

JEREMIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Jeremiah chapter 49 as we continue our study through the Word of God. And as we said last time, chapters 46 through 51 of Jeremiah deal with God's judgment upon the Gentile nations, that is the focus of those 6 chapters. And even though these judgments occurred long ago, there are some lessons we can learn through them. There may even be a hint of things that have not occurred as yet, judgment and restoration that is still to come. Then as we conclude the book of Jeremiah, chapter 52 is going to recap for us the capture and destruction of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and Jerusalem.

Last time we looked at the judgment of Egypt, the Philistines and Moab. We have seven more nations to look at, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam, and Babylon. This was a huge area of land that these 10 nations occupied, nations that surround Israel, some one million square miles. And thus, I think that the main message of these oracles is the sovereignty of God over all the nations of the earth. He is in control and He does as He pleases! And if you doubt that then just read the book of Revelation!

So with that as our background, let's begin reading in Jeremiah chapter 49 beginning in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study God's Word and look of the judgment against Ammon.

JEREMIAH 49**VERSES 1-6**

1. We start out this evening with God pouring out His judgment upon the Ammonites. Keep in mind that the Ammonites were to the east of the Dead Sea with the Arnon River making its boarder to the south and the Jabbok River making its boarder to the north. Ammon is modern day Jordan and as you will see, the nations that are spoken of in these chapters are the ones who are giving Israel problems today. They have been trouble throughout the history of the Jews and things have not changed much.

2. Now the Ammonites were related to the Jews for they were the descendants of Lot, the nephew of Abraham. You may remember the story, as God poured out His judgment upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his two daughters escaped to a cave. Lots wife already looked back and turned into a pillar of salt and his son-in-laws thinking he was nuts refused to leave were destroyed.

And his two daughters thought that all the men were wiped out as they saw the smoke rising in the distance, and they wanted their seed to continue on. So they got their father drunk and each had sexual relations with him. The older daughter had a son and called his name Moab, and he was the father of the Moabites. We looked at the judgment of the Moabites last time. And the younger daughter also had a son and called his name Ben-Ammi, he was the father of the Ammonites.

3. And what God is speaking of here goes all the way back to the time of Moses. The children of Israel were preparing to enter the Land after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. But now Ruben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh wanted to remain on the east side of the Jordan River, not entering the Promised Land.

And upon hearing this Moses blew a gasket! He is very upset because he is remembering what happened 40 years earlier. But these 2½ tribes tried to reassure Moses and said that they will help their brethren defeat the enemy in the Promised Land and then they will return to their families on the east side of the Jordan River. And Moses reluctantly agreed.

Now they were separated from the rest of the nation and they did not have the Jordan River as a boarder to protect them from their enemies. Thus, when the Assyrians came against the Northern Kingdom of Israel these 2½ tribes were the first to go into captivity. And after they were taken captive, the Ammonites moved right into this land, with their god Molech or Milcom, with no concern of who occupied this land before they moved in. In fact, it was their own relatives and yet they did not even care.

4. Keep in mind that when a nation would defeat another nation they would take the gods of these defeated nations and bring them home with them, placing them in subjection to the gods they worshiped. Remember when the Philistines captured the Ark of God and placed it in the temple next to Dagon, their god. And when they awoke the next day Dagon had fallen on its face. So they picked their god up and the next day it had not only fallen and couldn't get up, but its head and hands were broken off. Our God is in subjection to no man or idol.

Thus, when the Lord speaks of their god going into captivity, He is saying that the Ammonites are also going into captivity!

5. Now there is some hope here as you read in verses 4-6. Pride was going to bring them down and drive them out of the land but one day God is going to bring them back again. This could be looking towards the Kingdom Age.

VERSES 7-13

1. Now God's judgment is upon the Edomites, who were the descendants of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob. And they lived in an area south of Moab and east of the Dead Sea. The capital city was Bozrah, modern Buseira about twenty-five miles southeast of the Dead Sea. They too were relatives of the Jews but they were also not kind to them.

And Teman must have been an area where a lot of wise men came from. Teman was located in central Edom and these people were known for their wisdom. If you remember from the book of Job, one of Job's friends, Eliphaz was a Temanite. (Job 2:11). Although he did not give good counsel! But now that wisdom is gone and judgment is coming, they were foolish not to obey the Lord and to come against His people!

