Seventy Years of Servitude for Failure to Give Heed
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Text:

Jeremiah 25:1-38,

1. In the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king of Judah, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah. (That was the same as the first year that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.)

2. So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the people who were living in Jerusalem.

3. “For the last twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon was ruling in Judah until now, the Lord has been speaking to me. I told you over and over again what he said. But you would not listen.

4. Over and over again the Lord has sent his servants the prophets to you. But you have not listened or paid attention.

5. He said through them, ‘Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and stop doing the evil things you are doing. If you do, I will allow you to continue to live here in the land that I gave to you and your ancestors as a lasting possession.

6. Do not pay allegiance to other gods and worship and serve them. Do not make me angry by the things that you do. Then I will not cause you any harm.’

7. So, now the Lord says, ‘You have not listened to me. But you have made me angry by the things that you have done. Thus you have brought harm on yourselves.’
8. “Therefore, the Lord who rules over all says, ‘You have not listened to what I said.
9. So I, the Lord, affirm that I will send for all the peoples of the north and my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and all the nations that surround it. I will utterly destroy this land, its inhabitants, and all the nations that surround it and make them everlasting ruins. I will make them objects of horror and hissing scorn.
10. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in these lands. I will put an end to the sound of people grinding meal. I will put an end to lamps shining in their houses.
11. This whole area will become a desolate wasteland. These nations will be subject to the king of Babylon for seventy years.’
12. “But when the seventy years are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their sins. I will make the land of Babylon an everlasting ruin. I, the Lord, affirm it!
13. I will bring on that land everything that I said I would. I will bring on it everything that is written in this book. I will bring on it everything that Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations.
14. For many nations and great kings will make slaves of the king of Babylon and his nation too. I will repay them for all they have done!’”
15. So the Lord, the God of Israel, spoke to me in a vision. ‘Take this cup from my hand. It is filled with the wine of my wrath. Take it and make the nations to whom I send you drink it.
16. When they have drunk it, they will stagger to and fro and act insane. For I will send wars sweeping through them.”
17. So I took the cup from the Lord’s hand. I made all the nations to whom he sent me drink the wine of his wrath.
18. I made Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its officials drink it. I did it so Judah would become a ruin. I did it so Judah, its kings, and its officials would become an object of horror and of hissing scorn, an example used in curses. Such is already becoming the case!
19. I made all of these other people drink it: Pharaoh, king of Egypt; his attendants, his officials, his people,
20. the foreigners living in Egypt; all the kings of the land of Uz; all the kings of the land of the Philistines, the people of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, the people who had been left alive from Ashdod;
21. all the people of Edom, Moab, Ammon;
22. all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon; all the kings of the coastlands along the sea;
23. the people of Dedan, Tema, Buz, all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples;
24. all the kings of Arabia who live in the desert;
25. all the kings of Zimri; all the kings of Elam; all the kings of Media;
26. all the kings of the north, whether near or far from one another; and all the other kingdoms which are on the face of the earth. After all of them have drunk the wine of the Lord’s wrath, the king of Babylon must drink it.
27. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Tell them that the Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Drink this cup until you get drunk and vomit. Drink until you fall down and can’t get up. For I will send wars sweeping through you.’
28. If they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink it, tell them that the Lord who rules over all says ‘You most certainly must drink it!

29. For take note, I am already beginning to bring disaster on the city that I call my own. So how can you possibly avoid being punished? You will not go unpunished! For I am proclaiming war against all who live on the earth. I, the Lord who rules over all, affirm it!

30. ‘Then, Jeremiah, make the following prophecy against them: ‘Like a lion about to attack, the Lord will roar from the heights of heaven; from his holy dwelling on high he will roar loudly. He will roar mightily against his land. He will shout in triumph like those stomping juice from the grapes against all those who live on the earth.

31. The sounds of battle will resound to the ends of the earth. For the Lord will bring charges against the nations. He will pass judgment on all humankind and will hand the wicked over to be killed in war.’ The Lord so affirms it!

32. The Lord who rules over all says, ‘Disaster will soon come on one nation after another. A mighty storm of military destruction is rising up from the distant parts of the earth.’

33. Those who have been killed by the Lord at that time will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned over, gathered up, or buried. Their dead bodies will lie scattered over the ground like manure.

34. Wail and cry out in anguish, you rulers! Roll in the dust, you who shepherd flocks of people! The time for you to be slaughtered has come. You will lie scattered and fallen like broken pieces of fine pottery.
35. The leaders will not be able to run away and hide. The shepherds of the flocks will not be able to escape.
36. Listen to the cries of anguish of the leaders. Listen to the wails of the shepherds of the flocks. They are wailing because the Lord is about to destroy their lands.
37. Their peaceful dwelling places will be laid waste by the fierce anger of the Lord.
38. The Lord is like a lion who has left his lair. So their lands will certainly be laid waste by the warfare of the oppressive nation and by the fierce anger of the Lord.” (NET)

Introduction:

I. Jeremiah 25:1-30a is written in prose while Jeremiah 25:30b-38 is written in poetry.

II. Hamilton wrote, “By the time of the events in chapter 25, Jeremiah had been faithfully fulfilling his calling for twenty-three years – with little evidence of success. The majority of the people, and particularly the religious and political leaders, had not responded positively to his call for repentance in order to escape the coming calamity.

A. During these twenty-three years, the people had continuously refused to heed Jeremiah’s preaching. (See Coffman.)

B. This chapter makes it clear that Judah’s time of grace had passed, their time of deserved judgment was upon them. (See Coffman.)
III. “This chapter speaks of God’s judgment against Judah, Babylon, surrounding nations and the entire world,” Smith wrote.

IV. Coffman outlined this chapter as follows: . . .

   A. The judgment of Judah and the eventual doom of Babylon (verses 1-14), . . .

   B. The cup of God’s wrath upon the nations (verses 15-29), and . . .

   C. The judgment of the whole world (verses 30-38).

V. Clarke wrote that this chapter is clearly out of chronological order and in time of occurrence should be placed between chapters 35 and 36.

   A. The defeat of the Egyptians by Nebuchadnezzar at Carchemish and the subsequent taking of Jerusalem occurred in this fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim. (See Clarke.)

   B. The Jews dated the reign of Nebuchadnezzar to the battle of Carchemish, but the Chaldeans dated the beginning of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar two years later, to the death of his father. (See Clarke.)

VI. The Pulpit Commentary states that Jeremiah in this chapter announces that the last moment of grace for Judah has passed, and the time for judgment has come.

   A. God’s long-suffering has been exhausted.
B. Jeremiah 1:10, Know for certain that I hereby give you the authority to announce to nations and kingdoms that they will be uprooted and torn down, destroyed and demolished, rebuilt and firmly planted.” (NET)

Commentary:

Seventy Years of Servitude for Failure to Give Heed

Note: Willis wrote Jeremiah 25:1-11 falls into three main parts; viz., (1) the narrative introduction (verses 1-2), the bringing of typical charges against Jerusalem (verses 3-7), and the pronouncement of judgment on Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians. (verses 8-11).

Jeremiah 25:1, In the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king of Judah, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah. (That was the same as the first year that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.) (NET)

1. In the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king of Judah, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah.

A. The fourth year of Jehoiakim was a pivotal one in Jeremiah’s career. This date is the setting for the dictating of Jeremiah’s first scroll to Baruch. (Willis)

1. Jeremiah 36:1-4, that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. “Get a scroll. Write on it everything I have told you to say about Israel,
Judah, and all the other nations since I began to speak to you in the reign of Josiah until now. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about all the disaster I intend to bring on them, they will all stop doing the evil things they have been doing. If they do, I will forgive their sins and the wicked things they have done.” So Jeremiah summoned Baruch son of Neriah. Then Jeremiah dictated to Baruch everything the Lord had told him to say and Baruch wrote it all down in a scroll. (NET)

2. Daniel 1:1, In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon advanced against Jerusalem and laid it under siege. (NET)

3. The third and fourth year difference reflects the Jewish and Babylonian method of calculating time.

B. Jehoiakim was an evil king of Judah whose downfall was predicted by the prophet Jeremiah. He was a son of Josiah. He was twenty-five (25) years old when he became king. He reigned eleven (11) years in Jerusalem from 609-598 B.C. He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar who destroyed Jerusalem and carried Jehoiakim captive to Babylon. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Smith dates this chapter to 605 B.C., the year of the battle of Carchemish.

C. Josiah was the sixteenth (16th) king of Judah, the son of Amon, and the grandson of Manasseh. The three decades
of Josiah’s reign were characterized by peace, prosperity and reform. Hence, they were among the happiest years experienced by Judah. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

D. These twenty-three (23) years of Jeremiah’s ministry consisted of nineteen (19) years of Josiah’s reign, four years of Jehoiakim’s reign and the three (3) month reign of Jehoahaz. (See Coffman.)

II. (That was the same as the first year that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.)

A. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire (605-565 B.C.) who captured Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple and carried the people of Judah into captivity in Babylonia. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Jeremiah 27:7, All nations must serve him and his son and grandson until the time comes for his own nation to fall. Then many nations and great kings will in turn subjugate Babylon. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 29:10, “For the Lord says, ‘Only when the seventy years of Babylonian rule are over will I again take up consideration for you. Then I will fulfill my gracious promise to you and restore you to your homeland.” (NET)

3. Jeremiah 51:59-60, This is the order Jeremiah the prophet gave to Seraiah son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went to King Zedekiah of Judah in Babylon during the fourth year of his
reign. (Seraiah was a quartermaster.) 60 Jeremiah recorded on one scroll all the judgments that would come upon Babylon—all these prophecies written about Babylon. (NET)

B. Hamilton observed that “this word of the Lord to Jeremiah” chronologically came before the two baskets of figs discussed in chapter 25.

C. “Nebuchadnezzar, upon the death of his father, Nabopolassar, in 605 BCE, became ruler of the Babylonian Empire,” Hamilton wrote.

1. “The Babylonian empire lasted just over seventy years, from 612-539 BCE, counting from the fall of Ninevah, the Assyrian capital, to the capture of Babylon by Cyrus, king of the Medes and Persians,” Hamilton wrote.

2. The final Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem is dated to 586 BCE which means that only forty-seven (47) years passed between the final Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and the defeat, end of the Babylonian empire. (See Hamilton.)

D. The first year of Nebuchadnezzar was most eventful and included the fateful battle of Carchemish making Babylon the power with which to be reckoned in the Near East.

1. 2 Kings 24:12, King Jehoiachin of Judah, along with his mother, his servants, his officials, and his eunuchs surrendered to the king of Babylon.
The king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took Jehoiachin prisoner. (NET)

2. 2 Kings 25:8, On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Nebuzar-adan, the captain of the royal guard who served the king of Babylon, arrived in Jerusalem. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 52:12, On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard who served the king of Babylon, arrived in Jerusalem. (NET)

4. Jeremiah 32:1, In the tenth year that Zedekiah was ruling over Judah the Lord spoke to Jeremiah. That was the same as the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. (NET)

Jeremiah 25:2, So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the people who were living in Jerusalem. (NET)

I. So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the people who were living in Jerusalem.

A. Jeremiah was the major prophet during the decline and fall of the southern kingdom of Judah. He was the author of the Book of Jeremiah. He prophesied during the reign of the last five kings of Judah. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
Jeremiah 25:3, “For the last twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon was ruling in Judah until now, the Lord has been speaking to me. I told you over and over again what he said. But you would not listen. (NET)

I. “For the last twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon was ruling in Judah until now, the Lord had been speaking to me.

A. Jeremiah had been preaching to Judah and Jerusalem for twenty-three (23) years with little or no success.

1. These twenty-three (23) years included nineteen (19) years of Josiah’s reign, four (4) years of Jehoiakim’s reign and four (4) months of Jehoahaz’ reign.

2. God had also sent other prophets, but with little or no success.

3. The people of Judah would simply not listen. They refused to repent.

4. Because of their wickedness, Judah and Jerusalem would be crushed.

B. Jeremiah began prophesying in the thirteenth (13th) year of the reign of good king Josiah.

1. Jeremiah 1:2, The Lord began to speak to him in the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon ruled over Judah. (NET)
II. I told you over and over again what he said. But you would not listen.

