13:1
 - 1 Samuel 17 records David fighting Goliath of the Philistines.
 - 1 Samuel 4 records the Philistines capturing the Ark of the Covenant.
 - God promises to destroy all the Philistines. Tyre and Sidon will be cut off from any helper. Gaza will be bald. Ashkelon will perish.
 - God will use the Babylonians as his instrument to destroy Gaza.

God Will Judge Moab (48:1-47)

4. The Moabites were descendants of Lot through one of his daughters (Genesis 19:30-38). They opposed Israel in the wilderness (Numbers 22-24) and God specifically prohibited them from ever entering his assembly (Deuteronomy 23:3). According to Jeremiah 48:1-10, in what did Moab trust for their security?
 - Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.³⁸ The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day. Genesis 19:36-38

- Numbers 22-24 records the story of Balak, King of Moab, and Balaam. Although Balaam could not curse the Israelites (as Balak desired) as they were camped in the plains of Moab on their way into the Promised Land, he later tricked them into whoring with the daughters of Moab, eating sacrifices of the Moabite gods, and bowing down to the Moabite gods (Numbers 25).
 - No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, **none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever**,⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. Deuteronomy 23:3-4 (Note: a generation would be 30 years.)
 - But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. Revelation 2:14
 - Moab put its faith in its fortress, its renown, its works, its treasures, and its god Chemosh.
 - the fortress is put to shame and broken down;² the renown of Moab is no more. Jeremiah 48:1-2
 - For, because you trusted in your works and your treasures, you also shall be taken; and Chemosh shall go into exile with his priests and his officials. Jeremiah 48:7
5. Worship of Chemosh, the chief god of the Moabites, involved human sacrifice (2 Kings 3:27). What does God promise to do to the Moabites and Chemosh (Jeremiah 48:11-20)? Is there any hope for the Moabites? If so, what and when? (Hint: Look at 48:47).
- When the king of Moab saw that the battle was going against him, he took with him 700 swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom, but they could not.²⁷ Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place and offered him for a burnt offering on the wall. 2 Kings 3:26-27
 - God promises to lay waste to Moab and destroy its strongholds. Moab will be ashamed of its god Chemosh, which could not prevent the destruction of the country.
 - Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in the latter days, declares the LORD. Jeremiah 48:47

God Will Judge Many Nations (49:1-39)

6. In Jeremiah 49 God announces judgment on a series of nations: Ammon (49:1-6), Edom (verse 7-22), Damascus (verses 23-27), Kedar and Hazor (verses 28-33), and Elam (verses 34-39). Using the study notes in the ESV Study Bible (or other resources you may have), write down any interesting things you learn about these various peoples.

- Ammon:

- Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸ The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day. Genesis 19:36-38
- No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, **none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever**, ⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. Deuteronomy 23:3-4 (Note: a generation would be 30 years.)
- In his days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him. ² And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servants the prophets. 2 Kings 24:1-2
- In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD. ² Thus the LORD said to me: “Make yourself straps and yoke-bars, and put them on your neck. ³ Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the sons of Ammon, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the hand of the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah Jeremiah 27:1-3

- Edom

- Esau was Jacob’s brother. The descendants of Esau became Edom. “These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).” Genesis 36:1
- Numbers 20:14-21 records that Edom refused to let the Israelites pass through their country on the way to the Promised land.

- At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for help. ¹⁷ For the Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried away captives. ² Chronicles 28:16-17
- In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD. ² Thus the LORD said to me: “Make yourself straps and yoke-bars, and put them on your neck. ³ Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the sons of Ammon, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the hand of the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah Jeremiah 27:1-3
- Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, “Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!” Psalms 137:7
- Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. ¹¹ On the day that **you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem**, you were like one of them. ¹² **But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress.** ¹³ **Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity;** do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; **do not loot his wealth** in the day of his calamity. ¹⁴ **Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.** Obadiah 1:10-14
- Damascus
 - Damascus was the capital of Syria. The Syrians, also called the Arameans, fought multiple wars against the Northern Kingdom during the reign of King Ahab of Israel. The Syrians killed King Ahab in battle.
 - While Jehu was King of Israel, God used Syria to punish Israel for worshipping the Canaanite god Baal and his consort Asherah. The Syrians took much territory.
 - In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel. Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel: ³³ from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan. 2 Kings 10:32-33

- When Jeroboam II reigned as King of Israel, he restored the Syrian territory which included Damascus and Hamath to Israel. This territory had originally been part of Israel during the reign of Solomon.
- Kedar
 - Kedar was a son of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13).
 - Kedar was a significant Arab clan which engaged in sheep breeding and traded with Phoenicia.
 - Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your favored dealers in lambs, rams, and goats; in these they did business with you. ²² Ezekiel 27:21-22 (Here “you” refers to Phoenicia.)
- Hazor (not the Hazor in the Northern Kingdom)
 - These were nomadic tribes from Northern Arabia.
 - Babylonian records indicate that Nebuchadnezzar invaded Arabia in 599 BC.
- Elam
 - Elam was a son of Shem and grandson of Noah.
 - Elam was a nation east of Babylon in the lower Tigris River Valley. It was conquered by Assyria in 640 BC.
 - Nebuchadnezzar may have warred with Elam in 596-95 BC.
 - In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. ² And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. Daniel 8:1-2
 - The King of Elam was one of the kings who fought in the valley near the Dead Sea in the time of Abraham. The King of Elam was defeated by other kings who had paid tribute to him for 12 years. (Genesis 14).
 - In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. Isaiah 11:11

- Elam is mentioned in Acts 2:9 (Pentecost).
7. Which of these peoples does God promise to restore? What does this promise of restoration for Gentile peoples tell us about the character of God and his plan for this world?
- Moab
 - Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in the latter days, declares the LORD.” Thus far is the judgment on Moab. Jeremiah 48:47
 - Amon
 - “But afterward I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 49:6
 - Elam
 - “But in the latter days I will restore the fortunes of Elam, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 49:39
 - To a lesser extent, there are some encouraging words for Egypt and Edom. But the word “restore” is not used here.
 - Egypt
 - Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, declares the LORD. Jeremiah 46:26
 - Edom
 - Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me.” Jeremiah 49:11
 - God planned to adopt Gentiles into his family after many Jews rejected Jesus as his son and the savior.
 - God abhors sin and must render punishment against it. He is a God of justice but also of love. He does not want people to perish. He patiently waits for all to come to Him. That will end when Christ returns to render final judgment.

