

THIS WEEK MEETING ONLY ON ZOOM! (DON'T GO TO CLASSROOM) – IT WILL BE CLOSED!

THIS WEEK, ONLY, CCCM CLASSROOMS ARE CLOSED DUE TO PASTOR'S CONFERENCE!

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 6/28-6/29/2021

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapter 51*

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies -

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OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Chapter 51 – The Utter Destruction of Babylon - (vs. 1-58); Jeremiah's Command to Seraiah – (vs. 59-64)

- **This is the second chapter of Jeremiah's prophecy directed against Babylon**, who has been God's instrument in the judgement of the nations. But having served the purposes of God, as His instrument of judgement, yet they also are to be judged. Just because God used them, does not exempt them from the judgement of God. We have here incredible detail, given relating to the prophetic element of what would be the reaction of the king of Babylon, as well as God's just and perfect reasoning, to all of this when it occurs.
- **God's word came to pass as it always does!** You can count on God's word coming to pass. That is why it is important that we pay attention to what God says, because it shall surely, surely come to pass! We are shown much in this chapter of God's righteousness, His perfect judgment and that He indeed, is a covenant keeping God!

INTRODUCTION:

Judgment on Babylon:

The Utter Destruction of Babylon

Jer 51:1 Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will (28x this chapter) raise up against Babylon, Against (21x this chapter) those who dwell in Leb Kamai, A devouring wind.

Jer 51:2 And I will send winnowers to Babylon, Who shall winnow her and empty her land. For in the day of doom They shall be against her all around.

- **God's counsel shall stand**, and according to it, all hearts shall move. God is giving an illustration of how He is going to blow Babylon away. He is going to send this devouring wind, and the winnowers. Babylon is to be blown away.

Jer 51:3 Against her let the archer bend his bow, And lift himself up against her in his armor (metal plate). Do not spare her young men; Utterly destroy all her army.

- **God is commanding** those that are coming against Babylon not to spare, but to destroy her completely.

Jer 51:4 Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, And those thrust through in her streets.

- **It is to be a thorough destruction of the land.** God will make a thorough work of it; for, as He will perform what He has purposed, so He will perfect what He has begun.

Jer 51:5 For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah, By his God, the LORD of hosts, Though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel." (Gen 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."

- **God is now judging Babylon for what she did to Judah.** For even though Judah had sinned against God, there was sin in the land, it was filled with sin. Yet Israel and Judah will know that God did not fully forsake them as they should have been, because of their sin!
- **There is something wonderful about the grace of God, towards His children.** We often fail and fail miserably! We are not immune from failing. But if you are a child of God, God is so faithful in dealing with you. Bringing into your life that which is necessary to bring you back to Himself. As a child of God, God will chastise you. It is interesting that a person who is not a child of God, can get by with all kinds of evil. You cannot. You will get caught. God will see to it that you do not get by with evil. If you have been messing around, you have been caught, and you are in real deep water, just thank the Lord because it means you are His child. He is not letting you get by with it!

Jer 51:6 Flee from the midst of Babylon, And everyone save his life (nephesh – soul). Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; He shall recompense her. (2Co 6:17a) Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM.."

- **God is going to get even with Babylon now.** God is telling His people, when this prophecy begins to happen, to *flee from Babylon* so that you do not suffer the coming judgement there. As His people, we are not to be united with those, whom we know, He must judge! In the New Testament in (**Rev 18:4**) *And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.* Here God is saying basically the same thing through Jeremiah, as He said through John, in the book of Revelation, concerning commercial **Babylon**.

Jer 51:7 *Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged.*

Jer 51:8 *Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her! Take balm for her pain; Perhaps she may be healed. (Rev 18:2a) And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen!"*

Jer 51:9 *We would have healed Babylon, But she is not healed. Forsake her, and let us go everyone to his own country; For her judgment reaches to heaven and is lifted up to the skies.*

Jer 51:10 *The LORD has revealed our righteousness. Come and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.*