A. There was no misunderstanding Jeremiah’s simple message, “Repent or perish!” (See Willis.)

1. The problem was that the people would not listen!

Jeremiah 25:4, Over and over again the Lord has sent his servants the prophets to you. But you have not listened or paid attention. (NET)

1. Over and over again the Lord has sent his servants the prophets to you. But you have not listened or paid attention.

A. Related references:

1. Jeremiah 7:24-26, But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They followed the stubborn inclinations of their own wicked hearts. They acted worse and worse instead of better. From the time your ancestors departed the land of Egypt until now, I sent my servants the prophets to you again and again, day after day. But your ancestors did not listen to me nor pay attention to me. They became obstinate and were more wicked than even their own forefathers.” (NET)

2. Jeremiah 11:7-8, For I solemnly warned your ancestors to obey me. I warned them again and again, ever since I delivered them out of Egypt
until this very day. But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me! Each one of them followed the stubborn inclinations of his own wicked heart. So I brought on them all the punishments threatened in the covenant because they did not carry out its terms as I commanded them to do.’” (NET)

3. Jeremiah 13:11, For,’ I say, ‘just as shorts cling tightly to a person’s body, so I bound the whole nation of Israel and the whole nation of Judah tightly to me.’ I intended for them to be my special people and to bring me fame, honor, and praise. But they would not obey me. (NET)

4. Jeremiah 29:19, For they have not paid attention to what I said to them through my servants the prophets whom I sent to them over and over again,’ says the Lord. ‘And you exiles have not paid any attention to them either,’ says the Lord. (NET)

5. Jeremiah 35:15, I sent all my servants the prophets to warn you over and over again. They said, “Every one of you, stop doing the evil things you have been doing and do what is right. Do not pay allegiance to other gods and worship them. Then you can continue to live in this land that I gave to you and your ancestors.” But you did not pay any attention or listen to me. (NET)

6. Jeremiah 37:22 Neither he nor the officials who served him nor the people of Judah paid any
attention to what the Lord said through the prophet Jeremiah. (NET)

7. Jeremiah 44:4, I sent my servants the prophets to you people over and over again warning you not to do this disgusting thing I hate. (NET)

8. 2 Kings 17:13-14, The Lord solemnly warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and all the seers, “Turn back from your evil ways; obey my commandments and rules that are recorded in the law. I ordered your ancestors to keep this law and sent my servants the prophets to remind you of its demands.” But they did not pay attention and were as stubborn as their ancestors, who had not trusted the Lord their God. (NET)

B. Judah refused to heed all the prophets God had sent such as Daniel, Ezekiel, Uriah who was murdered, not just Jeremiah. (See Coffman.)

Jeremiah 25:5, He said through them, ‘Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and stop doing the evil things you are doing. If you do, I will allow you to continue to live here in the land that I gave to you and your ancestors as a lasting possession. (NET)

I. He said through them, ‘Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and stop doing the evil things you are doing.
A. The Lord’s message was the same whether spoken by Jeremiah or another of God’s prophets. (See Willis.)

1. Jeremiah 3:14, 22, “Come back to me, my wayward sons,” says the Lord, “for I am your true master. If you do, I will take one of you from each town and two of you from each family group, and I will bring you back to Zion. Come back to me, you wayward people. I want to cure your waywardness. Say, ‘Here we are. We come to you because you are the Lord our God.’ (NET)

2. Jeremiah 4:1, “If you, Israel, want to come back,” says the Lord, “if you want to come back to me you must get those disgusting idols out of my sight and must no longer go astray. (NET)

II. If you do, I will allow you to continue to live here in the land that I gave you and your ancestors as a lasting possession.

A. The Israelites were God’s agents for the destruction of the heathen Canaanites. (Hamilton)

1. Deuteronomy 20:17, Instead you must utterly annihilate them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—just as the Lord your God has commanded you, (NET)

2. Joshua 6:21, They annihilated with the sword everything that breathed in the city, including men and women, young and old, as well as cattle, sheep, and donkeys. (NET)
3. Joshua 10:28, That day Joshua captured Makkedah and put the sword to it and its king. He annihilated everyone who lived in it; he left no survivors. He did to its king what he had done to the king of Jericho. (NET)

4. 1 Samuel 15:3, So go now and strike down the Amalekites. Destroy everything that they have. Don’t spare them. Put them to death—man, woman, child, infant, ox, sheep, camel, and donkey alike.” (NET)

Jeremiah 25:6, Do not pay allegiance to other gods and worship and serve them. Do not make me angry by the things that you do. Then I will not cause you any harm.’ (NET)

I. Do not pay allegiance to other gods and worship and serve them.

A. Idolatry was the basic and pervasive sin of Jerusalem.

B. Coffman wrote, “The unwavering passion of the Israelites for the licentious worship of the pagan idols proved to be the eventual destruction of the people.”

II. Do not make me angry by the things that you do.

A. This is great advice. It doesn’t pay to make God mad at you.
1. With dead bodies lying everywhere, the city of Jerusalem in ruins and captives enroute to Babylon in chains, the people of Jerusalem learned the hard way it does not pay to make God angry at them.

2. Disobedience, sinfulness, wickedness will make God mad every time!

III. Then I will not cause you any harm.’

A. Many religions of history were designed to pacify, placate violent, hostile gods.

B. Jehovah was altogether different, full of mercy and grace, but just and one who punishes the evildoer.

**Jeremiah 25:7, So, now the Lord says, ‘You have not listened to me. But you have made me angry by the things that you have done. Thus you have brought harm on yourselves.’ (NET)**

I. So, now the Lord says, ‘You have not listened to me.

A. They were stubborn, would not receive correction regardless of the consequences. (See Coffman.)

1. They reaped what they had sown!

II. But you have made me angry by the things that you have done.

A. By their sinfulness, the people of Jerusalem had provoked the Lord to anger.
III. Thus you have brought harm on yourselves.’

A. People are often their own worst enemies.

1. We do indeed all too frequently harm ourselves by our actions and decisions.

2. We do reap what we sow!

Jeremiah 25:8, “Therefore, the Lord who rules over all says, ‘You have not listened to what I said. (NET)

I. “Therefore, the Lord who rules over all says, ‘You have not listened to what I said.

A. The vast majority of people do not listen, heed, obey what the Lord says.

1. Quote a direct command relating to certain controversial subjects of your choice and observe the reaction of the person to whom you are speaking.

2. All too often what the Bible says does not influence people’s behavior at all.

Jeremiah 25:9, So I, the Lord, affirm that I will send for all the peoples of the north and my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and all the nations that surround it. I will utterly destroy this land, its inhabitants, and all the nations that surround it and make them everlasting
ruins. I will make them objects of horror and hissing scorn. (NET)

1. So I, the Lord, affirm that I will send for all the peoples of the north* and my servant,** King Nebuchadnezzar (Nebuchad-rezzar) of Babylon.

A. *NET footnote: Previous references to trouble from the north are now clarified as the armies of Babylon and its allies.

1. Jeremiah 1:14-15, Then the Lord said, “This means destruction will break out from the north on all who live in the land. For I will soon summon all the peoples of the kingdoms of the north,” says the Lord. “They will come and their kings will set up their thrones near the entrances of the gates of Jerusalem. They will attack all the walls surrounding it, and all the towns in Judah. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 4:6, Raise a signal flag that tells people to go to Zion. Run for safety! Do not delay! For I am about to bring disaster out of the north. It will bring great destruction. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 6:1, 22, “Run for safety, people of Benjamin! Get out of Jerusalem! Sound the trumpet in Tekoa! Light the signal fires at Beth Hakkerem! For disaster lurks out of the north; it will bring great destruction. “This is what the Lord says: ‘Beware! An army is coming from a
land in the north. A mighty nation is stirring into action in faraway parts of the earth. (NET)

4. Jeremiah 10:22, Listen! News is coming even now. The rumble of a great army is heard approaching from a land in the north. It is coming to turn the towns of Judah into rubble, places where only jackals live. (NET)

5. Jeremiah 13:20, Then I said, “Look up, Jerusalem, and see the enemy that is coming from the north. Where now is the flock of people that were entrusted to your care? Where now are the ‘sheep’ that you take such pride in? (NET)

B. **NET footnote:  That is, the Lord’s agent used to punish his disobedient people.

1. Jeremiah 27:6, I have at this time placed all these nations of yours under the power of my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I have even made all the wild animals subject to him. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 43:10, Then tell them, ‘The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will bring my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will set his throne over these stones which I have buried. He will pitch his royal tent over them. (NET)
C. Nebuchadnezzar is named as the enemy from the north that was coming - in fact, he was already on his way.

1. Jeremiah 1:14, Then the Lord said, “This means destruction will break out from the north on all who live in the land. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 4:6, Raise a signal flag that tells people to go to Zion. Run for safety! Do not delay! For I am about to bring disaster out of the north. It will bring great destruction. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 6:1, “Run for safety, people of Benjamin! Get out of Jerusalem! Sound the trumpet in Tekoa! Light the signal fires at Beth Hakkerem! For disaster lurks out of the north; it will bring great destruction. (NET)

D. The peoples of the north “were the Babylonians and their allies who would attack Jerusalem, Coffman stated.

1. The “north” was the direction from which the Babylonians would come as they followed the major trade routes. (See Coffman.)

2. The Babylonians lived east of Palestine which required them to travel north, west and then south to reach Jerusalem. (Coffman)

E. Nebuchadnezzar was called God’s servant because the Lord used Babylonians to do his will in regard to destroying Jerusalem. (See Coffman.)
1. Others were also called “servants of God.”

a. Daniel 6:20, As he approached the den, he called out to Daniel in a worried voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God whom you continually serve able to rescue you from the lions?” (NET)

b. Jeremiah 30:10, So I, the Lord, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servants. Do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I will rescue you and your descendants from a faraway land where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They will be secure and no one will terrify them. (NET)

c. Jeremiah 46:27-28, “You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid; do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I will rescue you and your descendants from the faraway lands where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They will be secure and no one will terrify them. I, the Lord, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servant, for I am with you. Though I completely destroy all the nations where I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will indeed discipline you but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” (NET)
d. Ezekiel 37:25, They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your fathers lived; they will live in it—they and their children and their grandchildren forever. David my servant will be prince over them forever.  (NET)

e. Isaiah 44:28, who commissions Cyrus, the one I appointed as shepherd to carry out all my wishes and to decree concerning Jerusalem, ‘She will be rebuilt,’ and concerning the temple, ‘It will be reconstructed.’”  (NET)

f. Isaiah 45:1, This is what the Lord says to his chosen one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I hold in order to subdue nations before him, and disarm kings, to open doors before him, so gates remain unclosed:  (NET)

g. Isaiah 41:25, I have stirred up one out of the north and he advances, one from the eastern horizon who prays in my name. He steps on rulers as if they were clay, like a potter treading the clay.  (NET)

II. I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and all the nations that surround it.

A. Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon were, like Israel before in the destruction of the Canaanites, God’s servants to destroy the sinful people of Judah and Jerusalem. (See Hamilton.)
III. I will utterly destroy this land, its inhabitants, and all the nations that surround it and make them everlasting ruins.

A. In the Bible, “everlasting” may mean eternal, with no end, or “a very long time.”

B. Judah and the nations that surrounded Judah were all destined to be utterly destroyed.

IV. I will make them objects of horror and hissing scorn.

A. The hated Babylonians were acting as servants of God to punish Judah.

1. The people of Judah and Jerusalem would become an object of horror and scorn.

2. This is a monumental reversal of position, status and relationship to God.

   a. Jeremiah 18:16, So their land will become an object of horror. People will forever hiss out their scorn over it. All who pass that way will be filled with horror and will shake their heads in derision. (NET)

   b. Jeremiah 19:8, I will make this city an object of horror, a thing to be hissed at. All who pass by it will be filled with horror and will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it. (NET)
Jeremiah 25:10, I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in these lands. I will put an end to the sound of people grinding meal. I will put an end to lamps shining in their houses. (NET)

I. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms* in these lands.

A. *NET footnote: The same prediction is limited to Judah and Jerusalem elsewhere.

1. Jeremiah 7:24, But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They followed the stubborn inclinations of their own wicked hearts. They acted worse and worse instead of better. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 16:9, For I, the Lord God of Israel who rules over all, tell you what will happen. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in this land. You and the rest of the people will live to see this happen.” (NET)

B. Sin brought the Babylonians and the end of joy in Jerusalem.

C. The Pulpit Commentary reads, “The handmill is composed of two stones. As a rule, two women sit at it facing each other; both have hold of the handle by which the upperstone is turned round on the ‘nether’ millstone. The one whose
right hand is disengaged throws in the grain as occasion requires, through the hole in the upper stone.”

II. I will put an end to the sound of people grinding meal. I will put an end to lamps shining in their houses.*

A. *NET footnote: Signs of everyday life will disappear and these lands will become desolate. (See Jeremiah 25:16.)

1. Jeremiah 7:34, I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, or the glad celebration of brides and grooms throughout the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. For the whole land will become a desolate wasteland.” (NET)

2. Jeremiah 16:9, For I, the Lord God of Israel who rules over all, tell you what will happen. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in this land. You and the rest of the people will live to see this happen.” (NET)

B. Meal was generally ground before day by the light of the candle. (See Clarke.)

1. Everywhere in the mornings the noise of the mills could be heard as everyday just as much as is necessary for one day’s consumption was milled. (Chardin via Clarke)

2. The place with no sound of grinding meal was desolate, starving, lifeless.
3. The noise of the grating sound of the mill and the light of the candles were two of the most prominent features of family life in those days. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

a. Matthew 5:15, People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. (NET)

b. Revelation 18:22-23, And the sound of the harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again. No craftsman who practices any trade will ever be found in you again; the noise of a mill will never be heard in you again. Even the light from a lamp will never shine in you again! The voices of the bridegroom and his bride will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the tycoons of the world, because all the nations were deceived by your magic spells! (NET)

Jeremiah 25:11, This whole area will become a desolate wasteland. These nations will be subject to the king of Babylon for seventy years.’ (NET)

I. This whole area will become a desolate wasteland.

A. Jeremiah 12:11-12, They will lay it waste. It will lie parched and empty before me. The whole land will be laid waste. But no one living in it will pay any
heed. A destructive army will come marching over the hilltops in the desert. For the Lord will use them as his destructive weapon against everyone from one end of the land to the other. No one will be safe. (NET)

B. A “desolate wasteland” is also called “perpetual desolations.”

1. This is certainly the way Nebuchanezzar left Jerusalem!

2. . . . and it stayed that way for seventy plus years until the city could eventually be rebuilt.

