

Jeremiah 46 - Judgment on Egypt; Babylon Will Strike Egypt

VI. Prophecies concerning the Gentile nations (Jer 46:1—51:64)

(1) Egypt (46:1-26)

(A) Nebuchadnezzar to defeat Egypt at Carchemish (46:1-12)

(B) Consequences (46:13-26)

(a) Fear (46:13-17)

(b) Powerful Babylonian armies (46:18-24)

(c) Destruction of Egypt's gods and kings (46:25-26)

Jer 46-49 are a little different in that they are not directed against Israel; they are prophecies given through Jeremiah to a group of nations. Some Bibles may have this organized as either nine or ten, depending on how they are counted. There will be Egypt, Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus (which implies Syria), and then Kedar and Hazor which should properly be separated into two. Some Bible scholars have them clustered together as Arabia. Arabia was not a cohesive nation at that time, but we would associate Kedar and Hazor with the tribes that make up Arabia, and the last one is Elam. This gives you ten.

Ten Nations

Ten nations. When Moses brought Israel out of Egypt, they faced ten nations. Three of them were put down before they crossed the Jordan under Joshua, so Joshua faced seven nations when they conquered Canaan. It is interesting in the book of Revelation in the end times, the western European nations will be aligned as a confederation of ten, a ten nation thing and three of them are put down first and the dictator takes place (Daniel and Rev 13; 17).

Another point—Jeremiah was a prophet to Israel, but in Jer 1:5 he is a prophet to the nations, plural. Jeremiah had a world view; he served under five kings of Judah and during four different kings of Egypt and two different kings of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar inherited the kingdom when his father died during the first siege). So one of the messages is to recognize that the Bible emphasizes that God is the God of all nations and His demands of holiness apply to all nations.

The nations addressed by Jeremiah include:

- Egypt (46:1-28) - 28 verses

- Philistia (47:1-7) - 7 verses
- Moab (48:1-47) - 47 verses
- Ammon (49:1-6) - 6 verses
- Edom (49:7-22) - 16 verses
- Damascus (49:23-27) - 5 verses
- Kedar and Hazor (49:28-33) - 6 verses
- Elam (49:34-39) - 6 verses
- Babylon (50:1—51:64) - 10 verses

Jer 46 Directed to Egypt

Jer 46 is essentially in its entirety a prophecy against Egypt, but there are two different prophecies. Verses 2-12 have to do with one particular focus on Israel that will turn out to be Pharaoh Necho. The rest of the chapter is another prophecy against Egypt, but it has to do with events after the fall of Jerusalem.

This passage is going to deal with Pharaoh Necho's invasion against the king of Babylon. Egypt was a powerful nation at the time; Babylon is on the rise. Pharaoh Necho is the man that engages in the battle at Megiddo. Megiddo here is the location where Pharaoh Necho slays King Josiah, the good king, in about 609 BC. He placed Jehoahaz on the throne, three months later removes him and imprisons him at Riblah, and Jehoiakim is in charge. See [Arab States in Prophecy](#) for an overview of the final disposition of Arab nations.

Review: Battle of Carchemish

During the fourth year that Jehoiakim was in charge, the battle of Carchemish took place. Pharaoh Necho was defeated by a young general in charge of the Babylonian army, a man named Nebuchadnezzar. That battle alters the subsequent course of history in the world. Pharaoh Necho and Egypt, from that time on, are contained and Babylon is on the rise.

Jeremiah 46

VI. Prophecies concerning the Gentile nations (Jer 46:1—51:64)

(1) Egypt (46:1-26)

(A) Nebuchadnezzar to defeat Egypt at Carchemish (46:1-12)

1 That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

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1 This is the message from the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

1 The word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Gentiles;

Prophecies against Egypt: Its Defeat at Carchemish

2 To Egypt, concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

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2 To Egypt: Concerning the army of King Pharaoh Neco of Egypt, which was encamped by the Euphrates River at Carchemish and which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of the reign of Josiah's son Jehoiakim, king of Judah.

2 Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah.

3 "Set up the buckler and shield, And advance to the battle!

3 "Line up the shield and buckler, And draw near for the battle!

3 "Prepare buckler and shield, and advance into the battle!

3 Order ye the buckler and shield, and draw near to battle.

4 "Harness the horses, And mount the steeds, Take your stand with helmets *on*! Polish the spears, Put on the coats of armor!

4 "Harness the horses, And mount the steeds, And take your stand with helmets *on*! Polish the spears, Put on the scale-armor!

4 Harness the horses! Riders, mount up! Take your positions with your helmets! Polish lances, and put on armor!

4 Harness the horses; and get up, ye horsemen, and stand forth with *your* helmets; furbish the spears, *and* put on the brigantines.

