

Prophetical Babylon

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

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)

Jeremiah 51:1-64

14. Babylon Will Be Hated By All. 51:1-4

- 1 Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I am going to arouse (**80x; raise the eyes, awaken**) against Babylon And against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai (**transliteration that means "the heart of those who rise against Me"**)The spirit of a destroyer. (**Hiph Ptc MASHACH = 147x; one who causes destruction and decay; This word is used in Gen 6 to describe the ante-diluvian civilization**)
- 2 "And I shall dispatch foreigners (**ZARIM = 77x; a stranger; a foreigner**) to Babylon that they (**the foreigners**) may winnow her (**Piel PF + wc ZARAH = to winnow, diffuse, dilute**) And may devastate (**Polel IPF BAQAQ = to make empty, spread out**) her land; for on every side they will be opposed to her in the day of her calamity.
- 3 "Let not (**"not" not in text**) him who bends his bow bend it, nor let him (**who bends his bow**) rise up in his scale-armor (**those who defend Babylon will not retaliate**); so (**foreign destroyers**) do not spare her (**Babylon**) young men; devote all her army to destruction.
- 4 "And they (**Babylonians**) will fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans, and pierced through in their streets."

Summary:

- 1. The Lord will wake people up to the evil of Babylon and others who turned against Yahweh.
- 2. Before her destruction she will be inundated with foreigners who will dilute her land. This can include divine principles as well as resources.
- 3. It appears that everyone will turn against this Babylon.

4. The selected destroyers, acting as one, are to take out all of Babylon.
5. The inhabitants of Babylon will not respond.

15. Babylon Has Fallen. 51:5-10

- 5 For neither Israel nor Judah has been forsaken by his God, the LORD of hosts, although their land is full of guilt ('**ASHAM = known sins**) before the Holy One of Israel.
- 6 Flee from the midst of Babylon (**Anyone who will listen**), and each of you save his life! Do not be destroyed in her punishment, for this is the LORD'S time of vengeance; He is going to render recompense to her.
- 7 Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD, Intoxicating all the earth. The nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are going mad. (**HithPolel IPF HALAL = to praise, in Hith it means to praise oneself; HALAL is to be used only for God**)
- 8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail over her! Bring balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed. (**Niph PF RAPHE = to stitch, heal, mend**)
- 9 We (**1 CP; Piel PF RAPHE = the "we" must refer to spiritual people of the appointed time**) applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed; forsake her and let us each go to his own country, for her judgment has reached to heaven and towers up to the very skies.
- 10 The LORD has brought about our vindication; come and let us recount in Zion the work of the LORD our God!

Summary:

1. Prophetical Babylon has no covenants to protect them, so they fall under the principles previously stated in Jeremiah. Jer 18:5-11
2. The inhabitants of Prophetical Babylon have been warned that God is going to execute His justice, and are invited to flee.
3. Prophetical Babylon will be a "Golden Cup" in the hand of the Lord, indicating that she was amazingly blessed by God, but turned from Him.
4. The "Golden Cup" was filled with intoxicants that touched the entire earth.
5. Babylon's example of self-glorification has led other nations to follow suit and praise themselves.
6. Few people on earth will see her destruction approaching.
7. There were enough spiritual people at the time to bring healing but she would not be healed.
8. Before her destruction, those seeking to obey God will leave.
9. The destruction of Prophetical Babylon will vindicate not only the believers who applied healing but the Jews that it did not protect.
10. The fact that God permitted the sins to pile up to heaven, indicates His amazing grace. Rev 18:4-5

16. The Destroyer Is To Prepare. 51:11-14

- 11 (**those who bend the bow**) Sharpen the arrows, fill the quivers! The LORD has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes (**Persians**), because His purpose is

against Babylon to destroy it; for it is the vengeance of the LORD, vengeance for His temple.

12 Lift up a signal against the walls of Babylon; **(Babylon)** post a strong guard, station sentries, place men in ambush! For the LORD has both purposed and performed what He spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O you who dwell by **(upon)** many waters, abundant in treasures **(what you had and what you gained)**, your end has come, the measure of your end. **(AMAH = a measure, cubit; + BETZE' = 22x; covetousness, dishonest gain, greed)**

14 The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: "Surely I will fill you **(Babylon)** with a population like locusts, and they will cry out with shouts of victory over you."