- **God is again announcing this judgement that is going to come against Babylon.** It will be utter destruction. When King Nebuchadnezzar had his dream and Daniel was brought in to interpret it, he said to Nebuchadnezzar, "The vision that you saw, a great image, with a head of gold, the chest of silver, stomach of brass, legs of iron, feet of iron and clay. The Lord of heaven has shown unto you the kingdoms that shall rule over the earth, and you O Nebuchadnezzar are the head of gold! For God has given to you a kingdom, power, glory. All of the nations have come to rest under you". That is basically what Jeremiah is saying here. Babylon has been *a golden cup in the Lord's hands*. The whole *earth* is made *drunk*. But Babylon is suddenly fallen, the head of gold is going to be replaced by the shoulders, the chest of silver.
- **When Daniel revealed the dream and the interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar,** who made a proclamation in all the earth, "There's no god in all the earth like the God of Daniel who is able to reveal secrets", and all. But acknowledging the God of Daniel, he immediately set about to defy God, for he made a great image of all gold and set it up in the plain of Dura. What Nebuchadnezzar was actually saying, by the image all of gold was that Babylon will never fall!
- **He ordered that all of the people in the kingdom bow down to this great golden image.** Bow down to the concept that Babylon would exist forever. But God has pronounced the judgement. God, through Jeremiah, saying that it is going to come upon them suddenly. They will be destroyed. There will be no cure. Thus, the people of God were to forsake her. God is saying that Babylon is incurable. Do not stay in Babylon and try to cure it. Get out! Leave! It will be utter destroyed!

Jer 51:11 *Make the arrows bright! Gather the shields! The LORD has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan is against Babylon to destroy it, Because it is the vengeance of the LORD, The vengeance for His temple.*

- **The declaration will be,** that now to the enemies that are to destroy them, the Medes with the Persians. The fact was indeed significant to God, that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed and sacked *the temple of God* in Jerusalem. God now, is going to take *vengeance* for what Babylon did *to His temple* in Jerusalem. God called the temple His house. "My house", God said.

Jer 51:12 *Set up the standard on the walls of Babylon; Make the guard strong, Set up the watchmen, Prepare the ambushes. For the LORD has both devised and done What He spoke against the inhabitants of Babylon.*

- **God has devised a strategy by which Babylon is to fall.** Now, it should be noted that Babylon continued to exist after this prophecy of Jeremiah for another fifty plus years. It remained in glory and power and prominence. But surely Babylon will fall, for God has declared it.

Jer 51:13 *O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, The measure of your covetousness.*

- **Babylon had conquered the world and had taken booty from all of the nations.** As she took the treasures from Israel, or Judah, so she had taken the treasures from Egypt, and the treasures from the other countries. She was very rich.
- **Your end has come.** It is rather awesome to realize that God says to everyone sooner, or later, "Your

end has come". Remember in Daniel, telling that Belshazzar had prepared a great feast for a thousand of his lords. It was really in disdain against the Neo-Persian army that was attacking him. Babylon felt completely secure, that their city was impervious. While the Medes were out there in misery in their fox holes, he is partying in his palace with a thousand of his lords.

- **But there came the handwriting on the wall, and basically God said, "Your days are numbered.** You have been weighed in the balances, and you have been found wanting. This night your soul will be required of you. The time of your appointment with God is come. It's appointed unto man once to die." *The end has come. The measure of Your covetousness. You poured it for yourself, and now the time is come.*

Jer 51:14 The LORD of hosts has sworn by Himself: "Surely I will fill you with men, as with locusts, And they shall lift up a shout against you."

- **One always swears by something greater.** God cannot swear by anything greater, so He swears by Himself, when He wants to affirm a statement. "The LORD of hosts has sworn by Himself, that He *will fill* Babylon with vast numbers of the enemy's forces

Jer 51:15 He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.

- **The LORD has made the earth by His power**". That puts Him in a category all by Himself! It is always wonderful when the prophets begin to talk about the greatness of God. He is the God that made the world; Therefore, nothing is too hard for Him to do. It is in His name that our help stands, and on Him our hope is built.

Jer 51:16 When He utters His voice—There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures."

- **Note the water cycle**, how that He gathers up the waters from the ends of the earth. He draws them into the clouds, He pushes them with His winds over the land, He sends forth His voice, the thunder and He makes the lightning with the rain, of which about 1.5 trillion tons of water falls to the earth each day! The wind, which seems arbitrary in its motions, and we know not where it comes, is yet, we are sure, brought *out of His treasures*.

Jer 51:17 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

Jer 51:18 They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.

- **The idols that oppose the accomplishment of His word are a mere sham** and their worshippers *are dull-hearted, without knowledge*. Whenever you start talking about the knowledge of God, you are pretty dull-hearted! Every man is dull-hearted, in comparison with the knowledge of God.
- **Then he said, every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved image;** The *metalsmith* is the guy who is molding and making these little idols, these little graven images that they are going to be worshiping, *for his molten image is a falsehood, there is no breath in them*

Jer 51:19 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things; And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance. The LORD of hosts is His name.