5 "Why have I seen *it*? They are terrified, They are retreating, And their warriors are defeated And have taken refuge in flight, Without facing back. Terror is on every side!" Declares the LORD.

5 "Why have I seen *it*? They are terrified, They are drawing back, And their mighty men are defeated And have taken refuge in flight, Without facing back; Terror is on every side!" Declares the LORD.

5 Why am I seeing this? They're terrified, they have turned back. Their warriors are crushed, and they take flight. They don't look back. Terror is on every side," declares the LORD.

5 Wherefore have I seen them dismayed *and* turned away back? and their mighty ones are beaten down, and are fled apace, and look not back: *for* fear *was* round about, saith the LORD.

6 Let not the swift man flee, Nor the warrior escape. In the north beside the river Euphrates They have stumbled and fallen.

6 Let not the swift man flee, Nor the mighty man escape; In the north beside the river Euphrates They have stumbled and fallen.

6 "The swift cannot flee, nor can the strong escape. In the north, beside the Euphrates River, they stumble and fall.

6 Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates.

- Reference to the Babylonian strength surfacing. Taunts by Jeremiah against Egypt. Bear in mind that Jehoiakim and the leaders were pro-Egypt and Jeremiah is pointing out that they are going to lose and that Jeremiah is called by God to win.

7 Who is this that rises like the Nile, Like the rivers whose waters surge?

7 Who is this that rises like the Nile, Like the rivers whose waters surge about?

7 Who is this, rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge?

7 Who *is* this *that* cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers?

8 Egypt rises like the Nile, And like the rivers whose waters surge; And He has said, "I will rise and cover *that* land; I will destroy the city and its inhabitants."

8 Egypt rises like the Nile, Even like the rivers whose waters surge about; And He has said, "I will rise and cover *that* land; I will surely destroy the city and its inhabitants."

8 Egypt is rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge. He says, 'I'll rise and cover the land. I'll destroy the city and its inhabitants.'

8 Egypt riseth up like a flood, and *his* waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, *and* will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.

9 Go up, you horses, and drive wildly, you chariots, So that the warriors may march forward: Cush and Put, who handle the shield, And the Lydians, who handle *and* bend the bow.

9 Go up, you horses, and drive madly, you chariots, That the mighty men may march forward: Ethiopia and Put, that handle the shield, And the Lydians, that handle *and* bend the bow.

9 Horses, get up! Chariots, drive furiously! Let the warriors go forward, Ethiopia and Put, who carry shields, and the Lydians who handle and bend the bow.

9 Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle *and* bend the bow.

- *Cush* and *Put* are Ethiopia and Libya as we would think of them and they are allies of Egypt

10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of armies, A day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; And the sword will devour and be satisfied, And drink its fill of their blood; For there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of armies, In the land of the north at the river Euphrates.

10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; And the sword will devour and be satiated And drink its fill of their blood; For there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts, In the land of the north by the river Euphrates.

10 That day belongs to the LORD of the Heavenly Armies. It is a day of vengeance to take vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour and be satisfied, and will drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies will hold a sacrifice in the land of the north, by the Euphrates river.

10 For this *is* the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

11 Go up to Gilead and obtain balm, Virgin daughter of Egypt! You have used many remedies in vain; There is no healing for you.

11 Go up to Gilead and obtain balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt! In vain have you multiplied remedies; There is no healing for you.

11 Go up to Gilead and get balm, virgin daughter of Egypt! In vain you multiply remedies, but there is no healing for you.

11 Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; *for* thou shalt not be cured.

- Medicines, a small historical point, apparently the field of medicine was introduced to Europe by Egypt and India. Interesting reference to their medicinal arts. Not to disparage them, but they are going to be no avail for the problems that they have.

12 The nations have heard of your shame, And the earth is full of your cry *of distress*; For one warrior has stumbled over another, And both of them have fallen down together.

12 The nations have heard of your shame, And the earth is full of your cry *of distress*; For one warrior has stumbled over another, And both of them have fallen down together.

12 The nations have heard of your disgrace, and your cry of distress fills the earth. Indeed, one warrior stumbles over another, and both of them fall down together."

12 The nations have heard of thy shame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, *and* they are fallen both together.

- Jeremiah's poetic way of describing the futility of Egypt going against Babylon, their ultimate destruction and almost a taunt that they are going to go down. While this is directed at Egypt, Jeremiah is trying to convince Jehoiakim not to make an alliance with Egypt because Egypt was going to lose.

(B) Consequences (46:13-26)

(a) Fear (46:13-17)

13 *This is* the message which the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt:

13 *This is* the message which the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to smite the land of Egypt:

13 This is the message that the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to conquer the land of Egypt.

13 The word that the LORD spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come *and* smite the land of Egypt.

- Most scholars believe that this is a separate prophecy against Egypt, referring to a different time

14 "Declare in Egypt and proclaim in Migdol, Proclaim also in Memphis and Tahpanhes; Say, 'Take your stand and get yourself ready, For the sword has devoured those around you.'