Summary:

1. **The attack will be done with arrows. Cf Jer 50:9,14**
2. **It is vengeance for permitting the Lord's temple to be defiled.**
3. **Prophetical Babylon is surrounded by water and loaded with treasure.**
4. **The destruction will be commensurate with her greed. Cf Jas 5:1-6**

17. Judgment Is Due All. 51:15-23

15 It is He **(the Lord of Hosts)** who made **(ASAH)** the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom, and by His understanding **(TABUN = 42x)** He stretched out the heavens.

16 When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain, and brings forth the wind from His storehouses.

17 All mankind **(KAL ADAM)** is stupid **(Niph PF BA'AR = 95x; to consume by fire; brain-fried)**, devoid of knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his molten images are deceitful, and there is no breath in them.

18 They **(idols)** are worthless, a work of mockery; in the time of their punishment they will perish.

19 The portion **(CHELEQ = 67x; part of a whole, frequently connected to inheritance)** of Jacob is not like these; for the maker of all is He, and of the tribe of His inheritance; the LORD of hosts is His name. **(YAHWEH TZABAOTH)**

20 He says, "You **(the portion of Jacob)** are My war-club, My weapon of war; and with you I shatter nations, and with you I destroy kingdoms.

21 "And with you I shatter the horse and his rider,

22 And with you I shatter the chariot and its rider, and with you I shatter man and woman, and with you I shatter old man and youth, and with you I shatter young man and virgin,

23 And with you I shatter the shepherd and his flock, and with you I shatter the farmer and his team, and with you I shatter governors and prefects.

Summary:

1. **The Lord establishes that He has the power and evidence to judge Babylon.**
2. **Humanity just doesn't understand the Lord.**
3. **Humanity tends to worship the created. Rom 1:25**
4. **One day, Israel will be the victor over all its enemies.**

5. But the Lord of the Armies is leading them. Cf Rev 19:11-21

18. The Lord Is Against Babylon. 51:24-26

24 (Narrative begins) "But I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all their evil that they have done in Zion before your eyes," declares the LORD. **(Narrative ends)**

25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys the whole earth," declares the LORD, "And I will stretch out My hand against you, and roll you down from the crags and I will make you a burnt out mountain.

26 "And they will not take from you even a stone for a corner nor a stone for foundations, but you will be desolate forever," declares the LORD.

Summary:

- 1. Babylon is identified as a "Destroying Mountain" that has affected the entire earth with their, power, pride, wealth and idolatry.**
- 2. The problem is that they have committed evil in Zion, namely become anti-Jew.**
- 3. It appears that this "Mountain" will be cast into the ocean, somewhere around the beginning of the third year of the Tribulation. Rev 8:8-9**

19. Babylon Will Be Without Inhabitant. 51:27-32

27 Lift up **(Qal Imp NASA')** a signal in the land, blow a trumpet among the nations! Consecrate the nations against her **(Babylon)**, Summon against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz **(area around modern Turkey)**; appoint a marshal against her, bring up the horses like bristly locusts.

28 Consecrate the nations against her, the kings of the Medes, their governors and all their prefects, and every land of their **(the coalition around the Medes)** dominion.

29 So the land quakes and writhes **(to undulate and writhe in pain)**, for the purposes of the LORD against Babylon stand, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitants. **(This is repeated over and over.)**

30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, they stay in the strongholds; their strength is exhausted, they are becoming like women; their dwelling places are set on fire, the bars of her gates are broken.

31 One courier runs to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to tell the king of Babylon that his city has been captured from end to end;

32 The fords also have been seized, and they have burned the marshes with fire, and the men of war are terrified.

Summary:

- 1. Again, this did not happen to Historical Babylon.**
- 2. Babylon, who turned her back on Israel, will become the object of hatred by all the nations.**
- 3. The language is in the language of the day and indicates that those around Babylon are to attack.**
- 4. It also indicates that there are some warnings of what will happen.**

- 5. The devastation will set off earthquakes.**
- 6. The mighty warriors of Babylon will lose all courage and tremble.**
- 7. The flames are so intense that they burn the swamps, so it is not normal fires that are in view.**