

Jeremiah Chapter 49

Oct. 28, 2009 – Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

DESTRUCTION OF THE GENTILES #2

I. DESTRUCTION OF AMMON (Jer. 49:1-6)

- A. Does not Israel have sons (heirs) in Gad? It is Israel who should be dwelling in and controlling Ammon, not the son of Lot as Ammon is.
- B. “Their king” in verse one may refer to Moloch, their god, and “his people” would refer to the followers of Moloch, the Gentile god.
- C. Rabbah was the chief city of the Ammonites, and the alarm went out from the Lord (Jeremiah’s prophecy) that they will be destroyed.
- D. Ai is a nearby city (not the Ai that was captured by Israel as they went into the promised land). It, too, will be destroyed.
- E. Heshbon, Ai, and Rabbah (vs. 3) are all cities that will be destroyed. People will run to and fro, hiding in the hedges to escape the destruction. Their king (god) will go into captivity along with his priests and princes.
- F. Ammon and Moab are children of Lot, and they are backslidden from “just Lot.” They are gone astray from Lot’s God, 4.
- G. These lands will be taken into captivity, but they will come back again, vss 4-5.
- H. In the times of the Maccabees, these were strong people (1 Macc. 5:6), vs 6

II. DESTRUCTION OF EDOM (Jer. 49:7-22)

- A. The Ruin of a Nation (7-13; 17-19)
 - 1. Edom was the son of Esau (Gen. 25:29-30)
 - 2. The name of Esau’s son is used here in verse seven, but in the Assyrian language the place is called Udumi, and in Latin it is Idumea. The locality is in the southern part of Palestine toward the southern portion of the Dead Sea.
 - 3. Dedan (verse 8) is a city in Edom. God will visit this entire area around Edom and destroy in his own determined time.
 - 4. Those who gather grapes will leave some of the crop for the poor, but Babylon will not leave any for Edom, 9-10
 - 5. Leave the children (vs 11). This indicates that the fathers are no longer able to take care of their wives and children, so they are to be left in the hands of God to care for. This is not a promise that all children will be saved alive, but it may indicate that some of the children will return with the remnant to their land.
 - 6. Lesser Judgment, Full Judgment (12). Those who were not as guilty as Edom in their sins will suffer a lesser judgment, which is a sure indication that Edom will meet the full judgment of God, even Bozrah, the chief city of Idumea (13).
 - 7. Verses 17-19 express the details about Edom’s destruction. It will be like Sodom and Gomorrah.

- a. Sodom's destruction was sudden
 - b. Sodom's destruction was total
8. Nebuchadnezzar will come as a lion and as a flood from Jordan (19). The king of Edom will run away as a shepherd might run away from his sheep when the wolf comes near. Is there a man at all anywhere who can stand as the king of this country at a time when God is at work destroying the country?
9. God says,
- a. "Who is like me?"
 - b. "Who will appoint me the time?"
 - c. "Who is that shepherd that will stand before me?"
- B. The Rumor From The Lord (14-15)
- 1. This rumor (Heb. SHMUAH, "announcement") was sent by way of Jeremiah, the ambassador, 14, and says to Babylon:
 - a. Come together
 - b. Come against her (Edom)
 - c. Rise up to battle
 - 2. God will make Edom a small and despised country, 15
- C. The Reason For Destruction (16)
- 1. For the "terribleness" (16). This could refer to their idol god, Moloch. The word designates "fear," and designates the "awe" which they had toward their god. This terribleness has deceived them, as all idols do.
 - 2. For their pride (16). They lived in the clefts of the rocks, since that country had many caves and high mountains. They lived on the tops of the mountains. They could "make thy nest as high as the eagle." But even then, God will find them, both in the caves and in the high mountains, which could also be a metaphor for their high pride.
- D. NOTE: We have already dealt with verses 17-19.
- E. The Recommendation From Jeremiah, 20-22
- 1. Hear the counsel of God, that he will destroy Edom.
 - 2. The least (weakest) of the Chaldean soldiers will be able to overcome in Edom, because God has determined to destroy Edom.
 - 3. The noise of this destruction will be heard in the Red Sea, or the Reed sea, John Gill says this is the Arabian Gulf. It is not the Red Sea that we read about in Exodus.
 - 4. Nebuchadnezzar will come upon Edom like an eagle and spread his wings over it in destruction, 22

III. THE DESTRUCTION OF DAMASCUS (49:23-27)

- A. Damascus is a city of Syria, as are Hamath and Arpad, 23
- B. She was taken as a woman in travail, 24
- C. She fled away, but to no avail, 25
- D. One writer says it is "a very great and beautiful city, surrounded with a wall; and the country about it was full of gardens and orchards, fifteen miles' walk on every side of it; and no city in the whole world appeared with such plenty of fruit as that did."

E. All of Syria will be destroyed with the palaces of Ben-hadad, 26-27

IV. THE DESTRUCTION OF KEDAR AND HAZOR (49:28-33)

- A. Their tents will be taken away, 29
- B. They are to flee from the destruction that is coming, 30
- C. The words of verse 31 are believed to be those of Nebuchadnezzar, who is calling for his armies to arise and go to the wealthy nation (Kedar), wealthy, not in money, but in their own pride of confidence that they live at ease and in peace, not fearing combat from without.
- D. Camels will be taken for a booty, and those who are in the “utmost corners” of the land will be taken (those feeding the flocks).
- E. This will be the dwelling of dragons (wild animals) and will have no people there, 33

V. THE DESTRUCTION OF ELAM (49:34-39)

- A. These are the Persians, who were descended from Elam, son of Shem (Gen. 10:22).
- B. This prophecy is at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, 34
- C. “I will break the bow of Elam . . .” related to its adeptness to archery (Isaiah 22:6), 35
- D. The inhabitants will be scattered to every nation, 36
- E. God will completely destroy Elam, 37
- F. God will set his throne in Elam, meaning that Nebuchadnezzar’s throne is truly God’s throne, since God is sovereign over all earthly thrones, 38
- G. We know that the Elamites were returned to the land, mainly because we read about them in Act 2:9 *Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,*

Lessons We Can Learn

1. It is Israel who should be living in these cities; but because of their rebellion, they have been taken captive.
2. Just as grape gatherers leave some for the poor, so God will leave a remnant safe from destruction.
3. No one is like God. No one can appoint him a time. No one as a shepherd that can stand before him. When God’s determination has been made, no one can change it.
4. The Elamites are Persians.
5. Nebuchadnezzar’s throne is God’s throne.