God Will Judge Babylon (50:1-51:64)

8. Even though Babylon was God's instrument of judgment on Judah, the Lord makes it clear that Babylon will also be judged. What specific reason does God give for judging Babylon? (See especially 50:2, 17-28, 29-38; 51:24-26, 47, 52-53.)
- Idol worship
 - Bel is put to shame, Merodach is dismayed. Her images are put to shame, her idols are dismayed.' Jeremiah 50:2
 - For it is a land of images, and they are mad over idols. Jeremiah 50:38
 - Therefore, behold, the days are coming when I will punish the images of Babylon; Jeremiah 51:47
 - Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will execute judgment upon her images Jeremiah 51:52
 - Destroying God's people and Judah (even though this was at God's direction)
 - Israel is a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria devoured him, and now at last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has gnawed his bones. Jeremiah 50:17
 - Destruction of the Temple
 - A voice! They flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple. Jeremiah 50:28
 - The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because his purpose concerning Babylon is to destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance for his temple. Jeremiah 51:11
 - for foreigners have come into the holy places of the LORD'S house Jeremiah 51:51

- Defied God
 - Repay her according to her deeds; do to her according to all that she has done. For she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. Jeremiah 50:29
 - but the land of the Chaldeans is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. Jeremiah 51:5
- Pride
 - Behold, I am against you, O proud one, Jeremiah 50:31
 - The proud one shall stumble and fall, Jeremiah 50:32
- Treatment of the people of Israel and Judah and the Exiles in Babylon
 - The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them. All who took them captive have held them fast; they refuse to let them go Jeremiah 50:33
 - I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the LORD. Jeremiah 51:24
 - Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me; he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel; he has swallowed me like a monster; he has filled his stomach with my delicacies; he has rinsed me out.³⁵ The violence done to me and to my relatives be upon Babylon,” let the inhabitant of Zion say. “My blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,” let Jerusalem say. Jeremiah 51:34-35
- Divination
 - A sword against the diviners Jeremiah 50:36

9. When judgment is discussed, salvation is often promised. What will happen to the people of Israel and Judah when God brings judgment on Babylon (see 50:4-10, 17-20)? How and when will this happen?

- The people will ask the way to Zion and flee from Babylon

- They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, Jeremiah 50:5
- Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans Jeremiah 50:8
- They flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple Jeremiah 50:28
- Restoration to the Promised Land, with a pardon from God and no iniquity
 - I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. ²⁰ In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant. Jeremiah 50:19-20
- God is going to send armies from the north and the Medes to destroy Babylon
 - For behold, I am stirring up and bringing against Babylon a gathering of great nations, from the north country. And they shall array themselves against her. Jeremiah 50:9
 - The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because his purpose concerning Babylon is to destroy it, Jeremiah 51:11

10. Gospel Glimpses

Salvation Through Judgment

- Romans 3:1 declares that we are all sinners. As sinners, we deserve God's judgment. No sinner can stand before a holy God in heaven. God looked down upon us with great love, knowing that we were not capable to stop sinning. Therefore, he sent his only son Jesus, who was sinless throughout his earthly life, to take all the sins of mankind upon himself at the cross. Believers get Jesus' perfect record of a sinless life when we die. Thus, we can stand before our holy God. We are washed with the blood of Jesus and clothed in white, the symbol for purity and righteousness.

Full Pardon of Sin

- All our sins were forgiven when Jesus died for us.
- The Jews who returned to Israel and Judah after the Babylonian exile were promised that iniquity would no longer be found among them. But that was a future promise of

the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. They would have to wait 400 years for it to happen.

11. Whole-Bible Connections

Salvation of the Gentiles

- This is adoption into God’s family.
 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:15-17
 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:3-10

God’s Judgment on Babylon

- God judged Babylon in the short term in 539 BC by bringing the Medo-Persians in to destroy the nation of Babylon.
- In Revelation, Babylon represents all the kingdoms of the world whose active rebellion against God deserve full punishment when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead.
 - Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.³ For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have

committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” Revelation 18:2-3

12. Theological Soundings

The Day of the Lord

- “I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.³ “I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD. Zephaniah 1:2-3
- Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” Revelation 16:1
- The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!”¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe. Revelation 16:17-21
- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. Revelation 21:1

God as Creator and Judge

- The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me. Psalms 7:8
- God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. Psalms 7:11
- He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. Psalms 135:7
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

- I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³ John 5:30-31
- Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. John 8:50
- If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.” John 12:47-50
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:11

13. Jeremiah 46:1- 51:64 in total

- The chapters in this lesson remind me that God is truly omniscient. He sees everything that is happening to his people and to believers. He will punish the guilty, but on his time schedule, not our time schedule.
- These chapters show us God’s grace. Some peoples have created grave sins, yet God is still willing to restore them. God wants love and respect from his human creation.