

## **Week of August 8-14**

### **Jeremiah 45 A message to Baruch**

This chapter was written in 605-604 B.C. Many years prior to chapter 44. Baruch is Jeremiah's scribe. Baruch is complaining about the suffering he is going through because of the prophecies he is recording from Jeremiah (God). Baruch is told by God to take his eyes off himself and put them back on God and His plan and purposes. God promises protection for Baruch.

### **Jeremiah 46 Prophecies about foreign nations**

God promises the destruction of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. At this time Egypt is an occasional ally of Judah. The prophecy gives great detail of the depth of destruction of Egypt. VS 27-28, The Prophecy against Egypt is meant to encourage Judah. Though Judah is under the Lord's judgement for their sins, He has not forgotten his people, nor is He finished with them. Those who have assaulted them will be judges as well. Even though their journey through life might be painful and bitter, like Jacob's was, the Lord is still with them.

### **Jeremiah 47 Judgment on the Philistines**

Jeremiah prophecies the destruction of the Philistines and their allies from Tyre and Sidon, by the Babylonians (the flood coming from the north). Located on the coastal plain next to Judah, the Philistines had always been a thorn in Israel's side. The two nations battled constantly. Other prophets who spoke against Philistia include Isaiah (14:28-32)

### **Jeremiah 48 Judgment on Moab**

The Moabites were descendants of Lot through incest with one of his daughters. (Gen. 19:30-37) They led the Israelites into idolatry and joined the bands of raider Nebuchadnezzar sent into Judah in 602 B.C. (In vs 11-12) the Prophet was saying that because of Moab's complacency and refusal to do God's work, Moab would be totally destroyed.

### **Jeremiah 49 Judgment on Israel's Neighbors**

Destruction of Ammon: The Ammonites were descendants of Lot's through incest with his other daughter. They were condemned for taking land from God's people and for worshipping Molech, to whom they made child sacrifices.

Destruction of Edom: Complete destruction from Teman ( in the north) to Dedan (in the south). Edom put their faith in their elevated rock fortresses. No one can stand against the Lord and His plan and purpose.

Destruction of Damascus: Damascus was the capital of Aram (north of Israel). Nebuchadnezzar attacked and defeated Damascus in 605 B.C. God utterly destroyed Aram.

Destruction of Kedar and Hazor: Kedar and Hazor were nomadic tribes east of Israel and South of Aram in the desert. In 599 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed them.

Destruction of Elam: Elam lay east of Babylon and was attacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. Later Elam became the center of the Persian Empire and the residence of King Darius.

### **Jeremiah 50 Judgment on Babylon (Hope for Israel and Judah)**

God through Jeremiah predicts the complete destruction of Babylon by the Medo-Persian Empire (nation from the north). At the height of its power the, the Babylonian Empire seemed immovable. But when Babylon had finished serving God's purpose of punishing Judah for her sins, it would be punished and crushed for its own. Babylon was destroyed in 539 B.C. Jeremiah also foretells the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem under the rule of Cyrus the Great.

### **Jeremiah 51 Continued Judgment on Babylon**

Cyrus, king of Persia, had allied himself with Babylon to defeat Nineveh (the capital of the Assyrian Empire) in 612 B.C. Then the Medes joined Persia to defeat Babylon (539 B.C.)

Jeremiah sings a hymn of praise to the Lord (vs 15-19) (It is foolish to put your trust in anything but God!) The people of Israel are encouraged to remember Jerusalem while they are in exile.

Jeremiah sends this written message with Seraiah, king Zedekiah's officer, to Babylon to be read to all the Israelites who are in exile there.

### **Psalms 137 O Jerusalem**

Weeping for their home of Jerusalem. Prayer for destruction of their enemies.

## **Lamentations 1 Jeremiah Mourns for Jerusalem**

Described as Jeremiah's song of sorrow for Jerusalem's destruction. The nation of Judah had been utterly defeated, the Temple destroyed, and captives taken away to Babylon. Jeremiah's tears were for the suffering and humiliation of the people, but he also wept because God had rejected the people for their rebellious ways. Each year this book was read aloud to remind all the Jews that their great city fell because of their stubborn sinfulness.

The warning was loud and clear: If Judah played with fire, its people would get burned. Jerusalem foolishly took a chance and lost, refusing to believe that immoral living brings God's punishment. We can choose to ignore God's warnings, but as surely as judgment came upon Jerusalem, so it will come upon those who defy God.

## **Lamentations 2 God's Anger at Sin**

Even Destruction of His own Temple! Our place of worship is not as important as our pattern of worship. The people were worshipping but their hearts were far from God.

This chapter gives graphic descriptions of how horrible the suffering was in Jerusalem because of the siege.

Jeremiah knew that all of this was God's discipline for Israel's sin. Parents discipline children to produce right behavior. God disciplined Judah to produce right living and genuine worship. We must not complain about discipline but learn from it, trusting God and being willing to change. We must allow God's correction to bring about the kind of behavior in our life that pleases Him.