3. Many of the captives never returned home, some dying as exiles and some choosing to voluntarily stay in Babylon when they could have returned home.

II. These nations will be subject to the king of Babylon for seventy years.’

A. Hamilton observed that the beginning and end of these seventy (70) years are difficult to determine. He suggested these seventy years may be symbolic.

1. 2 Chronicles 36:21, This took place to fulfill the Lord’s message delivered through Jeremiah. The land experienced its sabbatical years; it remained desolate for seventy years, as prophesied. (NET)
2. Genesis 4:24, If Cain is to be avenged seven times as much, then Lamech seventy-seven times!” (NET)

3. Matthew 18:22, Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times! (NET)

4. Isaiah 23:17, At the end of seventy years the Lord will revive Tyre. She will start making money again by selling her services to all the earth’s kingdoms. (NET)

B. Willis wrote, “This time of desolation will be long, lasting seventy years. This number could be taken literally, as a round figure (the first returnees from exile came to Jerusalem sixty-seven after this prophecy), or it could be taken more figuratively, as a reference to something most adults would never live to see).

1. Clarke dated the seventy years from the first year of Nebuchadnezzar to the first year of Cyrus when he issued his proclamation for the return of the Jews from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem

a. Isaiah 13:19, Babylon, the most admired of kingdoms, the Chaldeans’ source of honor and pride, will be destroyed by God just as Sodom and Gomorrah were. (NET)

Jeremiah 25:12, ““But when the seventy years are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their sins. I will make the land of Babylon an everlasting ruin. I, the Lord, affirm it! (NET)
I. “But when the seventy years are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their sins.

A. The Babylonians fell to the Medes and Persians.

1. “All that God had spoken about Babylon’s judgment would be fulfilled,” Smith wrote.

B. Because God had used the Babylonians to punish Jerusalem did not mean they were righteous or would not be punished for their sins.

1. Jeremiah 27:7, All nations must serve him and his son and grandson until the time comes for his own nation to fall. Then many nations and great kings will in turn subjugate Babylon. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 23:2, 34, So the Lord God of Israel has this to say about the leaders who are ruling over his people: “You have caused my people to be dispersed and driven into exile. You have not taken care of them. So I will punish you for the evil that you have done. I, the Lord, affirm it! I will punish any prophet, priest, or other person who says “The Lord’s message is burdensome.” I will punish both that person and his whole family.” (NET)

3. Isaiah 10:5-23, Assyria, the club I use to vent my anger, is as good as dead, a cudgel with which I angrily punish. I sent him against a godless nation, I ordered him to attack the
people with whom I was angry, to take plunder and to carry away loot, to trample them down like dirt in the streets. But he does not agree with this, his mind does not reason this way, for his goal is to destroy, and to eliminate many nations. Indeed, he says: “Are not my officials all kings? Is not Calneh like Carchemish? Hamath like Arpad? Samaria like Damascus? I overpowered kingdoms ruled by idols, whose carved images were more impressive than Jerusalem’s or Samaria’s. As I have done to Samaria and its idols, so I will do to Jerusalem and its idols.” But when the sovereign master finishes judging Mount Zion and Jerusalem, then I will punish the king of Assyria for what he has proudly planned and for the arrogant attitude he displays. For he says: “By my strong hand I have accomplished this, by my strategy that I devised. I invaded the territory of nations, and looted their storehouses. Like a mighty conqueror, I brought down rulers. My hand discovered the wealth of the nations, as if it were in a nest, as one gathers up abandoned eggs, I gathered up the whole earth. There was no wing flapping, or open mouth chirping.” Does an ax exalt itself over the one who wields it, or a saw magnify itself over the one who cuts with it? As if a scepter should brandish the one who raises it, or a staff should lift up what is not made of wood! For this reason the sovereign master, the Lord who commands armies, will make his healthy ones emaciated. His majestic glory will go up in smoke. The Light of Israel will become a fire,
their Holy One will become a flame; it will burn and consume the Assyrian king’s briers and his thorns in one day. The splendor of his forest and his orchard will be completely destroyed, as when a sick man’s life ebbs away. There will be so few trees left in his forest, a child will be able to count them. At that time those left in Israel, those who remain of the family of Jacob, will no longer rely on a foreign leader that abuses them. Instead they will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will come back, a remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. For though your people, Israel, are as numerous as the sand on the seashore, only a remnant will come back. Destruction has been decreed; just punishment is about to engulf you. The sovereign master, the Lord who commands armies, is certainly ready to carry out the decreed destruction throughout the land. (NET)

C. The captivity would last seventy (70) years, Coffman explained.

1. Seventy (70) years expired between the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. to the first year of Cyrus, some sixty-seven (67) years; but the additional years were required for the establishment of the first wave of returnees.

2. Also, as Dummelow added, the Jews loved round numbers and sixty-seven (67) years would have likely been expressed as seventy (70) years.
3. Keil wrote that, “The captivity should be reckoned from the first year of Jehoiachim (606 B.C.), till the first year of the sole supremacy of Cyrus over Babylon (536 B.C.), a period of exactly seventy (70) years.”

a. 2 Chronicles 36:20-23, He deported to Babylon all who escaped the sword. They served him and his sons until the Persian kingdom rose to power. This took place to fulfill the Lord’s message delivered through Jeremiah. The land experienced its sabbatical years; it remained desolate for seventy years, as prophesied. In the first year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfillment of the promise he delivered through Jeremiah, the Lord moved King Cyrus of Persia to issue a written decree throughout his kingdom. It read: “This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: ‘The Lord God of the heavens has given to me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build for him a temple in Jerusalem in Judah. May the Lord your God energize you who belong to his people, so you may be able to go back there!’” (NET)

b. Coffman concluded, “One year out of every seven for 490 years equals exactly seventy years.”

c. Daniel 9:2, 24, in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, came to understand from the sacred books that, according to the word of the Lord disclosed to the prophet Jeremiah,
the years for the fulfilling of the desolation of Jerusalem were seventy in number. “Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place. (NET)

II. I will make the land of Babylon* an everlasting ruin.**

A. *NET footnote: Hebrew of the Chaldeans.

B. **NET footnote: See the following references: . . .

1. Isaiah 13:19-22, Babylon, the most admired of kingdoms, the Chaldeans’ source of honor and pride, will be destroyed by God just as Sodom and Gomorrah were. No one will live there again; no one will ever reside there again. No bedouin will camp there, no shepherds will rest their flocks there. Wild animals will rest there, the ruined houses will be full of hyenas. Ostriches will live there, wild goats will skip among the ruins. Wild dogs will yip in her ruined fortresses, jackals will yelp in the once-splendid palaces. Her time is almost up, her days will not be prolonged. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 50:39-40, Therefore desert creatures and jackals will live there. Ostriches will dwell in it too. But no people will ever live there again.
No one will dwell there for all time to come. I will destroy Babylonia just like I did Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring towns. No one will live there. No human being will settle in it,” says the Lord. (NET)

B. Babylon rose from a position of inconsequence to the zenith of power and fell into total defeat in the short period of only seventy years! Amazing.

1. As far as the Babylonians were concerned, upon the victory of the Medes and Persians, their land was left an everlasting ruin, a perpetual desolation.

a. Isaiah 13:20-22, No one will live there again; no one will ever reside there again. No bedouin will camp there, no shepherds will rest their flocks there. Wild animals will rest there, the ruined houses will be full of hyenas. Ostriches will live there, wild goats will skip among the ruins. Wild dogs will yip in her ruined fortresses, jackals will yelp in the once-splendid palaces. Her time is almost up, her days will not be prolonged (NET)

III. I, the Lord, affirm it!

A. God said these things and then affirmed, confirmed that what he had said he meant and that it would be fulfilled exactly as spoken.
Jeremiah 25:13, I will bring on that land everything that I said I would. I will bring on it everything that is written in this book. I will bring on it everything that Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations. (NET)

I. I will bring on that land everything that I said I would. I will bring on it everything that is written in this book.

A. Hamilton suggested the book mentioned in this verse could not refer to the book of Jeremiah as we have it since it had not at that time been compiled, but to the earlier book (or scroll) destroyed by King Jehoiakim.

1. Jeremiah 36:23, As soon as Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them on the fire in the firepot. He kept doing so until the whole scroll was burned up in the fire. (NET)

II. I will bring on it everything that Jeremiah has prophesized against all the nations.

A. Jeremiah had spoken exactly what God had told him to say.

1. The Lord verified that Jeremiah had spoken the truth and that everything Jeremiah had spoken would be fulfilled, come to pass.

Jeremiah 25:14, For many nations and great kings will make slaves of the king of Babylon and his nation too. I will repay them for all they have done!” (NET)
I. For many nations and great kings will make slaves of the king of Babylon and his nation too.

   A. The Medes and Persians under Cyrus subjugated Babylonia in 539 B.C. (See Coffman.)

   1. A similar description of the Egyptian treatment of the Israelites is found in Exodus 1:14, They made their lives bitter by hard service with mortar and bricks and by all kinds of service in the fields. Every kind of service the Israelites were required to give was rigorous. (NET)

   2. See also Isaiah 66:4, So I will choose severe punishment for them; I will bring on them what they dread, because I called, and no one responded, I spoke and they did not listen. They did evil before me; they chose to do what displeases me.” (NET)

II. I will repay them for all they have done!”

   A. Related references: . . .

   1. Jeremiah 50:29, “Call for archers to come against Babylon! Summon against her all who draw the bow! Set up camp all around the city! Do not allow anyone to escape! Pay her back for what she has done. Do to her what she has done to others. For she has proudly defied me, the Holy One of Israel. (NET)
2. Jeremiah 51:24, “But I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wicked things they did in Zion right before the eyes of you Judeans,” says the Lord. (NET)

Judah and the Nations Will Experience God’s Wrath

Note: The remainder of the chapter (verses 15-38), Willis wrote, reveals that Judah’s humiliation is part of God’s larger plan to punish many nations for their sinful practices.

Jeremiah 25:15, So the Lord, the God of Israel, spoke to me in a vision. “Take this cup from my hand. It is filled with the wine of my wrath. Take it and make the nations to whom I send you drink it. (NET)

I. So the Lord, the God of Israel, spoke to me in a vision.

A. Hamilton suggested that the material in verses 15-29 is symbolic, a part of the vision, not literally executed.

1. Genesis 15:1, After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram! I am your shield and the one who will reward you in great abundance.” (NET)

2. Revelation 9:17, Now this is what the horses and their riders looked like in my vision: The riders had breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue, and sulfurous yellow in color. The heads of the horses looked like lions’ heads, and fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths. (NET)
II. “Take this cup from my hand. It is filled with the wine of my wrath. Take it and make the nations to whom I send you drink it.

A. This vividly describes God’s righteous disgust and anger with all the rebellious nations of the world, Hamilton advised.

1. Psalm 11:6, May the Lord rain down burning coals and brimstone on the wicked! A whirlwind is what they deserve! (NET)

2. Isaiah 51:17, 21, Wake up! Wake up! Get up, O Jerusalem! You drank from the cup the Lord passed to you, which was full of his anger! You drained dry the goblet full of intoxicating wine. So listen to this, oppressed one, who is drunk, but not from wine! (NET)

3. Jeremiah 8:14, The people say, “Why are we just sitting here? Let us gather together inside the fortified cities. Let us at least die there fighting, since the Lord our God has condemned us to die. He has condemned us to drink the poison waters of judgment because we have sinned against him. (NET)

B. Coffman wrote, “This was no literal cup, but a symbol of God’s wrath against many nations, a number of which would be named in this very chapter.”

1. Revelation 18:6, Repay her the same way she repaid others; pay her back double correspond-
ing to her deeds. In the cup she mixed, mix double the amount for her. (NET)

2. Luke 18:8, I tell you, he will give them justice speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (NET)

3. Amos 3:6, If an alarm sounds in a city, do people not fear? If disaster overtakes a city, is the Lord not responsible? (NET)

   a. God established the laws to govern all his creation.

   b. Those who violate these laws, do evil, will be punished. (See Coffman.)

