

Prophetical Babylon (Isa 13:1-22; 21:1-10; 47-48; Jer 50-51; Rev 18)

Jeremiah (Warnings Against Sin and Judgment)

Author: As with Isaiah, this book clearly identifies the human author who is Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah from the priest city of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin (1:1). Jeremiah dictated his prophecies to Baruch, his secretary. Only chapter 52 was not written by the prophet. Jeremiah is often called the “weeping prophet” (9:1; 13:17) or the “prophet of loneliness” perhaps because he was commanded not to marry (16:2). He is also known as the reluctant prophet (1:6), but he faithfully proclaimed God’s judgments on an apostate Judah even though he experienced opposition, beatings, and imprisonment (11:18-23; 12:6; 18:18; 20:1-3; 26:1-24; 37:11-38:28).

Date: 627-585 B.C. Jeremiah was a contemporary of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel. His prophetic ministry began in 626 B.C. and ended sometime after 586. His ministry was immediately preceded by that of Zephaniah. Since Ezekiel began his ministry in Babylon in 593 he too was a late contemporary of this great prophet in Jerusalem. How and when Jeremiah died is unknown though Jewish tradition asserts that Jeremiah was put to death while living in Egypt (cf. Heb 11:37).

Title of the Book: The book takes its name from its author, Jeremiah. His name apparently means “Jehovah establishes,” although its exact meaning is uncertain. Other suggestions include “The LORD exalts” and “The LORD establishes.” Another good proposal is “The LORD throws,” either in the sense of “hurling” the prophet into a hostile world or of “throwing down” the nations in divine judgment for their sins.

Theme and Purpose: Two themes are prominent: (1) warnings of God’s judgment against sin, and (2) the message of hope and restoration if the nation would genuinely repent.

Jeremiah, almost from the beginning, lashed out against the sins of his countrymen (44:23) for their idolatry (16:10-13, 20; 22:9; 32:29; 44:2-3, 8, 17-19, 25)—which sometimes even involved sacrificing their children to foreign gods (7:30-34). Jeremiah also loved the people of Judah in spite of their sins, and he prayed for them (14:7, 20) even when the Lord told him not to (7:16; 11:14; 14:11).

Christ as seen in Jeremiah: Many pictures of Christ are seen in Jeremiah: He is portrayed as the "Fountain of Living Waters" (2:13; cf. John 4:14), the "Balm of Gilead" (8:22), the "Good Shepherd" (23:4), a "Righteous Branch" (23:5), and the "Lord our Righteousness" (23:6). He is seen as the one who will bring in the New Covenant (31:31-34).

Another prophecy in Jeremiah has significant Messianic implications. The curse on Jehoiachin (aka Jeconiah, Coniah) meant that no physical descendant would succeed him to the throne (22:28-30). Matthew 1:1-17 traces the genealogy of Christ through Solomon and Jeconiah to His legal (but not His physical) father Joseph. But no son of Joseph could sit upon the throne of David, for he would be under the curse of Jehoiachin. This is another need for the virgin birth of Jesus. Luke 3:23-38 traces Christ's lineage backward from Mary (His physical parent) through David's other son Nathan (Luke 3:31), thereby avoiding the curse. The Righteous Branch will indeed reign on the throne of David.

Outline:

- I. Jeremiah's Call and Commission. (1:1-19)**
 - A. The Call. (1:1-10)**
 - B. The Confirmation of the Call. (1:11-19)**
- II. Prophecies to Judah. (2:1-45:5)**
 - A. The Condemnation of Judah. (2:1-25:38)**
 - B. The Conflicts of Jeremiah. (26:1-29:32)**
 - C. Judah's Hope of Restoration. (30:1-33:26)**
 - D. Events Before the Fall of Jerusalem. (34:1-38:28)**
 - E. The Fall of Jerusalem. (39:1-18)**
 - F. Events After the Fall of Jerusalem. (40:1-45:5)**
- III. Prophecies to the Gentiles. (46:1-51:64)**
 - A. Prophecies Against Egypt. (46:1-28)**
 - B. Prophecies Against the Philistines. (47:1-7)**
 - C. Prophecies Against Moab. (48:1-47)**
 - D. Prophecies Against Ammon. (49:1-6)**
 - E. Prophecies Against Edom. (49:7-22)**
 - F. Prophecies Against Damascus. (49:23-27)**
 - G. Prophecies Against Arabia. (49:28-33)**
 - H. Prophecies Against Elam. (49:34-39)**
 - I. Prophecies Against Babylon. (50:1-51:64)**
- IV. Historical Supplement. (52:1-34)**
 - A. The Fate of Jerusalem. (52:1-23)**
 - B. The Fate of Certain People. (52:24-34)**