- **The true and the living God is not like them.** Between the God of Israel and these gods of the heathen there is no comparison. He is the former, maker, of all things! You cannot form Him. You cannot make any image. He formed everything! You do not create Him, He created you! Now many men are worshiping gods that are the gods of their own creation. They have created that god. When a man makes a god, he actually is making a projection of himself. But not so with the God of Jacob!

Jer 51:20 "You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: For with you I will break the nation in pieces; With you I will destroy kingdoms;

Jer 51:21 With you I will break in pieces the horse and its rider; With you I will break in pieces the chariot and its rider;

Jer 51:22 With you also I will break in pieces man and woman; With you I will break in pieces old and young; With you I will break in pieces the young man and the maiden;

- **Babylon, in the past, had also been God's battle-axe;** This also may presently apply to Cyrus. It was so at this time, when Jeremiah prophesied, and was likely to be yet more so. The forces of

Babylon were God's *weapons of war*, tools in his hand, with which he broke in pieces, and knocked down, *nations and kingdoms*, - *horses and chariots*, which are so much the strength of *kingdoms*, *man and woman*, *young and old*, with which kingdoms are replenished.

Jer 51:23 With you also I will break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; With you I will break in pieces the farmer and his yoke of oxen; And with you I will break in pieces governors and rulers.

- ***Also, I will break the shepherd and his flock, the farmer, and his oxen***, with which kingdoms are maintained and supplied. Those that have carried all before them a great while will yet at length meet with their match, and their day also will come to fall; the rod will itself be thrown into the fire at last. Nor can any think they will be exempted from God's judgments that they have been instrumental in executing His judgments on others.

Jer 51:24 "And I will repay Babylon And all the inhabitants of Chaldea For all the evil they have done In Zion in your sight," says the LORD.

- **"I'll get even"**, God said, **"Vengeance is mine, I will repay"**, says the Lord. God mentions His displeasure! For all of the evil that they did to God's people, the whole spectrum of their society is to suffer at the hand of God. To be judged by God. They shall not only live to see those judgments brought upon Babylon, but they shall plainly see them to be the punishment of the wrong they have done to Zion

Jer 51:25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth," says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt mountain.

- **Like a volcano that has blown and finally just collapses in on itself.** As a burnt mountain, Babylon, and its government, which may refer to a mountain of sin and idolatry! It shall have consumed itself, and shall remain a heap of ashes

Jer 51:26 They shall not take from you a stone for a corner Nor a stone for a foundation, But you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD.

- **No corner stone.** People shall not care for having anything to do with Babylon, or whatever belonged to it. Or it denotes that there shall be nothing left in Babylon on which to ground any hopes or attempts of raising it into a kingdom again.

Jer 51:27 Set up a banner in the land, Blow the trumpet among the nations! Prepare the nations against her, Call the kingdoms together against her: Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz. Appoint a general against her; Cause the horses to come up like the bristling (rough, hungry) locusts.

Jer 51:28 Prepare against her the nations, With the kings of the Medes, Its governors and all its rulers, All the land of his dominion.

- **Set up; prepare; call; appoint; cause;** This they are called to! Let **a banner be set up**, under which to enlist soldiers for this expedition. **Blow the trumpet** to call men together to it and animate them in it; let the nations, out of which Cyrus's army is to be raised, prepare their recruits; let the kingdoms of **Ararat, and Minni, and Ashkenaz**; send in their quota of men for His service. Let general officers be **appointed** and the cavalry advance; let the horses come up in **great numbers**, as the **bristling** (very hungry) **locusts**, leaping and pawing in the valley; let them lay the country waste; let the kings and captains **prepare** nations against Babylon, for there is need for many hands.

Jer 51:29 And the land will tremble and sorrow; For every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, To make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.

- **Many times, prophecies have a dual fulfillment.** That which is going to happen almost immediately, and then ahead in the future. In as much as the Lord used the Medes and the Persians to destroy Babylon, so again in a double type of fulfillment, it is quite possible. Because all of it was not completely fulfilled in Jeremiah's generation or in the following. Some of this has yet to be fulfilled. It is His purpose, which shall be performed, that **Babylon** must be a **desolation**.