4. The wine with which the cup is filled is the wrath of God.

   a. Jeremiah 49:12, For the Lord says, “If even those who did not deserve to drink from the cup of my wrath must drink from it, do you think you will go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, but must certainly drink from the cup of my wrath. (NET)

   b. Jeremiah 5:7, The Lord asked, “How can I leave you unpunished, Jerusalem? Your people have rejected me and have worshiped gods that are not gods at all. Even though I supplied all their needs, they were like an unfaithful wife to me. They
went flocking to the houses of prostitutes. (NET)

c. Psalm 60:3, You have made your people experience hard times; you have made us drink intoxicating wine. (NET)

d. Psalm 75:8, For the Lord holds in his hand a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices, and pours it out. Surely all the wicked of the earth will slurp it up and drink it to its very last drop.” (NET)

Jeremiah 25:16, When they have drunk it, they will stagger to and fro and act insane. For I will send wars sweeping through them.” (NET)

1. When they have drunk it, they will stagger to and fro and act insane.

A. “Such would be the utter chaos which would result from “the sword,” i.e., invading army which God would send into their midst,” Smith wrote.

B. This metaphor of drunkenness depicts the suffering which would be endured by those conquered by the Babylonians. (See Willis.)

1. Lamentations 4:21, Rejoice and be glad for now, O people of Edom, who reside in the land of Uz. But the cup of judgment will pass to you also; you will get drunk and take off your clothes. (NET)
2. Psalm 75:8, For the Lord holds in his hand a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices, and pours it out. Surely all the wicked of the earth will slurp it up and drink it to its very last drop.” (NET)

3. Isaiah 51:17, 22, Wake up! Wake up! Get up, O Jerusalem! You drank from the cup the Lord passed to you, which was full of his anger! You drained dry the goblet full of intoxicating wine. This is what your sovereign master, the Lord your God, says: “Look, I have removed from your hand the cup of intoxicating wine, the goblet full of my anger. You will no longer have to drink it. (NET)

4. Ezekiel 23:31-34, You have followed the ways of your sister, so I will place her cup of judgment in your hand. “This is what the sovereign Lord says: “You will drink your sister’s deep and wide cup; you will be scorned and derided, for it holds a great deal. You will be overcome by drunkenness and sorrow. The cup of your sister Samaria is a cup of horror and desolation. You will drain it dry, gnaw its pieces, and tear out your breasts, for I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. (NET)

5. Habakkuk 2:16, But you will become drunk with shame, not majesty. Now it is your turn to drink and expose your uncircumcised foreskin! The cup of wine in the Lord’s right hand is
coming to you, and disgrace will replace your majestic glory! (NET)

6. Revelation 14:10, that person will also drink of the wine of God’s anger that has been mixed undiluted in the cup of his wrath, and he will be tortured with fire and sulfur in front of the holy angels and in front of the Lamb. (NET)

C. Those who disobey the laws of the Lord are acting irrationally. The result of spiritual insanity.

II. For I will send wars (the sword) sweeping through them.”

A. . . . and so it was! When it was all over, Jerusalem lay in ruins, dead bodies were everywhere and captives were on their way to Babylon.

B. God sends or allows both good and bad upon the earth.

1. Amos 3:6, If an alarm sounds in a city, do people not fear? If disaster overtakes a city, is the Lord not responsible? (NET)

2. 1 Samuel 18:10, The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul and he prophesied within his house. Now David was playing the lyre that day. There was a spear in Saul’s hand, (NET)

3. Isaiah 19:14, The Lord has made them undiscerning; they lead Egypt astray in all she
does, so that she is like a drunk sliding around in his own vomit. (NET)

4. Isaiah 29:10, For the Lord has poured out on you a strong urge to sleep deeply. He has shut your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers). (NET)

5. 1 Kings 22:19-23, Micaiah said, ‘That being the case, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, with all the heavenly assembly standing on his right and on his left. The Lord said, ‘Who will deceive Ahab, so he will attack Ramoth Gilead and die there?’ One said this and another that. Then a spirit stepped forward and stood before the Lord. He said, ‘I will deceive him.’ The Lord asked him, ‘How?’ He replied, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.’ The Lord said, ‘Deceive and overpower him. Go out and do as you have proposed.’ So now, look, the Lord has placed a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours, but the Lord has decreed disaster for you.” (NET)

6. Job 1:1-22, There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And that man was pure and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. His possessions included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys; in addition he had a very great household. Thus he was the greatest
of all the people in the east. Now his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one in turn, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. When the days of their feasting were finished, Job would send for them and sanctify them; he would get up early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job thought, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s customary practice. Now the day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord—and Satan also arrived among them. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” And Satan answered the Lord, “From roving about on the earth, and from walking back and forth across it.” So the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil.” Then Satan answered the Lord, “Is it for nothing that Job fears God? Have you not made a hedge around him and his household and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in the land. But extend your hand and strike everything he has, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!” So the Lord said to Satan, “All right then, everything he has is in your power. Only do not extend your hand against the man himself!” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. Now the day came when Job’s sons and daughters were
eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and a messenger came to Job, saying, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing beside them, and the Sabeans swooped down and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I—only I alone—escaped to tell you!" While this one was still speaking, another messenger arrived and said, "The fire of God has fallen from heaven and has burned up the sheep and the servants—it has consumed them! And I—only I alone—escaped to tell you!" While this one was still speaking another messenger arrived and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I—only I alone—escaped to tell you!" While this one was still speaking another messenger arrived and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind swept across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they died! And I only I alone—escaped to tell you!" Then Job got up and tore his robe. He shaved his head, and then he threw himself down with his face to the ground. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return there. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. May the name of the Lord be blessed!" In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge God with moral impropriety. (NET)
7. Isaiah 63:17, Why, Lord, do you make us stray from your ways, and make our minds stubborn so that we do not obey you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance! (NET)

C. God does indeed send his “sword” against the wicked.

1. Jeremiah 46:10, But that day belongs to the Lord God who rules over all. It is the day when he will pay back his enemies. His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied! It will drink their blood until it is full! For the Lord God who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice in the land of the north by the Euphrates River. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 47:6, How long will you cry out, ‘Oh, sword of the Lord, how long will it be before you stop killing? Go back into your sheath! Stay there and rest!’ (NET)

3. Jeremiah 50:35-38, “Destructive forces will come against the Babylonians,” says the Lord. “They will come against the people who inhabit Babylonia, against her leaders and her men of wisdom. Destructive forces will come against her false prophets; they will be shown to be fools! Destructive forces will come against her soldiers; they will be filled with terror! Destructive forces will come against her horses and her chariots. Destructive forces will come against all the foreign troops within her; they will be as
frightened as women! Destructive forces will come against her treasures; they will be taken away as plunder! A drought will come upon her land; her rivers and canals will be dried up. All of this will happen because her land is filled with idols. Her people act like madmen because of those idols they fear. (NET)

4. Isaiah 27:1, At that time the Lord will punish with his destructive, great, and powerful sword Leviathan the fast-moving serpent, Leviathan the squirming serpent; he will kill the sea monster. (NET)

5. Isaiah 34:5, He says, “Indeed, my sword has slaughtered heavenly powers. Look, it now descends on Edom, on the people I will annihilate in judgment.” (NET)

Jeremiah 25:17, So I took the cup from the Lord’s hand. I made all the nations to whom he sent me drink the wine of his wrath. (NET)

I. So I took the cup from the Lord’s hand. I made all the nations to whom he sent me drink the wine of his wrath.

   A. All of us have to drink the consequences of our wrong choices.

   B. In this case, God would bring tribulation on Jerusalem, the cities of Judah, and all the nations. (See Clarke.)
C. The “cup” was figurative for the wine cup filled with “the wine of God’s fury.” (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

1. In the vision Jeremiah saw himself doing as God had directed him.

2. Jeremiah knew that God’s pronouncements would be fulfilled.

3. Jeremiah understood the prophesy and that God had entrusted it to him for faithful delivery to the affected people.

   a. Proverbs 26:6, Like cutting off the feet or drinking violence, so is sending a message by the hand of a fool. (NET)

   b. God selected Jeremiah to deliver the message because he was totally trustworthy.

Jeremiah 25:18, I made Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its officials drink it. I did it so Judah would become a ruin. I did it so Judah, its kings, and its officials would become an object of horror and of hissing scorn, an example used in curses. Such is already becoming the case! (NET)

1. I made Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its officials drink it.

   A. The list of places and people which would come under Babylon’s control and God’s anger follow beginning with Judah and Jerusalem.
1. 1 Peter 4:17, For it is time for judgment to begin, starting with the house of God. And if it starts with us, what will be the fate of those who are disobedient to the gospel of God? (NET)

2. “All earthly nations,” Coffman wrote, “were to fall under the punitive judgment of Almighty God.

   a. 2 Corinthians 5:10, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil. (NET)

II. I did it so Judah would become a ruin. I did it so Judah, its kings, and its officials would become an object of horror and of hissing scorn, an example used in curses.

   A. Related references:

   1. Jeremiah 11:5, Then I will keep the promise I swore on oath to your ancestors to give them a land flowing with milk and honey.” That is the very land that you still live in today.” And I responded, “Amen! Let it be so, Lord!” (NET)

   2. Jeremiah 44:6, 23, So my anger and my wrath were poured out and burned like a fire through the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. That is why they have become the desolate ruins that they are today.’ You have sacrificed to other gods! You have sinned against the Lord! You
have not obeyed the Lord! You have not followed his laws, his statutes, and his decrees! That is why this disaster that is evident to this day has happened to you.” (NET)

III. Such is already becoming the case!

A. Preliminary events were already obviously leading toward the fulfillment of this prophesy.

Jeremiah 25:19, I made all of these other people drink it: Pharaoh, king of Egypt; his attendants, his officials, his people, (NET)

1. I made all of these other people drink it; Pharaoh, king of Egypt; his attendants, his officials, his people, . . .

A. In this list of countries, only Damascus is omitted when compared with the peoples mentioned in chapters 46-51. (See Hamilton.)

B. “The list of nations which must drink ‘the cup of the wine of God’s wrath’ extended as far south as Egypt and as far east as Elam and Media. Seventeen nations are mentioned specifically.” (See Smith.)

1. Smith further stated, “. . . all nations in the known world must drink the cup. Babylon (Sheshack) would be the last to drink it.”

2. Since God was going to destroy Jerusalem, he could not allow heathen nations to go unpunished, Smith concluded.
3. This Pharaoh, king of Egypt, was Pharaoh-necho. (Clarke)

a. This was the Pharaoh who had instigated the formation of a league against the Chaldeans. (See Clarke.)

Jeremiah 25:20, the foreigners living in Egypt; *all the kings of the land of Uz; all the kings of the land of the Philistines, the people of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, the people who had been left alive from Ashdod; (NET)

1. The foreigners (mingled people) living in Egypt; all the kings of the land of Uz** all the kings of the land of the Philistines, *** the people of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, the people who had been left alive from Ashdod; . . .

