

# Jeremiah 50 - Judgment on Babylon; Everlasting Covenant; Vengeance by the Kinsman

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

(9) Babylon (Jer 50:1—51:64)

## What Goes Around, Comes Around

Jer 50-51 are on Babylon (Rev 17-18). Babylon, a city that finds itself in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, in a sense, alluded to three times, in effect the deportation of Judah to Babylon. This event of the last 49 chapters of Jeremiah, the whole idea of Babylon taking Judah into captivity, is a major milestone in God's timeline. It might be kind of fun to start where it all began.

Gen 10 deals with Noah's family. It's called the Table of Nations because many of the ancient names that become tribal names for the principle races on the planet earth. Nimrod actually was a mighty one in defiance of the Lord. He was the first world dictator. He was a leader a militant mighty hunter of men, and he became the first despot in a sense. Shinar is the region, a large plain, the word becomes a synonym for Babylon or Babylonia. Babylon was a city; Shinar the general terrain.

Babylon's main city was 15 miles on a side, surrounded by a double wall. The wall was 350 feet high, it was 87 feet wide at the top, they used to have chariot races six abreast along the top of the wall. There were 250 watchtowers along the wall and some of them extended 100 feet higher than the wall or to be more precise about 450 feet high. In it there was the Tower of Bel, the name Bel is the Arcadian name for Baal, Arcadia was the predecessor at the time. Similar to the sun god thing with Zeus, Jupiter, Merodach in the Bible or Marchuch as the inscriptions would say is the same name for Baal, a more recent name. Baal is the ancient name, the name Bel occurs seven times in the Bible, 2x in Jeremiah and about 4x in Daniel.

In 1968 they uncovered a 197-foot by 164-foot court, that adjoins a throne room that is 165 feet long and a 143 feet wide. This may very well have been the place where Belshazzar saw the writing on the wall.

## Jeremiah 50

(9) Babylon (Jer 50:1—51:64)

1 The word which the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

1 The word which the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

1 This is the message that the LORD spoke through the prophet Jeremiah about Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans.

1 The word that the LORD spoke against Babylon *and* against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet.

- Eight gates in the city of Babylon opened up by his spies

In Babylon there was the sanctuary of Merodach, their main idol. The house their was called *Esagila* which means *the house whose head is raised up*. It is not clear whether that is just the king's pride or something else. The tower that becomes the main thing is *Etemenanki*, which means *the house of the foundation of heaven and earth*. These titles echo Gen 10 if you will; even then in the sixth century before Christ.

Jeremiah for 49 chapters and for 40 years of his ministry has been hammering away to Judah that the Babylonians are God's servants raised to power to punish Judah for their idolatry. Jeremiah weeping and caring passionately for his people, but burdened with the office of having to preside over the death of his nation. He foretold them not to resist the Babylonians because God has raised up the Babylonians to be His instrument to punish Judah.

These two chapters were delivered to Babylon. Seraiah is going to take it to Zedekiah and have it delivered to Babylon when Zedekiah went to there in matters of court. The same Jeremiah that foresaw through God that the Babylonians were going to conquer Judah also knew that Babylon was coming down and was going to be destroyed (Jer 50-51). Babylon shows up in the book of Revelation. Scholars are divided over this. Some scholars believe that the Babylon in Revelation will literally be Babylon rebuilt. Other scholars believe that the Babylon in Revelation is mystical, symbolic and allegorical.

See [Arab States in Prophecy](#) for an overview of the final disposition of Arab nations.

2 "Declare and proclaim among the nations. Proclaim it and lift up a flag, Do not conceal *it*. Say, 'Babylon has been captured, Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered; Her idols have been put to shame, her images have been shattered.'

2 "Declare and proclaim among the nations. Proclaim it and lift up a standard. Do not conceal *it but* say, 'Babylon has been captured, Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered; Her images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered.'

2 "Declare and proclaim among the nations. Lift up a banner and proclaim. Don't conceal anything. Say, 'Babylon will be captured. Bel will be disgraced, and Marduk will be

destroyed. Her idols will be disgraced, and her filthy images will be destroyed.'

2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, *and* conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

- In ancient kingdoms, the king's success or failure was directly related to the success or failure of their idols. Bel and Merodach are their chief idols, and they are losing.