Jer 51:30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, They have remained in their strongholds; Their might has failed, They became like women; They have burned her dwelling places, The bars of her gate are broken. (Isa 45:1-2) "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: [2] '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

- **Whoever will may call them to it, but they shall have no heart to come at the call,** God having taken away their strength and spirit. *They have remained in their strongholds*, not daring so much as to peep forth, the might both of their hearts and of their hands fails; they *become like women*, so that the enemy has, without any resistance, *burned her dwelling-places and broken her gates*.

Jer 51:31 One runner will run to meet another, And one messenger to meet another, To show the king of Babylon that his city is taken on all sides;

- **This was fulfilled by the Medes when Babylon was captured.** What dramatic detail, of even the couriers, we see in the prophecy! It was several days before the people in Babylon really knew that it had been conquered.

Jer 51:32 The passages are blocked, The reeds they have burned with fire, And the men of war are terrified.

- **When Cyrus diverted the river Euphrates**, these *reeds* grew along the banks, and he burned them. This is being prophesied about sixty to seventy years before it occurred.

Jer 51:33 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor When it is time to thresh her; Yet a little while And the time of her harvest will come."

- **Babylon will be crushed! They sowed to the wind and reaped the whirlwind.** (*Gal 6:7*) *Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

Jer 51:34 "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon Has devoured me, he has crushed me; He has made me an empty vessel, He has swallowed me up like a monster; He has filled his stomach with my delicacies, He has spit me out.

- **Nebuchadnezzar had devoured Jerusalem.** He had treated her as ruthlessly as a crocodile does its prey, and for this cruelty he and Babylon are justly to be punished. Babylon had just chewed them up and spit them out!

Jer 51:35 Let the violence done to me and my flesh be upon Babylon," The inhabitant of Zion will say; "And my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea!" Jerusalem will say.

- **Zion and Jerusalem shall say,** "Let the violence done to me and my children, that are my own flesh, and pieces of myself, and all the blood of my people, which they have shed like water, on them; let the guilt of it lie upon them, and let it be required at their hands." Ruin is not far off from those that lie under the guilt of wrong done to God's people.

Jer 51:36 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry.

- **Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance!** Leave it with Me. As Christians, we are never to take vengeance! God says *vengeance* is Mine! He is very possessive of that! We do not have a clear enough understanding of the situation of how far to take vengeance. If we do it ourselves, we will exceed what we ought to do and then God will need to judge us! God says to keep out of it. It is a messy business. It is God's business! It requires infinite wisdom and knowledge to be involved in it. As great a plan as you could come up with, it will always be inferior to what God has in mind in the situation and how magnificently God will handle it! This may be timely and important for some of us to consider even right now!

Jer 51:37 Babylon shall become a heap, A dwelling place for jackals, An astonishment and a hissing, Without an inhabitant.

Jer 51:38 They shall roar together like lions, They shall growl like lions' whelps.

Jer 51:39 In their excitement I will prepare their feasts; I will make them drunk, That they may rejoice, And sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the LORD.

- **Cyrus diverted the river Euphrates.** He dried up the river by diverting it into canals around the city. Again, sixty to seventy years before it happened. What happened? Belshazzar's feast! They had this feast, they were all drunk. They were so drunk that they did not really realize what was going on. God says that He will put them in a *perpetual sleep*. The word of the Lord to him that night, was "This night, your soul shall be required of you and your kingdom will be divided to the Medes and the Persians".

Jer 51:40 "I will bring them down Like lambs to the slaughter, Like rams with male goats.

- They are easily *brought down like lambs to the slaughter*. The enemies make no more of killing them than the butcher does of killing lambs.

Jer 51:41 "Oh, how Sheshach (symbolic name for Babylon) is taken! Oh, how the praise of the whole earth is seized! How Babylon has become desolate among the nations!"

Jer 51:42 The sea (vast army) has come up over Babylon; She is covered with the multitude of its waves.

Jer 51:43 Her cities are a desolation, A dry land and a wilderness, A land where no one dwells, Through which no son of man passes.

- How is *Sheshach* taken? **The strength of the enemy**, and their invading them, are here compared to an irruption and inundation of waters. *The sea has come up over Babylon*, which, when it has once broken through its bounds, there is no defense against it, so that *she is covered with the multitude of its waves*, overpowered by a numerous army. *Her cities* then become *a desolation*, an uninhabited uncultivated desert!

