

# Jeremiah 47 - Judgment on Philistia

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

(2) Philistia (47:1-7)

(A) Flood (47:1-4)

(B) Sword (47:5-7)

## Jeremiah 47

(2) Philistia (47:1-7)

(A) Flood (47:1-4)

**1** The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh conquered Gaza.

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**1** This is the message from the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh conquered Gaza.

**1** The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Philistines, before that Pharaoh smote Gaza.

- Sets the time, a time when Pharaoh Necho attacked Gaza

**2** This is what the LORD says: "Behold, waters are going to rise from the north And become an overflowing torrent, And overflow the land and everything that is in it, The city and those who live in it; And the people will cry out, And every inhabitant of the land will wail.

**2** Thus says the LORD: "Behold, waters are going to rise from the north And become an overflowing torrent, And overflow the land and all its fullness, The city and those who live in it; And the men will cry out, And every inhabitant of the land will wail.

**2** This is what the LORD says: "Look, waters are rising from the north, and they'll become an overflowing river. They'll overflow the land and all that fills it— the city and those that live in it. People will cry out, and all those living in the land will wail.

**2** Thus saith the LORD; Behold, waters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; the city, and them that dwell therein: then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl.

- Speaking metaphorically. The flood = the armies that are coming. This prophecy is apparently given about the same time that 46:1-12 was given.

3 "Because of the noise of the galloping hoofs of his stallions, The roar of his chariots, *and* the rumbling of his wheels, The fathers have not turned back for *their* children, Because of the debility of *their* hands,

3 "Because of the noise of the galloping hoofs of his stallions, The tumult of his chariots, *and* the rumbling of his wheels, The fathers have not turned back for *their* children, Because of the limpness of *their* hands,

3 At the sound of the galloping hooves of his horses, at the rumbling of his chariots, the clatter of his wheels, fathers won't turn back for their children because their hands are weak,

3 At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong *horses*, at the rushing of his chariots, *and at* the rumbling of his wheels, the fathers shall not look back to *their* children for feebleness of hands;

4 Because of the day that is coming To destroy all the Philistines, To eliminate from Tyre and Sidon Every surviving ally; For the LORD is going to destroy the Philistines, The remnant of the coastland of **Caphtor**.

4 On account of the day that is coming To destroy all the Philistines, To cut off from Tyre and Sidon Every ally that is left; For the LORD is going to destroy the Philistines, The remnant of the coastland of Caphtor.

4 for the day is coming to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon every helper who remains. For the LORD is destroying the Philistines, the remnant of the coastlands of Caphtor.

4 Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, *and* to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor.

- Tyre and Sidon are allies of Philistia

- "...Caphtor" - a strip of country, actually an Egyptian word which is another indication that many scholars believe the Philistines had their origin from the south from the Egyptians

#### (B) Sword (47:5-7)

5 "**Baldness** has come upon Gaza; Ashkelon has been destroyed. Remnant of their valley, How long will you gash yourself?

5 "Baldness has come upon Gaza; Ashkelon has been ruined. O remnant of their valley, How long will you gash yourself?

5 Baldness is coming to Gaza. Ashkelon is silenced. Remnant of their valley, how long will you gash yourself?

5 Baldness is come upon Gaza; Ashkelon is cut off *with* the remnant of their valley: how long wilt thou cut thyself?

- "Baldness" - prophetically and idiomatically used as a term for desolation (Joshua 10:41; Judges 1:18; 1 Kings 4:24)

— In contrast, hair is sometimes used idiomatically as a symbol of strength (i.e. Samson and the Nazirite vow; with women, it is their glory).

— So hair being strength and baldness being the absence of strength is the root concept. A poet's way of describing that they are experiencing judgment.

6 "Ah, sword of the LORD, How long will you not be quiet? Withdraw into your sheath; Rest and stay still.

6 "Ah, sword of the LORD, How long will you not be quiet? Withdraw into your sheath; Be at rest and stay still.

6 Ah, sword of the LORD, how long before you are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard, be at rest, be silent!

6 O thou sword of the LORD, how long *will it be* ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still.

7 "How can it be quiet, When the LORD has given it an order? Against Ashkelon and against the sea shore— There He has summoned it."

7 "How can it be quiet, When the LORD has given it an order? Against Ashkelon and against the seacoast— There He has assigned it."

7 How can it be quiet, when the LORD has ordered disaster to come to Ashkelon and the seashore? That's where he has assigned it."

7 How can it be quiet, seeing the LORD hath given it a charge against Ashkelon, and against the sea shore? there hath he appointed it.

Now, buried in the Hebrew language, not visible in the English, is a reference in v5-7 to the Anakim. (just a footnote). That is the "tall nation" these unusually tall people that also dwelt among the Philistines (Josh 11:22) and of course the Philistines invoke Goliath who was of the Anakim. He was unusually strong and David took the five stones when he slew Goliath was because of Goliath and his four brothers. He was ready to take on them all. The Anakim show up in some of the root words and they dwelt near Hebron in the prehistoric times. Other prophecies concerning Philistia (Is 14:28-31; Ezek 25:15-17; Amos 1:6-8; Zeph 2:4-7).