3 For a nation has come up against her from the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. Whether people or animals, they have wandered off, they have gone!

3 For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. Both man and beast have wandered off, they have gone away!

3 For a nation from the north will go up against her. It will make her land into an object of horror, and no one will live in it. Both people and animals will wander off, and they'll leave.

3 For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

- Predicting the ultimate invasion of the Medo-Persian Empire which was to the north

4 "In those days and at that time," declares the LORD, "the sons of Israel will come, they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and *it will be* the LORD their God *whom* they will seek.

4 "In those days and at that time," declares the LORD, "the sons of Israel will come, *both* they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be the LORD their God they will seek.

4 In those days, and at that time," declares the LORD, "the people of Israel will come together with the people of Judah. They'll be weeping as they travel along, and they'll be seeking the LORD their God.

4 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.

- This verse provides a time marker to help identify when this destruction (v3) will take place

— In the days of Babylon's destruction, Israel and Judah will experience a national regathering to the land

Jeremiah predicts that in the days of Babylon's destruction Israel and Judah will return to the land. A limited return to the land took place under Zerubbabel after Babylon fell to Cyrus, but is this the return to which Jeremiah is referring? The specifics of the passage seem to argue against the return under Zerubbabel being the fulfillment. First, Jeremiah indicates that this return will involve "the people of Israel and the people of Judah together" (v4). This phrase links the Remnant from both the northern and southern kingdoms and implies a return of all Jews to the land. Eight times Jeremiah links future language ("in those days" or "days are coming") with a reuniting of Israel and Judah (3:18; 23:56; 30:3; 31:27; 31:31; 33:14; 50:4,20).

### **Everlasting Covenant**

5 They will ask for the way to Zion, *turning* their faces in its direction; they will come so that they may join themselves to the LORD *in* an everlasting covenant *that* will not be forgotten.

5 They will ask for the way to Zion, *turning* their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to the LORD *in* an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.

5 They'll ask the way to Zion, turning their faces in that direction. They'll come and join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that won't be forgotten.

5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, *saying*, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant *that* shall not be forgotten.

- Jeremiah indicates that the return to the LORD following the destruction of Babylon will be both physical and spiritual

- Not only will Israel and Judah return physically to the land, they will "bind" themselves to the LORD in an "everlasting covenant"

- Jeremiah used the phrase "everlasting covenant" in 32:40 where it was parallel to the New Covenant. The return following the destruction of Babylon will bring a spiritual revival to the Jews.

- Reference to the everlasting covenant occurs 4x in Jeremiah

6 "My people have become lost sheep; Their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside *on* the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill, They have forgotten their resting place.

6 "My people have become lost sheep; Their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside *on* the mountains; They have gone along from mountain to hill And have forgotten their resting place.

6 My people have become lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them toward the mountains. They go from mountain to hill. They have forgotten their resting place.

6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.

7 "All who found them have devoured them; And their adversaries have said, 'We are not guilty, Since they have sinned against the LORD *who is* the habitation of righteousness, The LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

7 "All who came upon them have devoured them; And their adversaries have said, 'We are not guilty, Inasmuch as they have sinned against the LORD *who is* the habitation of righteousness, Even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

7 All who find them devour them, but their enemies say, 'We're not guilty, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of righteousness, the LORD, the hope of their ancestors.'

7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.

8 "Wander away from the midst of Babylon And go out from the land of the Chaldeans; Be like male goats at the head of the flock.

8 "Wander away from the midst of Babylon And go forth from the land of the Chaldeans; Be also like male goats at the head of the flock.

8 Move away from the middle of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans. Be like male goats at the head of the flock.

8 Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks.

9 "For behold, I am going to rouse and bring up against Babylon A contingent of great nations from the land of the north, And they will draw up *their* battle lines against her; From there she will be taken captive. Their **arrows** will be like an **expert warrior** Who does not return empty-handed.

9 "For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon A horde of great nations from the land of the north, And they will draw up *their* battle lines against her; From there she will be taken captive. Their arrows will be like an expert warrior Who does not return empty-handed.