2. As you read this you can clearly see that God is saying He is going to wipe out the Edomites. And even though they refused to drink this cup of judgment, the judgment was still going to come upon them.

Keep in mind that this cup of judgment they refused to drink goes back to Jeremiah chapter 25. Let's start reading in verse 15, **“For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: ‘Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.’ Then I took the cup from the LORD’S hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the LORD had sent me. . . . And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “You shall certainly drink! For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth,” says the LORD of hosts.”**” Jeremiah 25:15-17, 28-29.

Like I have said, even if they refuse to drink from this cup that Jeremiah had, which represented the judgment of God, it didn't matter. Judgment was still coming and they couldn't stop it or escape from it!

3. Bozrah is Petra, this rock-hewn city and it remains today. It is just an empty shell that once had many people living there. And I think the Lord is keeping it vacant because one day the Jews will flee for safety at the half-way point of the seven-year Tribulation Period, at the 3½ year mark! That is when the Antichrist enters the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as God. And God will protect them for those 3½ years and they will call upon Jesus as their Lord and Savior and one of the places the Lord comes to when He returns is Petra! (Isaiah 63:1-6)

VERSES 14-22

1. Their homes were in the clefts of the rocks and they felt secure, they felt that no one could touch them but they forgot about the Lord. And in this judgment, it will be complete; nothing will stand in His way!

And yes they had mighty men but when the enemy that God sends upon them comes, these mighty men will crumble, they will fail, their heart will pound like a woman in labor. But in the end there is not the joy of a child but the mourning over the death of a nation. You see, there is no future promise of restoration for the Edomites.

VERSES 23-27

1. God's judgment is now against Damascus, the capitol of the Syrians. Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the world and it is still in existence today. It is located north of Israel and the Syrians were a perennial enemy of the Jewish people. Damascus, Hamath and Arpad were the three major cities of the Syrians, and like I said, Damascus was its capitol.

2. I do think there is another judgment coming against Damascus, one that has not occurred as yet. We are told in Isaiah 17:1, "**The burden against Damascus. 'Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, And it will be a ruinous heap.'**"

Damascus continues on today so this has not happened. Keep in mind that when Syria occupied the Golan Heights, a strategically crucial high plateau above the whole region of Galilee, Israel was under constant threat of invasion and shelling from Syrian placements on the Golan. But when Syria eventually made a full on invasion of Israel from the Golan, Israel miraculously beat them back and captured the Golan Heights.

Now, Syria insists that this strategically crucial region is theirs and must be given back. The Israelis are adamant that they will never give back land that belongs to them, and is necessary for their security. In the meantime, Syria fights Israel through terrorism and their support of militia groups in Lebanon. The dream of a “Greater Syria,” encompassing Syria, Lebanon, and parts of northern Israel is a powerful influence in the Syrian leadership.

And now with this civil war that is going on and the increase in Islamic terrorists flooding into Syria, like ISIS, this may be the scenario for the destruction of Damascus as Isaiah is telling us. Now as exciting as this is as we watch these things unfold before our eyes, we need to keep in mind that there are many people, including Christians that are living in Syria. We need to be praying for them. Yes this will come to pass, Damascus will cease from being a city and it will be a ruinous heap, but may many come to the Lord prior to this event from happening and be spared this judgment.

VERSES 28-33

1. Both Kedar and Hazor were located in Saudi Arabia and they both were a nomadic people who of course did not dwell in walled cities but in tents. Kedar was a descendant of Ishmael, (Genesis 25:13). And here God was going to use Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians to strike their flocks, their tents, the things that were valuable to these people. Their livelihood will be taken away and God’s judgment was coming.

VERSES 34-39

1. Jeremiah dates this prophecy to the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, the last King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah before the nation fell to the Babylonians. And this judgment is upon Elam or Persia and we see that Elam is present-day Iran.

Now the strength of the people of Elam was their archery skills. Because of this great skill it made them feel safe, they felt secure. It was like the Egyptians with their horses and chariots. But we are mistaken if we put our trust in the strong arm of man instead of the strong arm of God. There is no contest. God can wipe a nation out with a wounded and broken army if He wanted to. You can't fight against God and win, and if you could, you would really lose!