Jeremiah 50:1-46

I. **Jeremiah's Call and Commission. (1:1-19)**

II. **Prophecies to Judah. (2:1-45:5)**

III. **Prophecies to the Gentiles. (46:1-51:64)**

I. **Prophecies Against Babylon. (50:1-51:64)**

1. **Proclaim This Prophecy. 50:1-3**

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

2 "Declare (**O Jeremiah**) and proclaim among the nations (**GOYIM**). Proclaim it (**the word**) and lift up a standard (**banner/flag**). Do not conceal it but say, 'Babylon has been captured, Bel has been put to shame, Marduk (**alternate name for Bel**) has been shattered; her (**Babylon**) images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered.'

3 (**Narrative begins**) "For a nation has come up against her (**Babylon**) out of the north (**modern day Turkey, Syrian, Iraq and Iran**); 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!

Summary:

1. **Jeremiah is told to proclaim it among the nations, but he is in captivity in Babylon at the time of writing.**

2. **This requires that the revelation needs to be written down, copied and spread.**

3. **In typical Jewish style, the bottom line is given before the supporting information.**

4. **This views the judgment on Prophetic Babylon as an accomplished fact.**

5. **It will be a judgment on her idolatry.**

6. **This chapter clearly connects to Revelation 18.**

2. **The Timing Of Fulfillment. 50:4-5**

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.

5 "They (**sons of Israel and Judah**) 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. (**Narrative ends**)

Summary:

1. **At the time of writing of this chapter, the Northern Kingdom has already been conquered and dispersed to some degree by the Assyrians.**

2. **The timing of this prophecy has to do with the fact that a massive dispersion has occurred and the Jews are beginning to regather. See also Eze 34-37**

3. **As per other prophecies the Jews will be returning to the Promised Land for the final time to enjoy the Millennial Kingdom.**

3. The Problem. 50:6-7

6 "My people (**the Jews**) have become lost sheep; their shepherds (**priests and leadership**) have led them (**My people**) astray (**Hiph PF TA'AH = to stray**). They (**shepherds**) have made them (**My people**) turn aside on the mountains; they (**My people**) have gone along from mountain to hill and have forgotten their resting place. (**REBETZ = 4x; a couch**)

7 "All who came upon them (**My people**) have devoured them; and their adversaries have said, 'We (**adversaries**) are not guilty, Inasmuch as they have sinned against the LORD (**YAHWEH**) who is the habitation of righteousness, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

Summary:

1. **The Jews have wandered away from the Lord to all the large and small kingdoms of the earth.**
2. **Their adversaries have sought to crush them by consuming their lives and fortunes.**
3. **The adversaries have thought they were rendering service to the Lord of the Jews, even though they had no specific direction to do so.**
4. **This is the attitude of some people on this earth, even Christians.**

4. The Attackers. 50:8-10

8 (**My people**) "Wander (**Qal IMP NUDH = 24x; to 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. (**take the lead**)

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 (**the land of the north**) she will be taken captive. Their arrows will be like an expert warrior who does not return empty-handed.

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

Summary:

1. **The Jews are told to identify and depart from this future Babylon.**
2. **The reason is that this future Babylon will be destroyed by arrows from the North country by an enemy who will not leave its own country.**
3. **This type of destruction has never been done in the history of warfare.**
4. **Babylon will be taken captive, but there will be no one left.**
5. **She will also be plundered, but in the sense that no one needs her products anymore.**

5. Description Of The Destruction. 50:11-16

11 "Because you (**the pillagers**) are glad, because you are jubilant, O you who pillage (**Qal Ptc SHAsAH = 11x; to rob**) My heritage, because you skip about like a threshing heifer and neigh like stallions,

12 Your **(the pillagers)** mother will be greatly ashamed, she who gave you birth will be humiliated. Behold, she **(Babylon)** will be the least ('aCHARITH = last) of the nations, a wilderness, a parched land, and a desert.