A. *NET footnote: See also Jeremiah 46:2-28 for the judgment against Egypt.

1. Jeremiah 46:2-28, “The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, ‘You have seen all the disaster I brought on Jerusalem and all the towns of Judah. Indeed, they now lie in ruins and are deserted. This happened because of the wickedness the people living there did. They made me angry by worshiping and offering sacrifice to other gods whom neither they nor you nor your ancestors previously knew. I sent my servants the prophets to you people over and over again warning you not to do this disgusting...
thing I hate. But the people of Jerusalem and Judah would not listen or pay any attention. They would not stop the wickedness they were doing nor quit sacrificing to other gods. So my anger and my wrath were poured out and burned like a fire through the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. That is why they have become the desolate ruins that they are today.’ “So now the Lord, the God who rules over all, the God of Israel, asks, ‘Why will you do such great harm to yourselves? Why should every man, woman, child, and baby of yours be destroyed from the midst of Judah? Why should you leave yourselves without a remnant? That is what will result from your making me angry by what you are doing. You are making me angry by sacrificing to other gods here in the land of Egypt where you live. You will be destroyed for doing that! You will become an example used in curses and an object of ridicule among all the nations of the earth. Have you forgotten all the wicked things that have been done in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem by your ancestors, by the kings of Judah and their wives, by you and your wives? To this day your people have shown no contrition! They have not revered me nor followed the laws and statutes I commanded you and your ancestors.’ “Because of this, the Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, ‘I am determined to bring disaster on you, even to the point of destroying all the Judeans here. I will see to it that all the Judean remnant that was determined to go and live in the land of
Egypt will be destroyed. Here in the land of Egypt they will fall in battle or perish from starvation. People of every class will die in war or from starvation. They will become an object of horror and ridicule, an example of those who have been cursed and that people use in pronouncing a curse. I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt with war, starvation, and disease just as I punished Jerusalem. None of the Judean remnant who have come to live in the land of Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah. Though they long to return and live there, none of them shall return except a few fugitives.’’ Then all the men who were aware that their wives were sacrificing to other gods, as well as all their wives, answered Jeremiah. There was a great crowd of them representing all the people who lived in northern and southern Egypt. They answered, “We will not listen to what you claim the Lord has spoken to us! Instead we will do everything we vowed we would do. We will sacrifice and pour out drink offerings to the goddess called the Queen of Heaven just as we and our ancestors, our kings, and our leaders previously did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and had no troubles. But ever since we stopped sacrificing and pouring out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven, we have been in great need. Our people have died in wars or of starvation.” The women added, “We did indeed sacrifice and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.
But it was with the full knowledge and approval of our husbands that we made cakes in her image and poured out drink offerings to her.” Then Jeremiah replied to all the people, both men and women, who responded to him in this way. “The Lord did indeed remember and call to mind what you did! He remembered the sacrifices you and your ancestors, your kings, your leaders, and all the rest of the people of the land offered to other gods in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. Finally the Lord could no longer endure your wicked deeds and the disgusting things you did. That is why your land has become the desolate, uninhabited ruin that it is today. That is why it has become a proverbial example used in curses. You have sacrificed to other gods! You have sinned against the Lord! You have not obeyed the Lord! You have not followed his laws, his statutes, and his decrees! That is why this disaster that is evident to this day has happened to you.” Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people, particularly to all the women. “Listen to what the Lord has to say all you people of Judah who are in Egypt. The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, ‘You women have confirmed by your actions what you vowed with your lips! You said, “We will certainly carry out our vows to sacrifice and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.” Well, then fulfill your vows! Carry them out!’ But listen to what the Lord has to say, all you people of Judah who are living in the land of Egypt. The Lord says, ‘I hereby swear by my own great
name that none of the people of Judah who are living anywhere in Egypt will ever again invoke my name in their oaths! Never again will any of them use it in an oath saying, “As surely as the Lord God lives....” I will indeed see to it that disaster, not prosperity, happens to them. All the people of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will die in war or from starvation until not one of them is left. Some who survive in battle will return to the land of Judah from the land of Egypt. But they will be very few indeed! Then the Judean remnant who have come to live in the land of Egypt will know whose word proves true, mine or theirs.’ (NET)

B. **NET footnote:  Uz was the homeland of Job.

1. Job 1:1, There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And that man was pure and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. (NET)

C. ***NET footnote:  See also Jeremiah 47:1-7 for the judgment against the Philistines.

1. Jeremiah 47:1-7, The Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza. “Look! Enemies are gathering in the north like water rising in a river. They will be like an overflowing stream. They will overwhelm the whole country and everything in it like a flood. They will overwhelm the cities and their inhabitants. People will cry
out in alarm. Everyone living in the country will cry out in pain. Fathers will hear the hoofbeats of the enemies’ horses, the clatter of their chariots and the rumbling of their wheels. They will not turn back to save their children because they will be paralyzed with fear. For the time has come to destroy all the Philistines. The time has come to destroy all the help that remains for Tyre and Sidon. For I, the Lord, will destroy the Philistines, that remnant that came from the island of Crete. The people of Gaza will shave their heads in mourning. The people of Ashkelon will be struck dumb. How long will you gash yourselves to show your sorrow, you who remain of Philistia’s power? How long will you cry out, ‘Oh, sword of the Lord, how long will it be before you stop killing? Go back into your sheath! Stay there and rest!’ But how can it rest when I, the Lord, have given it orders? I have ordered it to attack the people of Ashkelon and the seacoast. (NET)

D. Uz is the land in which Job lived. Two possible locations are Hauran, south of Damascus, and the area between Edom and northern Arabia. The exact location of the land of Uz is unknown, but it was probably east of the Jordan River in the Syrian or Arabian desert. (Nelson’s New illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Hamilton placed Uz in northwest Arabia.

E. Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, Ashdod and Gath were the chief cities of the Philistines located on the southern coastal plain.
Little is known about the origins of the Philistines except what is contained in the Bible – that they came from Caphtor, generally identified with the island of Crete in the Mediterranean. The Philistines and Israelites were often in conflict. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Of the five major Philistine towns, only Gath was not mentioned here.

2. Joshua 13:3, from the Shihor River east of Egypt northward to the territory of Ekron (it is regarded as Canaanite territory), including the area belonging to the five Philistine lords who ruled in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron, as well as Avvite land (NET)

3. 1 Samuel 6:17, These are the gold sores that the Philistines brought as a guilt offering to the Lord—one for each of the following cities: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. (NET)

4. Gath, by this time, had been reduced to a position of insignificance.

   a. Amos 6:2, They say to the people: “Journey over to Calneh and look at it! Then go from there to Hamath-Rabbah! Then go down to Gath of the Philistines! Are they superior to our two kingdoms? Is their territory larger than yours?” (NET)

   b. 2 Chronicles 26:6, Uzziah attacked the Philistines and broke down the walls of
Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities in the region of Ashdod and throughout Philistine territory. (NET)

Jeremiah 25:21, all the people of Edom, Moab, Ammon; (NET)

I. all the people of Edom, Moab, Amon; * . . .


1. Jeremiah 49:7-22, The Lord who rules over all spoke about Edom. “Is wisdom no longer to be found in Teman? Can Edom’s counselors not give her any good advice? Has all of their wisdom turned bad? Turn and flee! Take up refuge in remote places, you people who live in Dedan. For I will bring disaster on the descendants of Esau. I have decided it is time for me to punish them. If grape pickers came to pick your grapes, would they not leave a few grapes behind? If robbers came at night, would they not pillage only what they needed? But I will strip everything away from Esau’s descendants. I will uncover their hiding places so they cannot hide. Their children, relatives, and neighbors will all be destroyed. Not one of them will be left! Leave your orphans behind and I will keep them alive. Your widows too can depend on me.” For the Lord says, “If even those who did not deserve to drink from the cup of my wrath must drink from it, do you
think you will go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, but must certainly drink from the cup of my wrath. For I solemnly swear,” says the Lord, “that Bozrah will become a pile of ruins. It will become an object of horror and ridicule, an example to be used in curses. All the towns around it will lie in ruins forever.” I said, “I have heard a message from the Lord. A messenger has been sent among the nations to say, ‘Gather your armies and march out against her! Prepare to do battle with her!’” The Lord says to Edom, “I will certainly make you small among nations. I will make you despised by all humankind. The terror you inspire in others and the arrogance of your heart have deceived you. You may make your home in the clefts of the rocks; you may occupy the highest places in the hills. But even if you made your home where the eagles nest, I would bring you down from there,” says the Lord. “Edom will become an object of horror. All who pass by it will be filled with horror; they will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it. Edom will be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah and the towns that were around them. No one will live there. No human being will settle in it,” says the Lord. “A lion coming up from the thick undergrowth along the Jordan scatters the sheep in the pastureland around it. So too I will chase the Edomites off their land. Then I will appoint over it whomever I choose. For there is no one like me, and there is no one who can call me to account. There is no ruler who can stand up against me. So listen to
what I, the Lord, have planned against Edom, what I intend to do to the people who live in Teman. Their little ones will be dragged off. I will completely destroy their land because of what they have done. The people of the earth will quake when they hear of their downfall. Their cries of anguish will be heard all the way to the Gulf of Aqaba. Look! Like an eagle with outspread wings, a nation will soar up and swoop down on Bozrah. At that time the soldiers of Edom will be as fearful as a woman in labor.” (NET)

2. Jeremiah 48:1-47, The Lord God of Israel who rules over all spoke about Moab. “Sure to be judged is Nebo! Indeed, it will be destroyed! Kiriathaim will suffer disgrace. It will be captured! Its fortress will suffer disgrace. It will be torn down! People will not praise Moab any more. The enemy will capture Heshbon and plot how to destroy Moab, saying, ‘Come, let’s put an end to that nation!’ City of Madmen, you will also be destroyed. A destructive army will march against you. Cries of anguish will arise in Horonaim, ‘Oh, the ruin and great destruction!’ “Moab will be crushed. Her children will cry out in distress. Indeed they will climb the slopes of Luhith, weeping continually as they go. For on the road down to Horonaim they will hear the cries of distress over the destruction. They will hear, ‘Run! Save yourselves! Even if you must be like a lonely shrub in the desert!’ “Moab, you trust in the things you do and in your riches. So
you too will be conquered. Your god Chemosh will go into exile along with his priests and his officials. The destroyer will come against every town. Not one town will escape. The towns in the valley will be destroyed. The cities on the high plain will be laid waste. I, the Lord, have spoken! Set up a gravestone for Moab, for it will certainly be laid in ruins! Its cities will be laid waste and become uninhabited.” A curse on anyone who is lax in doing the Lord’s work! A curse on anyone who keeps from carrying out his destruction! “From its earliest days Moab has lived undisturbed. It has never been taken into exile. Its people are like wine allowed to settle undisturbed on its dregs, never poured out from one jar to another. They are like wine which tastes like it always did, whose aroma has remained unchanged. But the time is coming when I will send men against Moab who will empty it out. They will empty the towns of their people, then will lay those towns in ruins. I, the Lord, affirm it! The people of Moab will be disappointed by their god Chemosh. They will be as disappointed as the people of Israel were when they put their trust in the calf god at Bethel. How can you men of Moab say, ‘We are heroes, men who are mighty in battle?’ Moab will be destroyed. Its towns will be invaded. Its finest young men will be slaughtered. I, the King, the Lord who rules over all, affirm it! Moab’s destruction is at hand. Disaster will come on it quickly. Mourn for that nation, all you nations living around it, all of you nations that
know of its fame. Mourn and say, ‘Alas, its powerful influence has been broken! Its glory and power have been done away!’ Come down from your place of honor; sit on the dry ground, you who live in Dibon. For the one who will destroy Moab will attack you; he will destroy your fortifications. You who live in Aroer, stand by the road and watch. Question the man who is fleeing and the woman who is escaping. Ask them, ‘What has happened?’ They will answer, ‘Moab is disgraced, for it has fallen! Wail and cry out in mourning! Announce along the Arnon River that Moab has been destroyed.’ “Judgment will come on the cities on the high plain: on Holon, Jahzah, and Mephaath, on Dibon, Nebo, and Beth Diblathaim, on Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul, and Beth Meon, on Kerioth and Bozrah. It will come on all the towns of Moab, both far and near. Moab’s might will be crushed. Its power will be broken. I, the Lord, affirm it! “Moab has vaunted itself against me. So make him drunk with the wine of my wrath until he splashes around in his own vomit, until others treat him as a laughingstock. For did not you people of Moab laugh at the people of Israel? Did you think that they were nothing but thieves, that you shook your head in contempt every time you talked about them? Leave your towns, you inhabitants of Moab. Go and live in the cliffs. Be like a dove that makes its nest high on the sides of a ravine. I have heard how proud the people of Moab are, I know how haughty they are. I have heard how arrogant, proud, and haughty
they are, what a high opinion they have of themselves. I, the Lord, affirm that I know how arrogant they are. But their pride is ill-founded. Their boastings will prove to be false. So I will weep with sorrow for Moab. I will cry out in sadness for all of Moab. I will moan for the people of Kir Heres. I will weep for the grapevines of Sibmah just like the town of Jazer weeps over them. Their branches once spread as far as the Dead Sea. They reached as far as the town of Jazer. The destroyer will ravage her fig, date, and grape crops. Joy and gladness will disappear from the fruitful land of Moab. I will stop the flow of wine from the winepresses. No one will stomp on the grapes there and shout for joy. The shouts there will be shouts of soldiers, not the shouts of those making wine. Cries of anguish raised from Heshbon and Elealeh will be sounded as far as Jahaz. They will be sounded from Zoar as far as Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah. For even the waters of Nimrim will be dried up. I will put an end in Moab to those who make offerings at her places of worship. I will put an end to those who sacrifice to other gods. I, the Lord, affirm it! So my heart moans for Moab like a flute playing a funeral song. Yes, like a flute playing a funeral song, my heart moans for the people of Kir Heres. For the wealth they have gained will perish. For all of them will shave their heads in mourning. They will all cut off their beards to show their sorrow. They will all make gashes in their hands. They will all put on sackcloth. On all the housetops in
Moab and in all its public squares there will be nothing but mourning. For I will break Moab like an unwanted jar. I, the Lord, affirm it! Oh, how shattered Moab will be! Oh, how her people will wail! Oh, how she will turn away in shame! Moab will become an object of ridicule, a terrifying sight to all the nations that surround her.” For the Lord says, “Look! Like an eagle with outspread wings a nation will swoop down on Moab. Her towns will be captured. Her fortresses will be taken. At that time the soldiers of Moab will be frightened like a woman in labor. Moab will be destroyed and no longer be a nation, because she has vaunted herself against the Lord. Terror, pits, and traps are in store for the people who live in Moab. I, the Lord, affirm it! Anyone who flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit. Anyone who climbs out of the pit will be caught in a trap. For the time is coming when I will punish the people of Moab. I, the Lord, affirm it! In the shadows of the walls of Heshbon those trying to escape will stand helpless. For a fire will burst forth from Heshbon. Flames will shoot out from the former territory of Sihon. They will burn the foreheads of the people of Moab, the skulls of those war-loving people. Moab, you are doomed! You people who worship Chemosh will be destroyed. Your sons will be taken away captive. Your daughters will be carried away into exile. Yet in days to come I will reverse Moab’s ill fortune,” says the Lord. The judgment against Moab ends here. (NET)
3. Jeremiah 49:1-6, The Lord spoke about the Ammonites. “Do you think there are not any people of the nation of Israel remaining? Do you think there are not any of them remaining to reinherit their land? Is that why you people who worship the god Milcom have taken possession of the territory of Gad and live in his cities? Because you did that, I, the Lord, affirm that a time is coming when I will make Rabbah, the capital city of Ammon, hear the sound of the battle cry. It will become a mound covered with ruins. Its villages will be burned to the ground. Then Israel will take back its land from those who took their land from them. I, the Lord, affirm it! Wail, you people in Heshbon, because Ai in Ammon is destroyed. Cry out in anguish, you people in the villages surrounding Rabbah. Put on sackcloth and cry out in mourning. Run about covered with gashes. For your god Milcom will go into exile along with his priests and officials. Why do you brag about your great power? Your power is ebbing away, you rebellious people of Ammon, who trust in your riches and say, ‘Who would dare to attack us?’ I will bring terror on you from every side,” says the Lord God who rules over all. “You will be scattered in every direction. No one will gather the fugitives back together. Yet in days to come I will reverse Ammon’s ill fortune.” says the Lord. (NET)
B. Edomites were descended from Esau or Edom, Jacob’s brother. Their territory began with the River Zered in the north and extended in a southerly direction to the Gulf of Aqabah. At times it included mountain ranges and fertile plateaus on the east and west of the Arabah, the desert valley south of the Dead Sea. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