9 Indeed, I'm going to stir up and bring against Babylon a great company of nations from the land of the north. They'll deploy for battle against her, and from there she will be captured. Their arrows will be like a skilled warrior; they won't miss their targets.

9 For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows *shall be* as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

- "...arrows" - *chets*, arrow, dart, javelin, an engine of war

— Literally, shot from engine of war or shot from a bow by hand

— LXX: noun nominative feminine singular common: a missile; or anything thrown, such as an arrow or javelin

- "...expert warrior" - *saka*, to be prudent, be circumspect, wisely understand, prosper

— Hiphil participle masculine singular absolute: to have insight; to give attention to, consider, ponder, be prudent; have comprehension

— LXX: intelligent, possessing understanding

— The intelligence is in the arrow; they can't miss! — i.e., "smart weapons": missiles, bombs, etc.

10 "Chaldea will become plunder; All who plunder her will have enough," declares the LORD.

10 "Chaldea will become plunder; All who plunder her will have enough," declares the LORD.

10 The Chaldeans will become plunder, and all who plunder them will get more than enough," declares the LORD.

10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD.

- Jeremiah here is predicting that this enemy God has used to take Judah into punishment is going to get hers and Judah will return to Zion. It is a message of hope to Judah because they know that they are coming back.

**11** "Because you are glad, because you are jubilant, You who pillage My heritage, Because you skip about like a threshing heifer And neigh like stallions,

**11** "Because you are glad, because you are jubilant, O you who pillage My heritage, Because you skip about like a threshing heifer And neigh like stallions,

11 "Though you rejoice, though you exult, you plunderers of my inheritance, though you skip around like a heifer in the grass and neigh like stallions,

11 Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;

12 Your mother will be greatly ashamed, She who gave you birth will be humiliated. Behold, *she will be* the least of the nations, A wilderness, a dry land and a desert.

12 Your mother will be greatly ashamed, She who gave you birth will be humiliated. Behold, *she will be* the least of the nations, A wilderness, a parched land and a desert.

12 your mother will be greatly devastated, she who gave birth to you will be ashamed. She will become the least of the nations, a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

12 Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations *shall be* a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

13 "Because of the wrath of the LORD she **will not be inhabited**, But she will be completely desolate; Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified And will hiss because of all her wounds.

13 "Because of the indignation of the LORD she will not be inhabited, But she will be completely desolate; Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified And will hiss because of all her wounds.

13 Because of the anger of the LORD she won't be inhabited, but will be utterly devastated. Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified and will scoff because of all her wounds.

13 Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.  
- Jeremiah here through the Holy Spirit is pointing out that Babylon will be brought down permanently. They are going to get destroyed.

- "...will not be inhabited" - Babylon has not yet been completely wiped out, therefore this is yet future

— Rev 17-18 is talking about the literal ancient city of Babylon

### **Vengeance by the Kinsman**

14 "Draw up your battle lines against Babylon on every side, All of you who bend the bow; Shoot at her, do not spare *your* arrows, For she has sinned against the LORD.

14 "Draw up your battle lines against Babylon on every side, All you who bend the bow; Shoot at her, do not be sparing with *your* arrows, For she has sinned against the LORD.

14 Deploy the troops all around Babylon. All who bend the bow, shoot at her and spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the LORD.

14 Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD.

15 "Raise your battle cry against her on every side! She has given herself up, her towers have fallen, Her walls have been torn down. For this is the vengeance of the LORD: Take vengeance on her; As she has done *to others*, so do to her.

15 "Raise your battle cry against her on every side! She has given herself up, her pillars have fallen, Her walls have been torn down. For this is the vengeance of the LORD: Take vengeance on her; As she has done *to others*, so do to her.

15 Raise a battle cry against her on every side. She has surrendered, her pillars have fallen, her walls are thrown down. For this is the vengeance of the LORD. Take vengeance on her; as she has done, do to her.

15 Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it *is* the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.

God takes care of vengeance. The concept of the kinsman redeemer includes more than just redeeming the land, they were responsible for the relatives' person and property. He also took the responsibility of avenging for the murder of a relative. He was responsible for purchasing alienated property as in Ruth 4. He also had the responsibility to marry his relative's widow or provide for her (Lev 25; Num 35; Ruth 4).