And we see here in verse 38 that the Babylonians will set up their throne to show that they were now in charge of the nation. That is also what Nebuchadnezzar did when he defeated the Egyptians. It was a put down and of course it was disheartening to the nation that fell and that is why they did it, to show them who is in charge.

2. Now verse 39 is interesting as it says, “**But it shall come to pass in the latter days: I will bring back the captives of Elam,’ says the Lord.**” What is that speaking of? I believe the Lord is speaking of the Kingdom Age and how people from all nations will enter in. How do they enter in? By believing and receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

JEREMIAH 50**VERSES 1-3**

1. We have seen God pronounce judgment upon 9 nations so far and now the last and it will cover the next two chapters of Jeremiah. This judgment of God is upon Babylon and Babylon is mentioned some 164 times in Jeremiah, more than the rest of God's Word combined! Also keep in mind that this prophecy that was given to us by Jeremiah was given some 55 years or so before Babylon fell.

According to Jeremiah 51:59, in the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah, the last King on the throne in the Southern Kingdom of Judah before their captivity, he was called to Babylon. The King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, called his vassal Kings to Babylon in 594 B. C. to insure their loyalty to him and his Kingdom.

If they refused, the King had a good incentive program for them, **DEATH!** So I doubt if any rebelled at that time, although Zedekiah did revolt against Babylon which just brought the Babylonian army down upon them, taking them away captive to Babylon in 586 B. C.

For Babylon the warning was there the people just refused to listen. And you can understand from a human perspective why they were not that worried about being destroyed. All that they had, the power, the security of the city of Babylon made them proud and arrogant and yet in one day they fell!

The city of Babylon was 15 miles square. Completely surrounding the city was a wall that was 350 feet high and every 100 feet it had a guard post that went another 100 feet up, a total of 450 feet. The wall itself was not only 350 feet high, but 88 feet wide. It was so massive that they would have chariot races on top of this wall. Between the outer wall and another smaller wall there was a moat.

Not only that, but their water supply was abundant because the city was cut in two by the Euphrates River. And to protect anyone from entering in by this river they had gates that went down to the bottom of the river. It was strong, it was beautiful, it was powerful to any man, but to God, it was like a city made of toothpicks.

And Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon recognized all this power he had, or thought he had. And God warned him of his pride, that it would bring him down, but he couldn't help himself and we read in Daniel chapter 4, beginning in verse 29, "**At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?'**" Daniel 4:29-30.

And while those words were still in his mouth, God brought him down, caused him to act like an animal for seven seasons, until he recognized and acknowledged the true and living God. And I do believe that Nebuchadnezzar came to saving faith and you can read of that in Daniel chapter 4.

Now as strong as Babylon was, during the reign of Belshazzar the nation fell in one night to the Medes and the Persians. Listen to this account of what took place. We are told,

Cyrus made his successful assault on a night when the whole city, relying on the strength of the walls, had given themselves up to the riot and debauchery of a grand public festival, and the king and his nobles were reveling at a splendid entertainment.

Cyrus had previously caused a canal, which ran west of the city, and carried off the superfluous water of the Euphrates into the lake of Nitocris, to be cleared out, in order to turn the river into it; which, by this means, was rendered so shallow, that his soldiers were able to penetrate along its bed into the city.

- International Bible Dictionary, pp. 49-50

That is the historical aspect of what took place. But listen to what the Bible says before this even happened, how accurate it is. We are told in Isaiah 45:1-3, **“Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held - To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.”**

Keep in mind that the Babylonians felt secure in their city, behind those walls. That is why Belshazzar, the King of Babylon had his party, it was in defiance of the army that surrounded them, for he truly believed they could not enter the city. And that night, Belshazzar saw the hand writing on the wall that basically said he has come up short in the balances of God and the time is up for him and his Kingdom.

And that very night, maybe because the soldiers were drunk, the gates were not closed by the river and Cyrus had the Euphrates River upstream diverted so they could walk right into the city of Babylon, just as God had said, opening the gates for them to enter through. In one night the armies of the Medes and Persians, under Cyrus, conquered the city of Babylon in a remarkable raid described in Daniel 5. Actually, it just says the King of Babylon was slain and Darius the Mede received the Kingdom.