C. Moabites descended from Moab, a son of Lot by an incestuous relationship of Lot with his older daughter. Moab was situated along the eastern border of the southern half of the Dead Sea, on the plateau between the Dead Sea and the Arabian Desert. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

D. Ammon(ites) were descendants of Ben-Ammi, Lot’s son by an incestuous relationship with his daughter. The Ammonites were a nomadic race who were continually hostile to the Israelites. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

Jeremiah 25:22, all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon; all the kings of the coastlands along the sea; (NET)

I. all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon; all the kings of the coastlands along the sea; . . .

A. Tyre was an ancient Phoenician seaport city situated north of Israel. Tyre was famous for its maritime trading business. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

B. Sidon was an ancient Phoenician city on the Mediterranean coast in northern Palestine often associated
with Tyre and also famous for its maritime trade. (See Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary.)

C. Clarke preferred the reading, “the kings of the region by the sea side” to include the numerous Phoenician colonies on its coasts. The Pulpit Commentary includes the properties “lying in the midst of the sea” controlled by Tyre and Sidon on their trading routes.

Jeremiah 25:23, the people of Dedan, Tema, Buz, all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples; (NET)

I. all the people of Dedan, Tema, Buz, * all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples; . . .

A. *NET footnote: Dedan and Tema (Isaiah 21:13-14) are in the desert of the Arabian peninsula; the location of Buz is unknown.

1. Isaiah 21:13-14, Here is a message about Arabia: In the thicket of Arabia you spend the night, you Dedanite caravans. Bring out some water for the thirsty. You who live in the land of Tema, bring some food for the fugitives. (NET)

2. Job 32:2, Then Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry. He was angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. (NET)

B. Dedan was a district near Edom and the Dead Sea. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary) Hamilton described
Dedan as “an important commercial settlement located at one of the major oases in northwest Arabia.”

1. Ezekiel 25:13, So this is what the sovereign Lord says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom, and I will kill the people and animals within her, and I will make her desolate; from Teman to Dedan they will die by the sword. (NET)

2. Ezekiel 37:15, 20, The word of the Lord came to me: The sticks you write on will be in your hand in front of them. (NET)

3. Genesis 10:7, The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. (NET)

4. Genesis 25:3, Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. The descendants of Dedan were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. (NET)

C. Tema (Tayma) was an oasis or desert city in northwest Arabia located at the intersection of two major caravan routes, one leading from the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Aquaba and the other leading from Damascus to Medina and Mecca – about midway between Babylon and Egypt. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Job 6:19, The caravans of Tema looked intently for these streams; the traveling merchants of Sheba hoped for them. (NET)
2. Isaiah 21:14, Bring out some water for the thirsty. You who live in the land of Tema, bring some food for the fugitives. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 25:23, the people of Dedan, Tema, Buz, all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples; (NET)

4. Genesis 36:15, These were the chiefs among the descendants of Esau, the sons of Eliphaz, Esau’s firstborn: chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief Kenaz, (NET)

D. Buz was the place of origin from which Elihu’s father, “the Buzite,” came. Buz probably was in northern Arabia, although the exact location is uncertain. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Job 32:2, 6, Then Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry. He was angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite spoke up: “I am young, but you are elderly; that is why I was fearful, and afraid to explain to you what I know. (NET)

2. Buz was brother of Uz, descendants of Nahor, brother of Abraham who settled in Arabla.

   a. Genesis 22:21, Uz the firstborn, his brother Buz, Kemuel (the father of Aram), Bedouin tribes of northern Arabia appear to
be related to the Ishmaelites. Genesis 25:13, These are the names of Ishmael’s sons, by their names according to their records: Nebaioth (Ishmael’s firstborn), Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, (NET) (See Hamilton.)

E. “Cutting the hair short at the temples” was a heathen custom. (Jamieson, Faussett and Brown)

1. Jeremiah 9:25-26, The Lord says, “Watch out! The time is soon coming when I will punish all those who are circumcised only in the flesh. That is, I will punish the Egyptians, the Judeans, the Edomites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, and all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples. I will do so because none of the people of those nations are really circumcised in the Lord’s sight. Moreover, none of the people of Israel are circumcised when it comes to their hearts.” (NET)

Jeremiah 25:24, all the kings of Arabia who live in the desert; (NET)

I. All the kings of Arabia, who live in the desert; . . .

A. Bedouin tribes of northern Arabia appear to be related to the Ishmaelites. Genesis 25:13, These are the names of Ishmael’s sons, by their names according to their records: Nebaioth (Ishmael’s firstborn), Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, (NET) (See Hamilton.)
B. By Arabia, the desert region to the east and south-east of Palestine is meant which was occupied by Nomads or Ishmaelite tribes.

Jeremiah 25:25, all the kings of Zimri; all the kings of Elam; all the kings of Media; (NET)

I. all the kings of Zimri;* all the kings of Elam;** all the kings of Media; . . .

A. *NET footnote: The location of Zimri is unknown.

B. **NET footnote: See Jeremiah 49:34-39 for the judgment against Elam; Elam and Media were east of Babylon in what is now western Iran.

1. Jeremiah 49:34-39, Early in the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, the Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Elam. The Lord who rules over all said, “I will kill all the archers of Elam, who are the chief source of her military might. I will cause enemies to blow through Elam from every direction like the winds blowing in from the four quarters of heaven. I will scatter the people of Elam to the four winds. There will not be any nation where the refugees of Elam will not go. I will make the people of Elam terrified of their enemies, who are seeking to kill them. I will vent my fierce anger and bring disaster upon them,” says the Lord. “I will send armies chasing after them until I have completely destroyed them. I will establish my sovereignty over Elam. I will destroy their king and their leaders,” says
the Lord. “Yet in days to come I will reverse
Elam’s ill fortune.” says the Lord. (NET)

C. Zimri was an unknown place or people. (Nelson’s New
Illustrated Bible Dictionay)

1. Zimri was a son of Abraham by Keturah.

a. Genesis 25:2, 6, She bore him Zimran,
Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
But while he was still alive, Abraham gave
gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent
them off to the east, away from his son
Isaac. (NET)

2. The Pulpit Commentary identified Zimri as a people
who lived to the north-east of Assyria.

D. Elam (Elymais-Greek) was located east of the lower Tigris
River which may have been bounded on the north by Media
and Assyria, on the east and southeast by Persia, and on the
south by the Persian Gulf. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible
Dictionary)

1. Isaiah 21:2, I have received a distressing
message: “The deceiver deceives, the destroyer
destroys. Attack, you Elamites! Lay siege, you
Medes! I will put an end to all the groaning!”
(NET)

2. Genesis 14:1-17, king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer
king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations went to
war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of
Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). These last five kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). For twelve years they had served Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings who were his allies came and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is near the desert. Then they attacked En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh) again, and they conquered all the territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazazon Tamar. Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and prepared for battle. In the Valley of Siddim they met Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar. Four kings fought against five. Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into them, but some survivors fled to the hills. The four victorious kings took all the possessions and food of Sodom and Gomorrah and left. They also took Abram’s nephew Lot and his possessions when they left, for Lot was living in Sodom. A fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and Aner. (All these were allied by treaty with
Abram.) When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he mobilized his 318 trained men who had been born in his household, and he pursued the invaders as far as Dan. Then, during the night, Abram divided his forces against them and defeated them. He chased them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. He retrieved all the stolen property. He also brought back his nephew Lot and his possessions, as well as the women and the rest of the people. After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh (known as the King’s Valley). (NET)

3. Isaiah 11:11, At that time the sovereign master will again lift his hand to reclaim the remnant of his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the seacoasts. (NET)

4. Isaiah 22:6, The Elamites picked up the quiver, and came with chariots and horsemen; the men of Kir prepared the shield. (NET)

5. Ezekiel 32:24-25, “Elam is there with all her hordes around her grave; all of them struck down by the sword. They went down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, those who spread terror in the land of the living. Now they will bear their shame with those who descend to the Pit. Among the dead they have made a bed for her, along with all her hordes
around her grave. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword, for their terror had spread in the land of the living. They bear their shame along with those who descend to the Pit; they are placed among the dead. (NET)

6. Ezra 4:9, From Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues—the judges, the rulers, the officials, the secretaries, the Erechites, the Babylonians, the people of Susa (that is, the Elamites), (NET)

7. Daniel 8:2, In this vision I saw myself in Susa the citadel, which is located in the province of Elam. In the vision I saw myself at the Ulai Canal. (NET)

8. Esther 1:2, In those days, as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa the citadel, (NET)

9. Esther 8:14-15, The couriers who were riding the royal horses went forth with the king’s edict without delay. And the law was presented in Susa the citadel as well. Now Mordecai went out from the king’s presence in purple and white royal attire, with a large golden crown and a purple linen mantle. The city of Susa shouted with joy. (NET)

10. Acts 2:9, Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, (NET)
E. **Media** is an ancient country of Asia situated west of Parthia, north of the Persian Gulf, east of Assyria and Armenia, and south of the Caspian Sea. The country is now included in parts of Iran, Iraq and Turkey. The history of Media is long and complex. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary.)

**Jeremiah 25:26**, all the kings of the north, whether near or far from one another; and all the other kingdoms which are on the face of the earth. After all of them have drunk the wine of the Lord’s wrath, the king of Babylon must drink it. (NET)

I. all the kings of the north, whether near or far from one another; and all the other kingdoms which are on the face of the earth.

A. Every nation under the sun was included in the promise of the punitive judgment of God. (See Coffman.)

B. References related to a special judgment:

1. **Isaiah 2:12**, Indeed, the Lord who commands armies has planned a day of judgment, for all the high and mighty, for all who are proud—they will be humiliated; (NET)

2. **Isaiah 3:13**, The Lord takes his position to judge; he stands up to pass sentence on his people. (NET)
3. Isaiah 13:9, Look, the Lord’s day of judgment is coming; it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger, destroying the earth and annihilating its sinners. (NET)

4. Isaiah 24:1-12, Look, the Lord is ready to devastate the earth and leave it in ruins; he will mar its surface and scatter its inhabitants. Everyone will suffer—the priest as well as the people, the master as well as the servant, the elegant lady as well as the female attendant, the seller as well as the buyer, the borrower as well as the lender, the creditor as well as the debtor. The earth will be completely devastated and thoroughly ransacked. For the Lord has decreed this judgment. The earth dries up and withers, the world shrivels up and withers; the prominent people of the earth fade away. The earth is defiled by its inhabitants, for they have violated laws, disregarded the regulation, and broken the permanent treaty. So a treaty curse devours the earth; its inhabitants pay for their guilt. This is why the inhabitants of the earth disappear, and are reduced to just a handful of people. The new wine dries up, the vines shrivel up, all those who like to celebrate groan. The happy sound of the tambourines stops, the revelry of those who celebrate comes to a halt, the happy sound of the harp ceases. They no longer sing and drink wine; the beer tastes bitter to those who drink it. The ruined town is shattered; all of the houses are shut up tight. They howl in the streets because of what happened to the wine; all joy
turns to sorrow; celebrations disappear from the earth. The city is left in ruins; the gate is reduced to rubble. (NET)

II. After all of them have drunk the wine of the Lord’s wrath, the king of Babylon* must drink it.

A. *NET footnote: Hebrew Sheshach (a code name for Babylon formed by substituting letters of the Hebrew alphabet in reverse order).