God is the Kinsman Redeemer of Israel, which puts Him protecting His relative's person and property, avenging the murder of His relative's, purchasing any alienated land, and marrying the widow. Lamentations opens up with Judah as being described as a widow. Mystery Babylon boasts in Revelation that she is neither widowed nor divorced. Two strange phrases that are used of Israel. Mystery Babylon contrasts herself with Israel in a very strange way.

So here we have the enemies of Israel indeed God brought them up to punish Judah but not with immunity. God is going to punish Babylon for her idolatry and for her ungodliness.

16 "Eliminate the sower from Babylon And the one who wields the sickle at the time of harvest; From the sword of the oppressor Each of them will turn back to his own people And each of them will flee to his own land.

16 "Cut off the sower from Babylon And the one who wields the sickle at the time of harvest; From before the sword of the oppressor They will each turn back to his own people And they will each flee to his own land.

16 Eliminate from Babylon the one who plants seeds and the one who uses the sickle at harvest time. Because of the oppressor's sword, let each one turn toward his own people and flee to his own land."

16 Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land.

**17** "Israel is a scattered flock, the lions have driven *them* away. The first one *who* devoured him was the king of Assyria, and this last one *who* has gnawed his bones is Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

17 "Israel is a scattered flock, the lions have driven *them* away. The first one *who* devoured him was the king of Assyria, and this last one *who* has broken his bones is Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

17 "Israel is a scattered flock, driven out by lions. The first to devour him was the king of Assyria, and then afterward King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon gnawed his bones.

17 Israel *is* a scattered sheep; the lions have driven *him* away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

18 Therefore this is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: 'Behold, I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, just as I punished the king of Assyria.

18 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, just as I punished the king of Assyria.

18 Therefore this is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, the God of Israel, says: 'Look, I'm about to judge the king of Babylon and his land, just as I've judged the king of Assyria.

18 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

### **Regeneration of Israel**

19 And I will bring Israel back to his pasture and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan, and his desire will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and Gilead.

19 And I will bring Israel back to his pasture and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan, and his desire will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and Gilead.

19 I'll bring Israel back to his pasture. He will graze on Carmel, on Bashan, on Mt. Ephraim, and on Gilead—his hunger will be satisfied.

19 And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

20 In those days and at that time,' declares the LORD, 'search will be made for the wrongdoing of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I will forgive those whom I leave as a remnant.'

20 In those days and at that time,' declares the LORD, 'search will be made for the iniquity of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.'

20 In those days and at that time,' declares the LORD, 'the iniquity of Israel will be searched for, but there will be none; and the sin of Judah, but none will be found, because I'll pardon those I leave as a remnant.'"

20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and *there shall be* none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon

them whom I reserve.

- The return of Israel and Judah will be accompanied by a removal of their sin and guilt
- This did not happen during the return under Zerubbabel. One need only read Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, or Malachi to see the sin that plagued the remnant who had returned to the land.
- However, Jeremiah's vision of Babylon's destruction is associated with a spiritual renewal among the people of Israel and Judah unprecedented in history

### **God's Judgment on Babylon**

In addition to providing some time elements associated with Babylon's fall, Jeremiah spends a great deal of time focusing on the results of the destruction that God will pour out on this city. Jeremiah makes at least four specific statements on the results of Babylon's fall:

1. Babylon's population will be killed (50:21,26-27,29-30; 51:3-4)
2. Babylon's building will be plundered and fortifications destroyed (50:10,15; 51:26,30,58)
3. The city and country will remain uninhabited (50:3,13,40; 51:29,37,43,64)
4. Only those who flee from the city will be spared (50:8; 51:6)

**21** "Against the land of Merathaim, go up against it, And against the inhabitants of Pekod. Kill and completely destroy them," declares the LORD, "And do according to everything that I have commanded you.

**21** "Against the land of Merathaim, go up against it, And against the inhabitants of Pekod. Slay and utterly destroy them," declares the LORD, "And do according to all that I have commanded you.

**21** "Go up against the land of Merathaim and the inhabitants of Pekod. Kill them with swords, and completely destroy them," declares the LORD, "and do everything that I've commanded you.