Jer 51:44 I will punish Bel in Babylon, And I will bring out of his mouth what he has swallowed; And the nations shall not stream to him anymore. Yes, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

- *Bel* was the principal idol that the Babylonians worshipped, and therefore that is by name here marked for destruction. *I will punish Bel*, that great devourer, that image to which such abundance of sacrifices are offered and such rich spoils dedicated, and to whose temple there is such a vast resort. He shall disgorge what he has so greedily regaled himself with. God will bring forth out of his temple all the wealth laid up there. His altars shall be forsaken, none shall regard him anymore, and so that idol which was thought to be a *wall of Babylon* shall fall and fail them. The *wall of Babylon* was 87 feet thick, 250-300 feet high, with many towers on it. God is declaring this wall is going to fall! Imagine! It was thought impossible. Yet God said, *Yes, the wall of Babylon shall fall*.

Jer 51:45 "My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the LORD.

- **The second time God is telling them, "Get out!"** The rumor came that the Medes are arming and going to invade. A year later the rumor came that the Medes are on their way.

Jer 51:46 And lest your heart faint, And you fear for the rumor that will be heard in the land (A rumor will come one year, And after that, in another year A rumor will come, And violence in the land, Ruler against ruler),

- **It is their wisdom to go out of Babylon, lest they be involved in a place where God's judgment will fall and make desolate.** The alarms given to Babylon would put them in fright, and perhaps they might not have faith and consideration enough to suppress those fears, but here they are told to get out at the hearing of the alarms.

Jer 51:47 Therefore behold, the days are coming That I will bring judgment on the carved images of Babylon; Her whole land shall be ashamed, And all her slain shall fall in her midst.

- **It is a destruction that shall reach the gods of Babylon, the idols and images**, and fall with a particular weight upon them. All their gods will perish, from whom they expect protection. Though the invaders are themselves idolaters, yet they shall destroy the images and temples of the gods of Babylon.

Jer 51:48 Then the heavens and the earth and all that is in them Shall sing joyously over Babylon; For the plunderers shall come to her from the north," says the LORD.

- **Yet some shall rejoice in Babylon's fall**, not as it is the misery of their fellow-creatures, but as it is the manifestation of the righteous judgment of God and as it opens the way for the release of God's captives; upon these accounts *the heaven and the earth, and all that is in both, shall sing for Babylon*. The church in heaven and the church on earth shall give to God the glory of His righteousness and take notice of it with thankfulness to His praise. *Babylon's ruin is Zion's praise.*

Jer 51:49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, So at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall.

- **So, the reversal.** Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, so Babylon shall fall, not only of the city, but of *all the country*

Jer 51:50 You who have escaped the sword, Get away! Do not stand still! Remember the LORD afar off, And let Jerusalem come to your mind.

- ***Get away! Do not stand still! Remember*** the place that God has given to you. Go to your own country Judea again, even if you are comfortable in Babylon, it is not your home, Caanan is! ***Remember the Lord afar off.*** His presence is with you now, though you are here far away from Jerusalem, even though it is in ruins. Wherever we are, in the greatest depths, at the greatest distances, we may and must remember the Lord our God. In times of our greatest fears and hopes, we need and must remember Him! When we are going through great difficulties in this world, let the heavenly Jerusalem come often into our mind.

Jer 51:51 We are ashamed because we have heard reproach. Shame has covered our faces, For strangers have come into the sanctuaries of the LORD's house.

- ***We are ashamed!*** We cannot bear the thought of it. ***Shame has covered our faces*** at the mention of it, ***for strangers have come into the sanctuaries of the LORD's house***, that is profaned and ruined by ***strangers***. How can we think of it with any pleasure?

Jer 51:52 "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will bring judgment on her carved images, And throughout all her land the wounded shall groan.

- ***That I will bring judgment on her carved images.*** Even when discouraged in the presence of worldly ruins, we need to remember His promise here, the God of Israel will triumph over the gods of Babylon, and so that reproach will be forever rolled away! Our believing the prospect of Jerusalem's recovery will keep us from being ashamed of Jerusalem's ruins.

Jer 51:53 Though Babylon were to mount up to heaven, And though she were to fortify the height of her strength, Yet from Me plunderers would come to her," says the LORD.

Jer 51:54 The sound of a cry comes from Babylon, And great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans,

Jer 51:55 Because the LORD is plundering Babylon And silencing her loud voice, Though her waves roar like great waters, And the noise of their voice is uttered,

Jer 51:56 Because the plunderer comes against her, against Babylon, And her mighty men are taken. Every one of their bows is broken; For the LORD is the God of recompense, He will surely repay.