Motyer makes these remarks regarding this battle, “In October 539 B. C., Cyrus advanced into lower Mesopotamia and, leaving Babylon till last, conquered and occupied the surrounding territory. Seeing which way the wind was blowing, Nabonidus of Babylon deserted his city, leaving it in the charge of his son Belshazzar . . . the taking of Babylon was as bloodless and effortless as Daniel [5] implies.”

Keep in mind that this is the prophecy that was fulfilled over 150 years later and God calls Cyrus by name. And we see the fulfillment of what Isaiah said spoken of in Ezra 1:1-11 where we are told, **“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at**

Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered. King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods; and Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. This is the number of them: thirty gold platters, one thousand silver platters, twenty-nine knives, thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar kind, and one thousand other articles. All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.” This overthrow took place on

October 12, 539 B. C. just as the Lord has said!

2. God said it was going to happen and it was their pride that eventually brought them down. What a warning to America. We think we are so strong, so mighty, so powerful, so secure, so self-sufficient, and we are not. We need to learn these lessons that God is showing us here. It doesn't matter how strong you think you are God can still bring you down!

Remember what Proverbs 14:34 tells us and I think we see this portrayed in our nation today and it is getting worse. We read, “**Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.**”

Yes America is still blessed but I think we are living on our past glory. This nation was founded upon Godly principles and upon a relationship with Jesus Christ. Now you may not think we are living on our past glory, but think about it this way. If you were to get a locomotive traveling at some 60 miles per hour and then shut the engine down, it would coast for another 2 miles before it stopped. I think that is where America is at, we are coasting!

We need to get back to God. Our forefathers didn't want to keep God out of our government, but they wanted to keep the government out of our relationship with God. They didn't want the government to tell us what to believe, like England was doing. That is why they were fleeing to a land where they could worship God freely, without government interference. But we have turned that around today, we have taken God out of the heart of this nation and we have put the government inside the church telling us what we should do, what we should believe. We have to turn that around today. May we wake up and repent of our sins and return to the Lord so that this land and its people may be healed!

3. Now here in verse 2 of Jeremiah chapter 50 when it says, “**her idols are humiliated**” literally in the Hebrew it is saying, “her blocks of wood.” In other words those idols that she is worshiping are nothing more than blocks of wood!

Also, when it speaks of, “**her images are broken in pieces**” the Hebrew word for “**images**” speaks of dung pellets! That is how God sees it!

4. Now as I have said Babylon fell in 539 B. C. at the hands of the Medes and the Persians but they did not destroy the land. Then why does verse 3 say the land is going to be “**desolate**”? Because in 330 B. C. Alexander the Great came in and destroyed the city just as God said would happen! And even today the place where Babylon existed is barren. Saddam Hussein tried to rebuild it but there is nothing else around there.

VERSES 4-7

1. Yes God was going to judge His people and use the Babylonians as that instrument of judgment against them, but they went too far! We see this portrayed for us in in Isaiah 47:5-7 where we read, “**Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no longer be called the Lady of Kingdoms. I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance, and given them into your hand. You showed them no mercy; on the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily. And you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’ so that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the latter end of them.**”

You see, they were hard towards God’s people and went far beyond what God had instructed them to do. They showed no mercy. That fact of the matter is God’s promise to Abraham still stands. He said in Genesis 12:3, “**I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**” Babylon didn’t recognize that and sadly to say, America is beginning to do the same thing. We are turning our back on Israel and, as the Word of God says, that is not a good thing to do!

2. Also notice here that in the midst of this judgment against Babylon we see the Lord speak of blessing Israel. We will see this some three times in this chapter, this cursing for Babylon and blessing for the Jewish people, the nation of Israel!

VERSES 8-10

1. God is speaking to His people, the Jews; telling them to flee from Babylon, don't remain there because judgment was coming upon the Babylonians. When Cyrus, the leader of the Persians conquered Babylon he made a decree that any Jew who wanted to return home, could.

Out of the 2 to 3 million that were in Babylon only just fewer than 50,000 returned to Jerusalem. They had become comfortable in Babylon for the most part. But again, God is warning them that as soon as the door to freedom is open they needed to go through it.