1. Hamilton noted, “This system of reverse writing is called an athbash,”

2. An Atbasch is a form of writing in which the last letter of the alphabet is used for the first and the letter next to the last is used for the second, etc. (Coffman)

3. Another designation as used by Willis is a cryptogram.

4. Isaiah 47:1, “Fall down! Sit in the dirt, O virgin daughter Babylon! Sit on the ground, not on a throne, O daughter of the Babylonians! Indeed, you will no longer be called delicate and pampered. (NET)

B. Babylon would be God’s instrument by which the nations would be punished and would in turn be punished themselves. (See Coffman.)
1. Jeremiah 51:1, The Lord says, “I will cause a destructive wind to blow against Babylon and the people who inhabit Babylonia. (NET)

C. *Sheshach* was an ancient king of Babylon who was deified after his death and here represents either Babylon itself or Nebuchadnezzar its king. After Babylon had destroyed so many others, the Medes and Persians would destroy Babylon. (See Clarke.)

Jeremiah 25:27, Then the Lord said to me, ‘Tell them that the Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Drink this cup until you get drunk and vomit. Drink until you fall down and can’t get up. For I will send wars sweeping through you.’ (NET)

I. Then the Lord said to me, . . .

A. Willis wrote that, after a long aside, the main train of thought resumes here.

II. “Tell them that the Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, . . .

A. Jeremiah was told exactly what to say and he delivered the message precisely as the Lord God of Israel had commanded him.

1. Jeremiah 49:12, For the Lord says, “If even those who did not deserve to drink from the cup of my wrath must drink from it, do you think you will go unpunished? You will not go unpunished,
but must certainly drink from the cup of my wrath. (NET)

III. ‘Drink this cup until you get drunk and vomit. Drink until you fall down and can’t get up.

A. The time had passed in which nations could surrender to Babylon and avoid tribulation. (See Willis.)

1. The time had come when Judah and Jerusalem, et. al. would drink the cup of God’s wrath, destruction at the hands of the Babylonians.

IV. For I will send wars sweeping through you!

A. The history of that period shows clearly that God did exactly as he had foretold.

1. Wars and rumors of wars engulfed the region just as God had said.

Jeremiah 25:28, If they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink it, tell them that the Lord who rules over all says ‘You most certainly must drink it! (NET)

I. If they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink it, tell them that the Lord who rules over all says, ‘You most certainly must drink it!”

A. The Israelites had enjoyed a closer relationship with God, but they too had grievously sinned.
1. Sinners, without respect of persons, will be punished.

2. Regarding the cup of God’s wrath, all sinners must most certainly drink of it.

B. Imagine being at the judgment day and being condemned to the fire of hell. How far would it get you to tell God you were definitely not going to hell?

1. “You most certainly must drink it!”

2. There is no escape for the condemned wicked!

 Jeremiah 25:29, For take note, I am already beginning to bring disaster on the city that I call my own. So how can you possibly avoid being punished? You will not go unpunished! For I am proclaiming war against all who live on the earth. I, the Lord who rules over all, affirm it!’ (NET)

I. For take note, I am already beginning to bring disaster on the city that I call my own.

A. Willis stated, If Jerusalem “cannot escape his (God’s) wrath, then no other nation can expect to escape.”

1. Jeremiah 1:5, 10, “Before I formed you in your mother’s womb I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.” Know for certain that I hereby give you the authority to announce to nations and kingdoms that they will be uprooted
and torn down, destroyed and demolished, rebuilt and firmly planted.” (NET)

B. Jerusalem was the first to be destroyed. (See Clarke.)

II. So how can you possibly avoid being punished? You will not go unpunished! For I am proclaiming war against all who live on the earth.

A. There is no way for the unrepentant sinner to escape God’s wrath whether that sinner be an individual or a nation. (See Hamilton.)

III. I, the Lord, who rules over all, affirm it!

A. The all powerful ruler of heaven and earth affirmed the truth of what he had told Jeremiah, that disaster would fall upon the wicked, that none would go unpunished.

Jeremiah 25:30, ‘‘Then, Jeremiah, make the following prophecy against them: ‘Like a lion about to attack, the Lord will roar from the heights of heaven; from his holy dwelling on high he will roar loudly. He will roar mightily against his land. He will shout in triumph like those stomping juice from the grapes against all those who live on the earth. (NET)

I. ‘‘Then, Jeremiah, make the following prophecy against them; . . .

A. Jeremiah, Smith wrote, painted four (4) pictures of the Lord executing judgment on the wicked; viz., . . .
1. a roaring lion about to pounce upon a sheepfold, . . .

2. a victorious conqueror who has crushed his enemies like grapes beneath his feet, . . .

3. a prosecutor reading his indictment against the guilty, and . . .

4. a righteous judge pronouncing sentence against the guilty.

II. ‘Like a lion about to attack, the Lord will roar from the heights of heaven; from his holy dwelling on high he will roar loudly.

A. God’s punishment on Judah and other sinful nations was fast approaching!’’

B. This metaphor depicts the Lord as a lion (verses 30-31, 34-38) stalking his prey, spreading disaster wherever he goes. (See Willis.)

1. Hosea 5:14, I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a young lion to the house of Judah. I myself will tear them to pieces, then I will carry them off, and no one will be able to rescue them! (NET)

2. Hosea 11:10, He will roar like a lion, and they will follow the Lord; when he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. (NET)

3. Hosea 13:7, So I will pounce on them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk by the path. (NET)
4. Amos 3:8, A lion has roared! Who is not afraid? The sovereign Lord has spoken! Who can refuse to prophesy? (NET)

5. Amos 1:2, Amos said: “The Lord comes roaring out of Zion; from Jerusalem he comes bellowing! The shepherds’ pastures wilt; the summit of Carmel withers.” (NET)

6. Joel 3:16, The Lord roars from Zion; from Jerusalem his voice bellows out. The heavens and the earth shake. But the Lord is a refuge for his people; he is a stronghold for the citizens of Israel. (NET)

III. He will roar mightily against his land.

A. The figures of a roaring, attacking lion and a destructive storm show how angry the Lord really was with Judah and Jerusalem and how hopeless their situation actually was. (See Willis.)

1. Jeremiah 23:1, The Lord says, “The leaders of my people are sure to be judged. They were supposed to watch over my people like shepherds watch over their sheep. But they are causing my people to be destroyed and scattered. (NET)

2. Isaiah 16:9, 10, So I weep along with Jazer over the vines of Sibmah. I will saturate you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh, for the
conquering invaders shout triumphantly over your fruit and crops. Joy and happiness disappear from the orchards, and in the vineyards no one rejoices or shouts; no one treads out juice in the wine vats— I have brought the joyful shouts to an end. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 51:14, The Lord who rules over all has solemnly sworn, ‘I will fill your land with enemy soldiers. They will swarm over it like locusts. They will raise up shouts of victory over it.’ (NET)

IV. He will shout in triumph like those stomping juice from the grapes against all those who live on the earth.

A. God will shout in triumph against all those who live on the earth, who have lived wickedly and who now have been soundly defeated.

B. God has stomped his enemies like men stomp the juice from grapes at harvest, also a time of rejoicing.

Jeremiah 25:31, The sounds of battle will resound to the ends of the earth. For the Lord will bring charges against the nations. He will pass judgment on all humankind and will hand the wicked over to be killed in war.’ The Lord so affirms it! (NET)

I. The sounds of battle will resound to the ends of the earth.
A. Even now, twenty-five hundred years later, people in all parts of the world, still study God’s destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians.

B. “This expression is used elsewhere for the tumultuous sound of a marching army,” The Pulpit Commentary reads.

1. Isaiah 13:4, There is a loud noise on the mountains— it sounds like a large army! There is great commotion among the kingdoms— nations are being assembled! The Lord who commands armies is mustering forces for battle. (NET)

2. Isaiah 17:12, The many nations massing together are as good as dead, those who make a commotion as loud as the roaring of the sea’s waves. The people making such an uproar are as good as dead, those who make an uproar as loud as the roaring of powerful waves. (NET)

II. For the Lord will bring charges against the nations.

A. Coffman wrote that all nations living in rebellion against God would suffer judgment and destruction, death would overtake the wicked, and that there would be no national exceptions to God’s wrath.

B. Related references: . . .

1. Ezekiel 38:22, I will judge him with plague and bloodshed. I will rain down on him, his troops and the many peoples who are with him a
torrential downpour, hailstones, fire, and brimstone. (NET)

2. Isaiah 66:6, The sound of battle comes from the city; the sound comes from the temple! It is the sound of the Lord paying back his enemies. (NET)

3. 2 Chronicles 22:8, While Jehu was dishing out punishment to Ahab’s family, he discovered the officials of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah’s relatives who were serving Ahaziah and killed them. (NET)

III. He will pass judgment on all humankind and will hand the wicked over to be killed in war.’

A. Judah was tried, convicted and executed! . . . as were all the surrounding wicked Gentile nations.

IV. The Lord so affirms it!

A. Again, the Lord leaves no doubt about who made these pronouncements and the truthfulness of what he has said.

Jeremiah 25:32, The Lord who rules over all says, ‘Disaster will soon come on one nation after another. A mighty storm of military destruction is rising up from the distant parts of the earth.’ (NET)

I. The Lord who rules over all says, . . .
A. The Lord rules over everyone and everything in all creation!

II. ‘Disaster will soon come on one nation after another. A mighty storm (verses 32-33) of military destruction is rising up from the distant parts of the earth.’

A. This metaphor compares the coming Babylonian onslaught and subsequent destruction of Jerusalem to “a mighty storm.”

1. Jeremiah 23:19, But just watch! The wrath of the Lord will come like a storm! Like a raging storm it will rage down on the heads of those who are wicked. (NET)

2. One nation after another would fall before the Chaldeans,” Clarke wrote.

3. Jeremiah 6:22, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Beware! An army is coming from a land in the north. A mighty nation is stirring into action in faraway parts of the earth. (NET)

Jeremiah 25:33, Those who have been killed by the Lord at that time will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned over, gathered up, or buried. Their dead bodies will lie scattered over the ground like manure. (NET)

I. Those who have been killed by the Lord at that time will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other.
A. Clarke explained, “From one end of Palestine to the other, the land would be left desolate.”

B. Isaiah 66:16, For the Lord judges all humanity with fire and his sword; the Lord will kill many. (NET)

II. They will not be mourned over, gathered up, or buried. Their dead bodies will lie scattered over the ground like manure.

A. The horrendous end to which these sinners would come is shocking, horrible beyond words!

1. God’s anger on sinners is indeed fierce!

2. Jeremiah 8:2, They will be spread out and exposed to the sun, the moon and the stars. These are things they adored and served, things to which they paid allegiance, from which they sought guidance, and worshiped. The bones of these people will never be regathered and reburied. They will be like manure used to fertilize the ground. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 16:4, They will die of deadly diseases. No one will mourn for them. They will not be buried. Their dead bodies will lie like manure spread on the ground. They will be killed in war or die of starvation. Their corpses will be food for the birds and wild animals. (NET)

Jeremiah 25:34, Wail and cry out in anguish, you rulers! Roll in the dust, you who shepherd flocks of people! The
time for you to be slaughtered has come. You will lie scattered and fallen like broken pieces of fine pottery. (NET)

I. Wail and cry out in anguish, you rulers! Roll in the dust you who shepherd flocks of people!*

A. *NET footnote: “Shepherds” frequently refers to kings and other royal, political, or military leaders; here the “shepherds” will be slaughtered like sheep.

B. These rulers, shepherds would not escape the punishment to come upon the people because they were the leaders of the apostacy.