14 "Declare in Egypt and proclaim in Migdol, Proclaim also in Memphis and Tahpanhes; Say, 'Take your stand and get yourself ready, For the sword has devoured those around you.'

14 "Announce in Egypt, proclaim in Migdol. Proclaim also in Memphis and Tahpanhes. Say, 'Take your positions and be ready, for the sword will devour all around you.'

14 Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

- The prophecy is aimed at Egypt's heartland. Different than the conflict between Pharaoh Necho and the Babylonian which was fulfilled in most scholars eyes at Carchemish. This is subsequent, after the fall of Jerusalem.

— Once again, Nebuchadnezzar focuses on Egypt. Thinking that they would be safe in Egypt, Jeremiah and Baruch were forced by this rebel group to go. He says to no avail, that Nebuchadnezzar would even get to Egypt. Most scholars feel that this gets fulfilled several years after the fall of Jerusalem. The cities here are the cities we reviewed before pretty much in Egypt.

15 "Why have your powerful ones been cut down? They do not stand because the LORD has thrust them away.

15 "Why have your mighty ones become prostrate? They do not stand because the LORD has thrust them down.

15 Why are your warriors prostrate? They don't stand because the LORD has brought them down.

15 Why are thy valiant *men* swept away? they stood not, because the LORD did drive them.

16 "They have repeatedly stumbled; Indeed, they have fallen, one against another. Then they said, 'Get up, and let's go back To our own people and our native land, Away from the sword of the oppressor!'

16 "They have repeatedly stumbled; Indeed, they have fallen one against another. Then they said, 'Get up! And let us go back To our own people and our native land Away from the sword of the oppressor.'

16 They repeatedly stumble and fall. They say to each other, 'Get up! Let's go back to our people and to the land of our birth, away from the oppressor's sword.'

16 He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword.

17 "They shouted there, 'Pharaoh king of Egypt *is nothing but* a big noise; He has let the appointed time pass by!'

17 "They cried there, 'Pharaoh king of Egypt *is but* a big noise; He has let the appointed time pass by!'

17 There they'll cry out, 'Pharaoh, king of Egypt, is just a big noise. He has let the appointed time pass by.'

17 They did cry there, Pharaoh king of Egypt *is but* a noise; he hath passed the time appointed.

(b) Powerful Babylonian armies (46:18-24)

18 "As I live," declares the King, Whose name is the LORD of armies, "One certainly shall come *who is* like Tabor among the mountains, Or like Carmel by the sea.

18 "As I live," declares the King Whose name is the LORD of hosts, "Surely one shall come *who looms up* like Tabor among the mountains, Or like Carmel by the sea.

18 As certainly as I'm alive and living," declares the King, whose name is the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, "Indeed, one will come like Tabor among the mountains and like Carmel by the sea.

18 As I live, saith the King, whose name *is* the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor *is* among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come.

- Dan 4; 10 make the broader point that God is the God of the nations

19 "Make your baggage *ready for exile*, Daughter living in Egypt, For Memphis will become a desolation; It will be destroyed *and* deprived of inhabitants.

19 "Make your baggage ready for exile, O daughter dwelling in Egypt, For Memphis will become a desolation; It will even be burned down *and* bereft of inhabitants.

19 Prepare your baggage for exile, daughter living in Egypt, for Memphis will become a desolate place. It will become a ruin without inhabitant.

19 O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant.

20 "Egypt is a pretty heifer, *But* a horsefly is coming from the north—it is coming!

20 "Egypt is a pretty heifer, *But* a horsefly is coming from the north—it is coming!

20 Egypt is a beautiful calf, but a horsefly from the north is surely coming.

20 Egypt *is like* a very fair heifer, *but* destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north.

21 "Also her mercenaries in her midst Are like fattened calves, For they too have turned away *and* have fled together; They did not stand *their ground*. For the day of their disaster has come upon them, The time of their punishment.

21 "Also her mercenaries in her midst Are like fattened calves, For even they too have turned back *and* have fled away together; They did not stand *their ground*. For the day of their calamity has come upon them, The time of their punishment.

21 Even the mercenary troops in her ranks are like a fattened calf. They too will turn around, and will flee together. They won't stand, for the day of their disaster is coming on them, the time of their punishment.

21 Also her hired men *are* in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, *and* are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, *and* the time of their visitation.

22 "Its sound moves along like a serpent; For they move on like an army And come to her as woodcutters with axes.

22 "Its sound moves along like a serpent; For they move on like an army And come to her as woodcutters with axes.

22 Her cry will be like that of a fleeing serpent when they come in strength. They're coming to her with axes like woodcutters.