13 "Because of the indignation of the LORD she **(Babylon)** 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. **(Rev 18:10)**

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.

15 "Raise your battle cry against her on every side! She **(Babylon)** 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.

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 **(inhabitants of Babylon)** will each turn back to his own people, and they will each flee to his own land.

Summary:

1. **Part of Babylon's problem is that she turns against God's people and begins to steal from them, which will openly happen after the Rapture.**
2. **The "pillagers" are said to have a "mother" which is not the case for Historical Babylon.**
3. **Prophetical Babylon must have a "mother" nation.**
4. **The Babylon under consideration is the last of the Babylons.**
5. **The enemies of Babylon are given permission by the Lord to destroy her.**
6. **The Babylon in view here is not prepared for this battle.**
7. **The enemy is going to attack from every side which is another rare if not unique situation in the history of warfare.**
8. **Her great agricultural production will be stopped.**
9. **The citizens of Babylon are to get out and return to their native land.**

6. The Reason For Destruction. 50:17-20

17 **(Poetry ends-Narrative begins)** "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.

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.

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

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 shall pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.' **(Narrative ends)**

Summary:

1. **At the time of writing, Israel was not completely scattered but held captive in Babylon.**
2. **Here He promises to bring them back to their land, which He did.**
3. **The King of Babylon in this narrative section is Nebuchadnezzar and this near prophecy has been fulfilled. Dan 4:30-35**
4. **Assyria and Babylon were once the Lord's tools to discipline Israel, but when they turned on them and didn't bless them they were defeated.**
5. **Their return is viewed as a pardon for the remnant of Judah who was returned from Babylon.**
6. **The complete fulfillment of the removal of iniquity will be done at the 2nd Advent at the separation of the sheep and goats.**

7. More Description Of The Destruction. 50:21-27

- 21 "Against the land of Merathaim (**means "double rebellion,"**) go up against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod (**visitation for the purpose of punishment**). Slay and utterly destroy them," declares the LORD, "And do according to all that I have commanded you.
- 22 "The noise of battle is in the land, and 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!
- 24 "I set a snare for you (**Babylon**), 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."
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Summary:

1. **The Lord tested Babylon to take care of His people, and she failed.**
2. **Babylon was considered the "hammer of the whole earth," indicating that she was the greatest military power.**
3. **The Lord's weapons were indeed much greater.**
4. **The time of punishment will be complete, arriving in one day.**
5. **Her rebellion against the Lord was not just passive but became active, thus her title of "Merathaim."**

8. Some Will Escape. 50:28

- 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.

Summary:

1. **Indeed, some will escape before the total destruction.**
2. **Some escapees will go to Israel and proclaim what is getting ready to happen.**

3. **About the time of the destruction of Prophetic Babylon during the Tribulation, the Antichrist will take his seat in the Tribulation temple and proclaim himself to be a god. 2 Thes 2:4**

9. Babylon's Arrogance. 50:29-32

- 29 "Summon many against Babylon (**Jeremiah**), 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.
- 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.
- 31 "Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one," declares the Lord GOD of hosts, "For your day has come, the time when I shall punish you.
- 32 "And the arrogant one will stumble and fall with no one to raise him up; and I shall set fire to his cities, and it will devour all his environs."

Summary:

1. **Babylon's biggest problem is arrogance, after the pattern of the real King of Babylon.**
2. **Jeremiah, through this writing, will summon the enemies of Prophetic Babylon to totally annihilate her.**
3. **Pride is at the top of the list of the worst sins. Prov 6:16-19; 8:13**

10. Social Structures Destroyed. 50:33-38

- 33 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "The sons of Israel are oppressed, and the sons of Judah as well (**northern and southern kingdoms**); and all who took them captive have held them fast, they have refused to let them go.
- 34 "Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of hosts is His name; He will vigorously plead (**Qal Inf Abs + Qal IPF RIYB + noun RIYB = pleading**) their case, so that He may bring rest (**Hiph RAGA'**) to the earth, but turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.
- 35 "A sword against the Chaldeans," declares the LORD, "And against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her officials and her wise men!
- 36 "A sword against the oracle priests, and they will become fools! A sword against her mighty men, and they will be shattered!
- 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!
- 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.