C. Related references: . . .

1. Micah 1:10, Don’t spread the news in Gath! Don’t shed even a single tear! In Beth Leaphrah sit in the dust! (NET)

2. Jeremiah 6:26, So I said, “Oh, my dear people, put on sackcloth and roll in ashes. Mourn with painful sobs as though you had lost your only child. For any moment now that destructive army will come against us.” (NET)

II. The time for you to be slaughtered has come. You will live scattered and fallen like broken pieces of fine pottery.

A. The irresponsible shepherds would themselves be overthrown and left in irreparable ruin. (See Clarke.)
B. “The days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished.” (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

1. Daniel 11:8, He will also take their gods into captivity to Egypt, along with their cast images and prized utensils of silver and gold. Then he will withdraw for some years from the king of the north. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 22:28, This man, Jeconiah, will be like a broken pot someone threw away. He will be like a clay vessel that no one wants. Why will he and his children be forced into exile? Why will they be thrown out into a country they know nothing about? (NET)

Jeremiah 25:35, The leaders will not be able to run away and hide. The shepherds of the flocks will not be able to escape. (NET)

I. The leaders will not be able to run away and hide. The shepherds of the flocks will not be able to escape.

A. There was and is no escape from God’s justice for either the leaders (shepherds) or followers (sheep).

1. Woe be to leaders (shepherds) in the church who fail to care for the sheep entrusted to their guidance!

   a. Hebrews 13:17, Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work. Let them do this with joy and not with
complaints, for this would be no advantage for you. (NET)

b. Acts 20:29-30, I know that after I am gone fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Even from among your own group men will arise, teaching perversions of the truth to draw the disciples away after them. (NET)

Jeremiah 25:36, Listen to the cries of anguish of the leaders. Listen to the wails of the shepherds of the flocks. They are wailing because the Lord is about to destroy their lands. (NET)

I. Listen to the cries of anguish of the leaders. Listen to the wails of the shepherds of the flocks.

A. The wicked leaders now cry in anguish.

1. God has exacted justice.

2. Luke 16:19-31, “There was a rich man who dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. But at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus whose body was covered with sores, who longed to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. In addition, the dogs came and licked his sores. “Now the poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. And in hell, as he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far off with Lazarus at his side. So
he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in anguish in this fire.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus likewise bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us, so that those who want to cross over from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ So the rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, father—send Lazarus to my father’s house (for I have five brothers) to warn them so that they don’t come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they must respond to them.’ Then the rich man said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He replied to him, ‘If they do not respond to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’” (NET)

Jeremiah 25:36, Listen to the cries of anguish of the leaders. Listen to the wails of the shepherds of the flocks. They are wailing because the Lord is about to destroy their lands. (NET)

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be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”’ (NET)

II. They are wailing because the Lord is about to destroy their lands.

A. Doom is fast approaching and is eternal in duration.

B. The pleasures of sin last for only a season, a short while.

Jeremiah 25:37, Their peaceful dwelling places will be laid waste by the fierce anger of the Lord. (NET)

I. Their peaceful dwelling places will be laid waste by the fierce anger of the Lord.

A. Jeremiah 9:10, I said, “I will weep and mourn for the grasslands on the mountains, I will sing a mournful song for the pastures in the wilderness because they are so scorched no one travels through them. The sound of livestock is no longer heard there. Even the birds in the sky and the wild animals in the fields have fled and are gone.” (NET)

B. Places may appear to be outwardly peaceful, be inwardly wicked and suffer the fierce anger of the Lord.

Jeremiah 25:38, The Lord is like a lion who has left his lair. So their lands will certainly be laid waste by the warfare of the oppressive nation and by the fierce anger of the Lord.” (NET)
I. The Lord is like a lion who has left his lair. So their lands will certainly be laid waste by the warfare of the oppressive nation and by the fierce anger of the Lord.”

A. *NET footnote: A number of Hebrew manuscripts and LXX read sword; most Hebrew manuscripts read anger.

1. Jeremiah 4:13, Look! The enemy is approaching like gathering clouds. The roar of his chariots is like that of a whirlwind. His horses move more swiftly than eagles.” I cry out, “We are doomed, for we will be destroyed!” (NET)

B. Willis wrote, “The lion was of particular concern to shepherds, as it picked off stray sheep from the flock.” Lions could attack the shepherds as well as the sheep.

1. These slothful shepherds had reason to weep and wail.

2. Jeremiah 46:16, I will make many stumble. They will fall over one another in their hurry to flee. They will say, ‘Get up! Let’s go back to our own people. Let’s go back to our homelands because the enemy is coming to destroy us.’ (NET)

3. Jeremiah 50:16, Kill all the farmers who sow the seed in the land of Babylon. Kill all those who wield the sickle at harvest time. Let all the foreigners return to their own people. Let them hurry back to their own lands to escape destruction by that enemy army. (NET)
Conclusion:

I. Jeremiah, at the time of chapter 25, had been faithfully preaching the word of God for twenty-three years with little success.

   A. Our duty is to preach the word of the Lord

   B. We are not responsible for the results.

   C. Jeremiah and other faithful prophets had told the people over and over again what the Lord had said, but they would not listen.

   D. By their refusal to repent, they had brought harm on themselves.

II. God would punish, destroy Judah and Jerusalem by the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar.

   A. The Babylonians would also destroy neighboring wicked nations.

   B. Exiles from Judah would be taken captive to Babylon.

      1. The captivity would last for seventy (70) years.

III. Finally, also because of their sinfulness, Babylon would be destroyed, fall to the Medes and Persians.

   A. At that time, the exiles would be permitted to return home to Jerusalem.
IV. Nothing has changed! Wicked nations and people, then and now, will be forced to drink the wine of God’s wrath, endure the storm of his anger, and experience God’s lion-like attack.

A. Evil leaders of the people would not escape!

V. What differences, changes will these facts make in your life?
Questions

on

Jeremiah 25:1-38

1. Jeremiah ____________ is written in ____________ while Jeremiah ____________ is written in ____________.

2. Why are some verses written in prose while other verses are written as poetry? What determined which verses were written in prose and which in poetry? _______________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. At the time of the events addressed in Jeremiah 25, how long had Jeremiah been prophesying? Evaluate his success during these years. Name the kings in order who reigned in Jerusalem during this time. _______________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. Jeremiah 25 makes it clear that ____________’s ____________ of ____________ had ____________, their ____________ of ____________ ____________ was upon them.
5. This chapter ____________ of ____________’s ____________ against ____________, ____________, ____________ ____________ and the ____________ ____________.


7. What significant historical events can be dated to the fourth (4th) year of the reign of Jehoiakim?  ___________________

8. Into what three (3) parts, according to Willis, can Jeremiah 25 be divided? ______________________________________

9. How would you evaluate Josiah’s character and reign?  How long did he reign? ___________________
10. How would you evaluate Jehoiakim’s character and reign? How long did he reign? _________________________________

11. How would you evaluate the character and reign of Jehoahaz? How long did he reign? _________________________________

13. How were Josiah, Jehoiakim and Jehoahaz related? __________

14. Date the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. How long was he king? List highlights of his reign. Who was Nabopolassar? Who was Belshazzar? _________________________________
15. The __________ __________ lasted just over __________ years from ____________ - ____________ BCE, counting from the fall of ____________, the ____________ ____________, to the ____________ of ____________ by ____________, king of the ____________ and ____________. (See Hamilton.)

16. The ____________ ____________ ____________ of ____________ is dated to ____________ BCE which means that only _____ - _____ years passed between the final ____________ ____________ of __________ and the ____________, __________ of the ____________ ____________.

17. Why was the battle of Carchemish important? ____________

18. ____________ was the ____________ ____________ during the ____________ and ____________ of the ____________ ____________ of ____________. He spoke to ____________ the ____________ of ____________ and ____________ during the reigns of the last ____________ ____________ of Judah.

19. ____________ had been ____________ to ____________ and ____________ for ____________ - ____________ with ____________ or ____________ ____________. ____________ of these years were while ____________ was king, ____________
years while __________ was king and __________ ____________
while ____________ was king.

20. Jeremiah said, “__________ ____________ you ____________
and ____________ ____________ what God said, but you would
not ____________!

21. In addition to Jeremiah, what other prophets had God sent to
preach to Judah and Jerusalem? __________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

22. Each of God’s faithful prophets told the people, “__________
of you must ____________ from your ____________
__________ and __________ ____________ the ____________
__________ you are ____________.”

23. If Judah and Jerusalem had truly repented, what difference
would it have made? _______________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

24. All of God’s spokesmen then and now said the same things!
How do you explain that? _______________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
25. Judah and Jerusalem were told ____________ to pay allegiance to other ____________ nor ____________ them and ____________ to make ____________ angry by the ____________ they ____________.

26. Under what conditions would God cause Judah and Jerusalem no harm?  ____________________________________________  
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       

27. What harm has God caused you?  ________________  
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       

28. What things had Judah and Jerusalem done which made God angry?  ________________  
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       

29. Give examples to show that people are often their own worst enemies.  ________________________________  
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       
                                                                                                       

30. Give examples which show people have little or no respect for what God says and that, in fact, they do not really listen to what God says. 

All _______ _______ what the _______ _______ does not _______ _______ at all.

31. Does God need to be pacified? Why or why not? If yes, how can we pacify Him?

32. How was it that the Babylonians were said to be “people of the north” when Babylon was actually east of Palestine?
33. List people in the Bible who were known as “servants of God”. How could a ruthless person such as Nebuchadnezzar be called a “servant of God”? ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________

34. Define everlasting as used in the Bible? ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________

35. God’s chosen people, because of their ________________, will become objects of ___________ and ___________ ___________. This is a ___________ ___________ of ___________, ___________ and ____________.

36. ___________ brought the ___________ and the ___________ of ____________ in ____________.

37. Describe handmills. How did they operate? Why were they considered as signs of happiness? ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________
                                                                 ______________________________________________________

38. God would put an end to ____________ and ____________,
the _________ _________ of _________ and ____________,
____________ ____________ and ____________ ____________
in their ____________. This indicated the end of
____________ ____________ in those days.

39. ____________, the ____________ ____________, became a
_________ _________ and it stayed that way for ____________
____________.

40. When did the seventy (70) year Babylonian captivity begin
and end? Explain your answer. ___________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

41. What happened to the Babylonian Empire at the end of
seventy (70) years? ___________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

42. ___________ rose from a ____________ of ____________
to the _________ of _________ and ____________ into
_________ ____________ in the ____________ ____________
of only ____________ ____________.

43. How would you describe the present condition of the region in
which Babylon once stood? _______________________________
44. What was the need, purpose of God’s affirming what he had previously said? ______________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

45. To what does “this book” refer in verse 13? ___________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

46. Verses 15-38, the remainder of the chapter, reveals that __________’s __________ is part of __________’s __________
___________ to __________ many __________ for their __________
__________ __________. __________ would __________
them for ____________ they have ____________!

47. What was Jeremiah to take from God’s hand? What was in it? What did this represent? What was to be done with it? What effect would it have on those who drank it? __________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
48. Has God in the past used war to punish sinners? If so, does he still use wars to punish sinners? Support your answer with Scripture.__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

49. Does God send or allow both good and bad on the earth? What does the Bible say about this? ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

50. Why did God make Jerusalem and the cities of Judah to drink of the cup of the wine of the wrath of God? ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

51. Of the five (5) principal Philistine cities, which four (4) are listed in verse 20? Which one is not listed? Why was this city not mentioned? ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
52. Locate the following places and people and tell how they are associated with the Israelites:  

Egypt  

_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Uz  

_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Philistia  

_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Edom  

_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Moab  

_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
52. Every ____________ under the ____________ was included in the ____________ of the ____________ ____________ of ____________. All the ____________ of the ____________, whether ____________ or ____________ from ____________ ____________; and all the ____________ ____________ which are on the ____________ of the ____________ were included.

53. What was the significance of “cutting their hair at the temples?” Who did this and why? _____________________________

54. Who were the Bedouins? _____________________________

55. How did Sheshack come to be a designation for Babylon? Define athbash according to Coffman. Define cryptogram. Who was Sheshack? _____________________________
56. ___________ would be ____________’s ____________ by which the ____________ would be ____________ and would in turn be ____________ themselves.

57. According to Jeremiah 25, in what ways did God communicate with Jeremiah? ______________________________________

58. What are descriptions, characteristics, qualities of God mentioned in Jeremiah 25?  ______________________________

59. ___________ was ____________ ____________ what to ____________ and he ____________ the ____________ ____________ as the ____________ had ____________ him.

60. What happens to stubborn sinners who “refuse” to drink the wine of the cup of God’s wrath? See Luke 16:19-31. How could they possibly avoid being punished? ____________________________

61. In regard to executing judgment on the wicked, God is likened to a __________ ____________, a __________ __________, a __________ and a __________ ____________.

62. See question 61 above. How is God like each of these four (4) things? ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________

63. In what ways is God like a husbandman, vineyard keeper, stomping juice from the grapes at harvest? _________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________

64. Coffman wrote that __________ ___________ ____________ in __________ __________ ____________ would __________
   __________ and ____________, ____________ will overtake
   the ____________, and that there will be no __________
   ____________ to ____________’s ____________.

65. ____________ will soon come on one ____________ after
   another. A ____________ ____________ of ____________
   ____________ is ____________ up from the ____________
   ____________ of the ____________.

66. According to verse 33, who would be killed and scattered from one end of the earth to the other? ____________________
67. They will ___________ be ___________ over, __________ up, or ___________. Their ___________ ___________ will ___________ ___________ over the ___________ like ___________.

68. What was and is God’s attitude toward leaders, shepherds who lead the sheep entrusted to their care astray? What will happen to such negligent shepherds? ______________________

69. The ___________ was of particular concern to ____________, as it ___________ off ___________ ___________ from the ___________. ___________ could ___________ the ___________ as well as the ___________. These ___________ ___________ had reason to ___________ and ___________.

70. Nothing has changed? ___________ ___________ and ___________, then and now, will be ___________ to ___________ the ___________ of ___________’s ___________, ___________ the ___________ of his ___________ and ___________. ___________’s ___________ - ___________. ___________ ___________ of the ___________ would ___________ ___________.