22 The voice thereof shall go like a serpent; for they shall march with an army, and come against her with axes, as hewers of wood.

- Serpent was on their Egyptian banners, etc.

— Commentators point out the word play. In the English we miss that; often through these places in the Hebrew there are puns and plays on the words. Just be aware that we are dealing with a translation. The Babylonians did use battle-axes and in those days it was bizarre, different and a surprise. Common in medieval times but this goes back six centuries before Christ. The battle-ax was a peculiar weapon that the Babylonians introduced and it was an aspect of awe to come against.

23 "They have cut down her forest," declares the LORD; "Certainly it will no *longer* be found, Even though they are more numerous than locusts And are without number.

23 "They have cut down her forest," declares the LORD; "Surely it will no *more* be found, Even though they are *now* more numerous than locusts And are without number.

23 They'll cut down her forest, though it's impenetrable," declares the LORD, "for they're more numerous than locusts, and there are too many of them to count.

23 They shall cut down her forest, saith the LORD, though it cannot be searched; because they are more than the grasshoppers, and *are* innumerable.

- Grasshoppers were an idiom of a plague, they were without number, and they were like a swarm.

24 "The daughter of Egypt has been put to shame, Turned over to the power of the people of the north."

24 "The daughter of Egypt has been put to shame, Given over to the power of the people of the north."

24 The daughter of Egypt will be put to shame, she will be given into the hands of the people from the north."

24 The daughter of Egypt shall be confounded; she shall be delivered into the hand of the people of the north.

(c) Destruction of Egypt's gods and kings (46:25-26)

25 The LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: "Behold, I am going to punish Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh, and Egypt along with her gods and her kings, indeed, Pharaoh and those who trust in him.

25 The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says, "Behold, I am going to punish Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh, and Egypt along with her gods and her kings, even Pharaoh and those who trust in him.

25 The LORD of the Heavenly Armies, the God of Israel says, "Look, I'm going to punish Amon of Thebes, Pharaoh, Egypt, its gods and its kings, Pharaoh, and those who trust in him.

25 The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish the multitude of No, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, with their gods, and their kings; even Pharaoh, and *all* them that trust in him:

26 I shall hand them over to those who are seeking their lives, that is, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to his officers. Afterward, however, it will be inhabited as in the days of old," declares the LORD.

26 I shall give them over to the power of those who are seeking their lives, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of his officers. Afterwards, however, it will be inhabited as in the days of old," declares the LORD.

26 I'll give them to those who are seeking their lives and to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and his officers. Then afterwards, Egypt will be inhabited as in times past," declares the LORD.

26 And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD.

Israel will be Delivered

27 "But as for you, Jacob My servant, do not fear, Nor be dismayed, Israel! For, see, I am going to save you from far away, And your descendants from the land of their captivity; And Jacob will return and be undisturbed And secure, with no one making *him* afraid.

27 "But as for you, O Jacob My servant, do not fear, Nor be dismayed, O Israel! For, see, I am going to save you from afar, And your descendants from the land of their captivity; And Jacob will return and be undisturbed And secure, with no one making *him* tremble.

27 "As for you, my servant Jacob, don't be afraid, and Israel, don't be dismayed. For I'll deliver you from a distant place, and your descendants from the land of their captivity. Jacob will return. He will be undisturbed and secure, and no one will cause him to fear.

27 But fear not thou, O my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make *him* afraid.

28 "Jacob My servant, do not fear," declares the LORD, "For I am with you. For I will make a complete destruction of all the nations Where I have driven you, Yet I will not make a complete destruction of you; But I will correct you properly And by no means leave you unpunished."

28 "O Jacob My servant, do not fear," declares the LORD, "For I am with you. For I will make a full end of all the nations Where I have driven you, Yet I will not make a full end of you; But I will correct you properly And by no means leave you unpunished."

28 "As for you, my servant Jacob, don't be afraid, and Israel, don't be dismayed," declares the LORD, "for I am with you. Indeed, I'll make an end of all the nations where I scattered you; but I won't make an end of you! I'll discipline you justly, but I'll certainly not leave you unpunished."

28 Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I *am* with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished.

- Where has the Lord driven them? Everywhere. A promise to Israel, she will not go unpunished, she will be corrected, like a father corrects his child, but He is also going to punish the other nations.

Egypt here is prophesied against twice but what is not visible here, Egypt is the beneficiary of an ultimate promise to survive. She will be restored and strengthened during the Millennial period (Is 19:24-25). Ezek 29:8-14 describes an ultimate restoration and time of blessing on the land of Egypt. That is kind of strange; Egypt is Israel's enemy that was what the Exodus is all about. God promised Abraham, I will bless them that blesses thee and curse him that curses thee. Strangely enough I am sure that Egypt doesn't claim that promise, but God keeps it.