Summary:

1. **During this time frame, there is a global anti-Jewish sentiment.**
2. **The Jews will need to get creative in their escape methods.**
3. **Those who oppress the Jews do not realize Who they are fighting.**
4. **The Lord as the Defense Attorney will plead the cause of the Jews.**
5. **The Lord's purpose is to settle down the animosity the earth has toward Israel.**

6. **Babylon though will only receive turmoil for her arrogance and anti-Jew sentiment.**
7. **Those who are close to Babylon will feel it as well as:**
 - A. **Her officials.**
 - B. **Her educators.**
 - C. **Her religious leaders.**
 - D. **Her warriors.**
 - E. **Her military equipment.**
 - F. **Her “mongrel races.” (used for Arabs)**
8. **All the “elite” men of Babylon will become scared.**
9. **The reason is an unbridled idolatry.**

11. After The Destruction. 50:39-40

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.

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. **(Cyrus the Persian defeated the Babylonians in 538 B.C.)**

Summary:

1. **This last Babylon will be destroyed forever.**
2. **There will be no more inhabitants, just like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.**

12. The King From The North. 50:41-43

41 "Behold **(HINNEH)**, a people is coming from the north, and a great nation and many kings will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

42 "They **(people+great nation+many kings)** 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 **(BAT BABEL)** .

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.

Summary:

1. **The attack will not come from just one entity, but a group of them that are north of Israel.**
2. **Their “voice” will be extremely loud.**
3. **They are going to attack an offspring of Babylonianism, that began at the Tower of Babel. Gen 11**
4. **Isaiah 47:1 says “Virgin daughter of Babylon.” In that verse “virgin” is BeTULAH and is specific when compared to BAT which is generic.**
5. **This will happen when this final Babylon is no longer a “virgin” meaning she has been defiled, namely turned from the Lord to commit immorality with other gods.**
6. **The King of Babylon, namely Satan, can do nothing to stop it while the human in charge of it probably has the same reaction.**

13. Someone Challenged The Lord. 50:44-46

44 **(Poetry ends-Narrative begins)** "Behold, one **(there is no antecedent so this is probably the King of Babylon)** will come up like a lion from the thicket of the Jordan to a perennially watered pasture; for in an instant I shall make them **(subjects of the King of Babylon)** run away from it, and whoever is chosen **(looks at believers)** I shall appoint over it **(the pasture)**. For who is like Me, and who will summon Me into court? And who then is the shepherd who can stand before Me?"

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 **(foreigners, cf 51:2)** will drag them **(inhabitants of Babylon)** off, even the little ones of the flock; surely He **(the Lord)** will make their **(inhabitants of Babylon)** pasture desolate because of them.

46 At the shout, "Babylon has been seized!" **(TAPHAS)** the earth is shaken **(Niph Pf RA'ASH)**, and an outcry is heard among the nations. **(Narrative ends)**

Summary:

1. **There is a challenger to the Redeemer, the Lord of Israel, who will attack like a lion.**
2. **This compares to a description of the Devil, looking for someone to devour. 1 Pet 5:8**
3. **The Lord has already formulated His battle plan.**
4. **This last Babylon is the leader of the rebellion against the Lord, in the Tribulation.**
5. **This indicates that the courtroom battle has been going on for a long period of time, and refers us to the Angelic Conflict.**
6. **The Babylonians will face inner turmoil before their utter destruction.**
7. **When Babylon falls, the entire earth is shaken. It is like a massive earthquake.**
 - A. **The same word is used for the shaking of the heavens at the Second Advent of our Lord. Isa 13:13; Joel 2:10; 3:16; Hag 2:6,21; Matt 24:29 & Mark 13:25; & Luke 21:26; Heb 12:26-28**
 - B. **Compare the opening of the 6th Seal Judgment. Rev 6:13**
 - C. **And the blowing of the 2nd Trumpet Judgment. Rev 8:8**