- ***The LORD is the God of recompenses!*** The God who balances things out. The wheels of justice grind slow, but exceedingly fine. "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap". The bible says, "Don't be deceived about this. If you are going to sow to the flesh, you're going to reap from the flesh". Babylon has sown and the time of reaping is come. It is a bitter harvest that she is going to reap because she sowed seeds of bitterness. God calls Himself ***a God of recompense***. A God who evens things out. You may think you are getting by, you are not. The ***God of recompenses*** shall ***surely repay!***

Jer 51:57 "And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the King, Whose name is the LORD of hosts.

- ***God is pronouncing this awesome, certain judgement, about sixty to seventy years*** before it happened. A night when they were all drunk, just for entertainment, Belshazzar said, "Bring the gold and silver cups that my father brought from the temple in Jerusalem, that we might drink our wine out of those cups". That is when the hand appeared and the letters on the wall, announcing the end for the Babylonian kingdom. That was the night the captain, ***the mighty men, the wise men***, and the king, went in to ***a perpetual sleep***.

Jer 51:58 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, And her high gates shall be burned with fire; The people will labor in vain, And the nations, because of the fire; And they shall be weary."

- ***The broad walls of their city*** fail them! These walls were about 300 feet high and 87 feet thick! Yet the LORD says these shall be ***utterly broken***, and ***the high gates shall be burned!*** ***The people*** that are employed in the defense of the city shall ***labor in vain!***

Jer 51:59 The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign (593 B.C.; 12 years later than Jeremiah's prophecies re the judgment of the nations; the twelfth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign). And Seraiah was the quartermaster.

- **Zedekiah may have been called by to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar to attend the ceremony** of worshipping, or really giving a loyalty oath to the king, by bowing down to the golden image that had been erected in Dura. There had been a revolt in Akkad a little earlier. In Daniel we read that *the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the officials of the provinces* had received word from Nebuchadnezzar to attend to re-affirm their loyalty to him. Historian William H. Shea has written an interesting account of this.

Jer 51:60 So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come upon Babylon, all these words that are written against Babylon. (Jer 36:8) And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading from the book the words of the LORD in the LORD's house.

- **Seriaiah, being a brother to Baruch, would likely have had access** to all that Baruch had recorded, so he would have been a likely candidate to accompany Zedekiah back to Babylon at the request of the king.
- **Zedekiah was in the eleventh year of his reign when he was taken as a captive.** So, in the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah, when this prophecy was given by Jeremiah, to this fellow Seraiah, to take to the captives to Babylon and to read to the Jews that were there in Babylon. They were being mistreated by their Babylonian captors. It was a word of encouragement to them. God is going to take care of Babylon. Their day is coming, and God will recompense. God will take care of them.

Jer 51:61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words,

Jer 51:62 then you shall say, 'O LORD, You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.'

- ***You have spoken against this place, to cut it off,*** and therefore we will neither envy its pomp nor fear its power. When we have been reading the word of God draws us to the truth, equity, and goodness, of what we have read.

Jer 51:63 Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates.

Jer 51:64 Then you shall say, 'Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.' " Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

- **This is the words of this prophecy against Babylon,** tossed in the river *Euphrates*, as it sinks, Seraiah is to say, "***Thus shall Babylon sink***". It happened! God's word came to pass as it always does! You can count on God's word coming to pass. That is why it is important that we pay attention to what God says, because it shall surely, surely come to pass!
- **Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.** Not that this prophecy against Babylon was the last of his prophecies; for it was dated in the fourth year of Zedekiah (593 B.C.), long before he finished his testimony; but this is recorded last of his prophecies because it was to be last accomplished of all his prophecies against the Gentiles. The chapter which remains is purely historical, and, as some think, was added by some other hand.

Application: Lessons to be Learned:

- **God's promises of judging sin are sure** – God's word always comes to pass. He tells us 28X of "I will"
- **God's Perfect Judgment and Grace – Chastisement;** His vengeance; He gets His people out! Remember the LORD, the place He has given you! Your end will come!
- **God recompenses;** He will repay - Babylon – Judgment for their evil! His promises to His people - He will take care of you! He has not appointed you to His wrath! How thankful are we? Oh, the goodness of God!

Closing Song:

THE GOODNESS OF GOD (5:03)

I love You, Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus - And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In the darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father. I've known You as a Friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God
(Chorus)

Cause Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.
Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. (2x)

(Chorus) (2x)

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God