VERSES 11-13

1. Notice what the Lord is saying here. Because they gloated, they rejoiced at the destruction of God's people, judgment is coming upon them, the Babylonians and it is not a pretty picture at all! They were proud, they were boasting, they got complacent and in the end, they were judged for it!

2. I think it is something that can happen to Christians. We can become proud of what we have, we can boast about the things we are doing, and we can get complacent, lazy and God will stir us up. He will not judge us in the sense of judgment because all our sins have been paid in full. But there is the chastening of the Lord and God will get our attention.

Paul warned us in Ephesians 5:15-21 by saying, **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”**

Paul is telling us to pay attention, walk carefully because the days are evil and what a warning for us today. Redeem the time that God has given to us, don't let it pass us by without doing anything for the Lord and for His Kingdom.

And I think I can safely say that none of us feel qualified, adequate to do such work and that is why Paul says that we need to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit, that we are surrendered to Him and under His control. The days are evil, walk carefully but at least be walking!

VERSES 14-16

1. Here we see that the Lord is calling for His instruments of judgment against Babylon to rise up and prepare themselves for battle. God is calling for them to press hard on Babylon from every side. And what was once an instrument of God's judgment upon His people, the Jews, was now the object of His wrath!

VERSE 17

1. Here we see the Lord speak of His people and the judgment that came down upon them. First it was the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their idolatry and they were taken captive by the Assyrians in 722 B. C.

Then, some 136 years later the Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians for their idolatry. The first assault against the Southern Kingdom of Judah took place in 606 B. C. as they took some of the nobles, the choice men from the city, including Daniel. And finally in 586 B. C. the Babylonians had enough of the rebellion from the King of Judah, Zedekiah that he made his third and final assault upon the nation, destroying the city of Jerusalem and taking captive the people.

It is just as we have read, **“Israel is like scattered sheep; The lions have driven him away. First the king of Assyria devoured him; Now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has broken his bones.”** Jeremiah 50:17.

VERSES 18-20

1. Here we see the second blessing for Israel, the first was found in verses 4-7 of Jeremiah chapter 50. And the Lord just finished speaking of how the Assyrians took captive the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Babylonians took captive the Southern Kingdom of Judah but now God is going to judge those nations. God is going to restore Israel and Judah!

2. The Assyrians fell to the Babylonians and eventually the Babylonians fell to the Medes and the Persians. God did bring them back into the Land. The problem is that their sin remains, so this can't be completely fulfilled yet.

Jesus came to take away the sins of the world but the problem is that most Jews reject Jesus, so once again, without receiving Him as Lord and Savior of your life, your sins remain and that is true of the Jews as well.

So I do see this looking into the future when all the sins of Israel, when all the sins of Judah will be forgiven, and that is only going to happen as they receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior and that happens towards the end of the Tribulation Period and they will enter into the Kingdom Age.

Remember what Paul said in Romans 11:25-27, **“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’”**

VERSES 21-28

1. Here is a call for the Medes and the Persians to gather together and come down upon Babylon and **“... destroy her utterly; Let nothing of her be left.”** Jeremiah 50:26. Utter destruction upon Babylon!
2. Why is God coming down so hard against Babylon? Let’s read on and you will see why!

VERSE 29

1. The reason is simple, **PRIDE!** And that is exactly what the Scriptures tell us will happen when we think too highly of ourselves, “**Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.**” Proverbs 16:18. And that is what we see here, **PRIDE** brought them down, tripped them up and they could not recover, the Medes and the Persians destroyed them and repaid them for what they had done to God’s people, the Jews!

VERSES 30-32

1. As we have said, the Babylonians were proud, they thought they were invincible, but they are going to see the foolishness of their ways. Babylon would fall in one night! And all those who felt so safe and secure, all those who were drunk even though the Medes and the Persians had surrounded the city, they were going to be destroyed! As the Lord said, “**The most proud shall stumble and fall, and no one will raise him up . . .**” Jeremiah 50:32.

Did you get that, not just proud but “**The most proud**” and as big and strong as they thought they were, they will fall and they can’t get up! Pride will bring you down as this story tells us. We are told,

In a certain pond lived two wild ducks and a frog. They were the best of friends. All day long they played together. When the hot summer came, the pond began to dry up. Soon there was so little water that they realized they would have to move. Now the ducks could easily fly to another pond, but what about their friend, the frog?