**21** Go up against the land of Merathaim, *even* against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee.

- Basically suburbs of Babylon

**22** "The noise of battle is in the land, And great destruction.

**22** "The noise of battle is in the land, And great destruction.

**22** The noise of battle is in the land, and great destruction.

**22** A sound of battle *is* in the land, and of great destruction.

23 "How the hammer of the whole earth Has been cut off and broken! How Babylon has become An object of horror among the nations!

23 "How the hammer of the whole earth Has been cut off and broken! How Babylon has become An object of horror among the nations!

23 How the hammer of all the earth is cut off and broken! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations!

23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

24 "I set a trap for you and you were also caught, Babylon, While you yourself were not aware; You have been found and also seized Because you have engaged in conflict with the LORD."

24 "I set a snare for you and you were also caught, O Babylon, While you yourself were not aware; You have been found and also seized Because you have engaged in conflict with the LORD."

24 I'll set a trap for you, and you will be caught, Babylon, but you don't realize it. You will be found and also seized, because you challenged the LORD!

24 I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD.

25 The LORD has opened His armory And has brought out the weapons of His indignation, For it is a work of the Lord GOD of armies In the land of the Chaldeans.

25 The LORD has opened His armory And has brought forth the weapons of His indignation, For it is a work of the Lord GOD of hosts In the land of the Chaldeans.

25 "The LORD will open his armory, and bring out the weapons of his anger. Indeed, a work of the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies will be in the land of the Chaldeans.

25 The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Come to her from the farthest border; Open up her barns, Pile her up like heaps of grain And completely destroy her, Let nothing be left to her.

26 Come to her from the farthest border; Open up her barns, Pile her up like heaps And utterly destroy her, Let nothing be left to her.

26 Come to her from afar. Open up her barns. Pile her up like heaps of grain, and completely destroy her. Don't leave any survivors.

26 Come against her from the utmost border, open her storehouses: cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly: let nothing of her be left.

27 Put all her bulls to the sword; Let them go down to the slaughter! Woe be upon them, for their day has come, The time of their punishment.

27 Put all her young bulls to the sword; Let them go down to the slaughter! Woe be upon them, for their day has come, The time of their punishment.

27 Put all her bulls to the sword, let them go down to the slaughter. How terrible for them because their day has come, the time of their judgment.

27 Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation.

**28** There is a sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon, To declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, Vengeance for His temple.

**28** There is a sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon, To declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, Vengeance for His temple.

28 "The sound of fugitives and refugees will come from the land of Babylon to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his Temple.

28 The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple.

Jeremiah specifically commands those who are God's people to flee from Babylon before this attack begins. Daniel had access to the prophecies of Jeremiah (Cf. Dan 9:2), and he was in Babylon the night it fell to the Medo-Persians (Dan 5:30). If Jeremiah's prophecy was being fulfilled that night, should not Daniel have already fled from Babylon? Either Daniel was unfamiliar with Jeremiah's warning, or he chose to ignore Jeremiah's warning, or he did not identify Jeremiah's warning with the attack under way against Babylon in his day.

**29** "Summon many against Babylon, All those who bend the bow: Encamp against her on every side, Let there be no escape. Repay her according to her work; According to all that she has done, so do to her; For she has become arrogant against the LORD, Against the Holy One of Israel.

**29** "Summon many against Babylon, All those who bend the bow: Encamp against her on every side, Let there be no escape. Repay her according to her work; According to all that she has done, so do to her; For she has become arrogant against the LORD, Against the Holy One of Israel.

29 "Summon many to Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Camp all around her, let no one escape. Repay her according to her deeds. Do to her just as she has done. "For she has behaved arrogantly against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.

29 Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.

- The style of indictment = same style in Rev 17-18

30 "Therefore her young men will fall in her streets, And all her men of war will perish on that day," declares the LORD.

30 "Therefore her young men will fall in her streets, And all her men of war will be silenced in that day," declares the LORD.

30 Therefore, her warriors will fall in her streets, and all her soldiers will be silenced on that day," declares the LORD.

30 Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD.

31 "Behold, I am against you, arrogant one," Declares the Lord GOD of armies, "For your day has come, The time when I will punish you.

31 "Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one," Declares the Lord GOD of hosts, "For your day has come, The time when I will punish you.

31 "Look, I'm against you, arrogant one," declares the LORD God of the Heavenly Armies. "Indeed your day is coming, the time of your judgment.

31 Behold, I *am* against thee, O *thou* most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time *that* I will visit thee.

32 "The arrogant one will stumble and fall With no one to raise him up; And I will set fire to his cities, And it will devour all his surroundings."

32 "The arrogant one will stumble and fall With no one to raise him up; And I will set fire to his cities And it will devour all his environs."

32 The arrogant one will stumble and fall, and there will be no one to lift him up. I'll set fire to his cities, and it will devour everything around him."

32 And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

**33** This is what the LORD of armies says: "The sons of Israel are oppressed, And the sons of Judah as well; And all who took them captive have held them firmly, They have refused to let them go.

**33** Thus says the LORD of hosts, "The sons of Israel are oppressed, And the sons of Judah as well; And all who took them captive have held them fast, They have refused to let

them go.

**33** This is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies says: "The people of Israel are oppressed, along with the people of Judah. All their captors have held on to them and refused to let them go.

**33** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah *were* oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go.

34 "Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of armies is His name; He will vigorously plead their case So that He may bring rest to their land, But turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.

34 "Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of hosts is His name; He will vigorously plead their case So that He may bring rest to the earth, But turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.

34 Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of the Heavenly Armies is his name. He will vigorously plead their case in order to bring rest to the earth, but turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.

34 Their Redeemer *is* strong; the LORD of hosts *is* his name: he shall throughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

35 "A sword against the Chaldeans," declares the LORD, "And against the inhabitants of Babylon And against her leaders and her wise men!

35 "A sword against the Chaldeans," declares the LORD, "And against the inhabitants of Babylon And against her officials and her wise men!

35 A sword against the Chaldeans," declares the LORD, "and against the inhabitants of Babylon, against her officials and her wise men.

35 A sword *is* upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise *men*.

36 "A sword against the oracle priests, and they will become fools! A sword against her warriors, and they will be shattered!

36 "A sword against the oracle priests, and they will become fools! A sword against her mighty men, and they will be shattered!

36 A sword against the diviners. They'll be made fools. A sword against her warriors. They'll be shattered.

36 A sword *is* upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword *is* upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed.

37 "A sword against their horses, against their chariots, And against all the foreigners who are in the midst of her, And they will become women! A sword against her treasures, and

they will be plundered!

37 "A sword against their horses and against their chariots And against all the foreigners who are in the midst of her, And they will become women! A sword against her treasures, and they will be plundered!

37 A sword against her horses, against her chariots, and against all the foreign troops in her midst. They'll become women. A sword against her treasures. They'll be plundered.

37 A sword *is* upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that *are* in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword *is* upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed.

38 "A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up! For it is a land of idols, And they go insane at frightful images.

38 "A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up! For it is a land of idols, And they are mad over fearsome idols.

38 A drought against her waters. They'll dry up. For it's a land of idols, and they go mad over their terrifying images.

38 A drought *is* upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it *is* the land of graven images, and they are mad upon *their* idols.

**39** "Therefore the desert creatures will live *there* with the jackals; The ostriches also will live in it. It will never again be inhabited Nor lived in from generation to generation.

**39** "Therefore the desert creatures will live *there* along with the jackals; The ostriches also will live in it, And it will never again be inhabited Or dwelt in from generation to generation.

39 Therefore the desert creatures along with hyenas will live there. They'll live in it with ostriches, but people won't live in it again. They won't inhabit it from generation to generation.

39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell *there*, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

- Jeremiah is identifying his destruction of Babylon with the one prophesied nearly a century earlier by Isaiah (Cf. Is 13:19-22)

- Since animals cannot inhabit a place of continual burning, these are not literal animals but rather demons (Rev 18:1-2)

40 "As when God overthrew Sodom And Gomorrah with its neighbors," declares the LORD, "No one will live there, Nor will anyone of mankind reside in it.

40 "As when God overthrew Sodom And Gomorrah with its neighbors," declares the LORD, "No man will live there, Nor will *any* son of man reside in it.