Finally, it was decided that the ducks would put the two ends of a stick in their bills. Then the frog could hang onto the middle of the stick with his mouth, and the ducks would fly him to another pond.

As they were flying low, a farmer in his field looked up; and when he saw the strange formation, he said, “Well, isn’t that a clever idea! I wonder who thought of that?” The frog opened his big mouth and said, “I did!”

Then down he fell to his death.

- Source Unknown

May we heed the words of James, “**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**” James 4:10.

VERSES 33-34

1. Here we see the third time that God is speaking of blessing the Jewish people, Judah and Israel. Now both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah were physically in captivity for their sins. There was nothing they could do about it even though they tried. They had no Redeemer to set them free.

But here we see that the Lord is their Redeemer and He will set them free. How do I know this is the Lord? Listen to what we are told in Isaiah 47:4, “**As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.**”

You see, the true Deliverer is not some idol or even Cyrus, the true Deliverer is the Lord. In fact, our Redeemer became flesh so that He could die for our sins and on the third day He rose from the dead, taking the sting out of death for us and cleansing us from all our sins. The idols sit there while God is actively involved with His people.

And let me also share these words regarding what this “**Redeemer**” is speaking of in the Hebrew. One writer put it like this, “A gaal had to be a close relative. Christ is this too, for according to His humanity He came forth from the Jews. A gaal had to be able to deliver. The Holy One of Israel does not lack this ability. Sometimes a gaal had to exercise bloody vengeance. Christ will work bloody vengeance upon Babylon for its oppression of His people. Frequently a gaal had to pay a ransom to free a prisoner. The Lord Jesus paid with his blood on Golgotha to ransom His people. On the basis of these considerations, to which could be added many more, it is evident that the name Gaal is very fitting for the Savior.” (Bultema)

So this freedom was more than a physical freedom it was a spiritual one and only the Redeemer could set them free, cleanse them from their sins for He is the Lamb of God who has come to ***TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD!***

VERSES 35-38

1. God is bringing down all their wise men, astrologers, fortune tellers, and-so-on. Everything they trusted in will be judged and fail them.

What a lesson for us. You see, “Who do you trust in to save you? Who do you trust in to provide for you? Who do you trust in to protect you?” If it is not the Lord, you are in trouble.

Remember what we are told in Psalm 73:25-28, which says, **“Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; you have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”** May we not forget that, there is no one else but the Lord and we need to put our trust in Him!

VERSES 39-40

1. Babylon is located in modern day Iraq, but not in an area that is inhabited. As I have said, Saddam Hussain tried to rebuild ancient Babylon but a war with Iran and Desert Storm and his ultimate death has prevented him from completing his task. Today it is still vacant, uninhabited.

The key for me is that it says that, **“As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah And their neighboring cities,” says the LORD, ‘So no one shall reside there, Nor son of man dwell in it.’**” Jeremiah 50:40.

I don’t think we have seen Babylon destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah yet. Yes it is uninhabited, but it has not been destroyed with fire and brimstone! Thus, I think this language goes far beyond the Medes and the Persians or even the Grecians.

I believe it is speaking of what is taking place in Revelation chapters 17 and 18. During the time of the Antichrist we will see a One World Religion and a One World Government come together. Revelation chapter 17 talks about the Ecclesiastical system that is called Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots. And in Revelation chapter 18 it talks about commercial Babylon which will be the center of world trade.

Will ancient Babylon be rebuilt? I am not sure on that. If it is rebuilt listen to its destruction and you tell me if this sounds like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In Revelation 18:9-20 we are told, **“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city’ They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”**

Thus, during the later days when this commercial center is set up again, God is saying He will bring it down, it will be destroyed. And the people will mourn over its destruction, but heaven will rejoice!

VERSES 41-46

1. Again, Babylon and any other nation or people that try to fight against God will not win. God is calling out to man, not trying to destroy him but restore him.

Here is the heart of God as Jesus said in Revelation 3:20-22, **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** May we listen to His voice and turn to Him to escape the judgment that is coming upon this earth!