40 Just as when God overthrew Sodom, Gomorrah, and their neighbors," declares the LORD, "so also no one will live there. No human being will reside in it.

40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

Jeremiah's prophecies were not fulfilled when Babylon fell to Cyrus in 539 BC. The city was not destroyed, nor were the people killed. The city and surrounding land remained inhabited and productive. Israel and Judah did not combine a physical return to the land with a spiritual return to the LORD to be joined to Him in an everlasting covenant. Like Is 13-14, either Jeremiah 50-51 were not intended to be taken literally or else this prophecy has not yet been fulfilled.

### **People from the North**

41 "Behold, a people is coming from the north, And a great nation and many kings Will be roused from the remote parts of the earth.

41 "Behold, a people is coming from the north, And a great nation and many kings Will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

41 "Look, people are coming from the north. A great nation and many kings will be stirred up from the ends of the earth.

41 Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

42 "They seize *their* bow and javelin; They are cruel and have no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea; And they ride on horses, Drawn up like a man for the battle Against you, daughter of Babylon.

42 "They seize *their* bow and javelin; They are cruel and have no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea; And they ride on horses, Marshalled like a man for the battle Against you, O daughter of Babylon.

42 They grab bow and spear. They're cruel and show no mercy. Their sound roars like the sea, as they ride on horses deployed like men ready for battle against you, daughter of Babylon.

42 They shall hold the bow and the lance: they *are* cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, *every one* put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.

43 "The king of Babylon has heard the report about them, And his hands hang limp; Distress has gripped him, Agony like a woman in childbirth.

43 "The king of Babylon has heard the report about them, And his hands hang limp; Distress has gripped him, Agony like a woman in childbirth.

43 The king of Babylon has heard the news about them, and his hands hang limp. Distress has seized him, like a woman in labor.

43 The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, *and* pangs as of a woman in travail.

- The Antichrist is not in Babylon when the destruction takes place (Cf. Jer 51:31-32)

— So where is he? By comparing the Scriptures, it would appear that, while the Antichrist is meeting his forces in the Valley of Jezreel, his enemies take this opportunity to gather and destroy his capital city very quickly, suddenly, and massively.

— One messenger must run to meet another as in a relay until they have reached the king of Babylon, the Antichrist, wherever he is, to inform him that his capital city has now been destroyed.

**44** "Behold, one will come up like a lion from the thicket of the Jordan to a perennially watered pasture; for in an instant I will chase them away from it, and I will appoint over it whoever is chosen. For who is like Me, and who will summon Me *into court*? And who then is the shepherd who can stand against Me?"

**44** "Behold, one will come up like a lion from the thicket of the Jordan to a perennially watered pasture; for in an instant I will make them run away from it, and whoever is chosen I will appoint over it. For who is like Me, and who will summon Me *into court*? And who then is the shepherd who can stand before Me?"

44 "Look, like a lion comes up from the thicket of the Jordan to a pasture that grows year round, so I'll drive them away from her in an instant, and I'll appoint whomever is chosen over her. Indeed, who is like me? Who gives me counsel? Who is the shepherd who will stand against me?"

44 Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who *is* a chosen *man*, *that* I may appoint over her? for who *is* like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who *is* that shepherd that will stand before me?

45 Therefore hear the plan of the LORD which He has planned against Babylon, and His purposes which He has in mind against the land of the Chaldeans: they will certainly drag them off, *even* the little ones of the flock; He will certainly make their pasture desolate because of them.

45 Therefore hear the plan of the LORD which He has planned against Babylon, and His purposes which He has purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: surely they will drag

them off, *even* the little ones of the flock; surely He will make their pasture desolate because of them.

45 Therefore, hear the plan that the LORD has made against Babylon, and the strategy that he devised against the land of the Chaldeans. Surely they'll drag the little ones of the flock away. Surely their pasture will be desolate because of them.

45 Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make *their* habitation desolate with them.

46 At the shout, "Babylon has been conquered!" the earth quakes, and an outcry is heard among the nations.

46 At the shout, "Babylon has been seized!" the earth is shaken, and an outcry is heard among the nations.

46 At the shout that Babylon has been seized, the earth will be shaken, and the cry will be heard among the nations.

46 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.