**Biblical Perspective – Prophecy Series**

**Session #4**

**Overarching Theme:** God will have control over this Chaotic World!

**RECAP:**

1. The Lord Appointed Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations (specifically Judah and Israel)
2. The Lord tells Jeremiah to go and proclaim that the Hebrew people have traded God for their Idols and for this there will be judgment.
3. God proclaims he is the only way to salvation
4. God tells Jeremiah that the lands of Judah and Israel will become desolate and attacked from the northern lands
5. God declares repentance is the only hope and that the people put more trust in the Holy Temple than God. God says it will be destroyed.
6. Jeremiah laments over Judah

**Jeremiah 8:18-22 / 9:1-26**

**18**My grief is beyond healing;  
    my heart is broken.  
**19**Listen to the weeping of my people;  
    it can be heard all across the land.  
“Has the Lord abandoned Jerusalem?[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%208&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-19149b" \o "See footnote b)]” the people ask.  
    “Is her King no longer there?”

“Oh, why have they provoked my anger with their carved idols  
    and their worthless foreign gods?” says the Lord.

**20**“The harvest is finished,  
    and the summer is gone,” the people cry,  
    “yet we are not saved!”

**21**I hurt with the hurt of my people.  
    I mourn and am overcome with grief.  
**22**Is there no medicine in Gilead?  
    Is there no physician there?  
Why is there no healing  
    for the wounds of my people?

**Chapter 9**

[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%209&version=NLT&interface=print#fen-NLT-19153a)]If only my head were a pool of water  
    and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
I would weep day and night  
    for all my people who have been slaughtered.  
**2**[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%209&version=NLT&interface=print#fen-NLT-19154b)]Oh, that I could go away and forget my people  
    and live in a travelers’ shack in the desert.  
For they are all adulterers—  
    a pack of treacherous liars.

### Judgment for Disobedience

**3**“My people bend their tongues like bows  
    to shoot out lies.  
They refuse to stand up for the truth.  
    They only go from bad to worse.  
They do not know me,”  
    says the Lord.

**4**“Beware of your neighbor!  
    Don’t even trust your brother!  
For brother takes advantage of brother,  
    and friend slanders friend.  
**5**They all fool and defraud each other;  
    no one tells the truth.  
With practiced tongues they tell lies;  
    they wear themselves out with all their sinning.  
**6**They pile lie upon lie  
    and utterly refuse to acknowledge me,”  
    says the Lord.

**7**Therefore, this is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says:  
“See, I will melt them down in a crucible  
    and test them like metal.  
What else can I do with my people?[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%209&version=NLT&interface=print" \l "fen-NLT-19159c" \o "See footnote c)]  
**8**    For their tongues shoot lies like poisoned arrows.  
They speak friendly words to their neighbors  
    while scheming in their heart to kill them.  
**9**Should I not punish them for this?” says the Lord.  
    “Should I not avenge myself against such a nation?”

**10**I will weep for the mountains  
    and wail for the wilderness pastures.  
For they are desolate and empty of life;  
    the lowing of cattle is heard no more;  
    the birds and wild animals have all fled.

**11**“I will make Jerusalem into a heap of ruins,” says the Lord.  
    “It will be a place haunted by jackals.  
The towns of Judah will be ghost towns,  
    with no one living in them.”

**12**Who is wise enough to understand all this? Who has been instructed by the Lord and can explain it to others? Why has the land been so ruined that no one dares to travel through it?

**13**The Lord replies, “This has happened because my people have abandoned my instructions; they have refused to obey what I said. **14**Instead, they have stubbornly followed their own desires and worshiped the images of Baal, as their ancestors taught them. **15**So now, this is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: Look! I will feed them with bitterness and give them poison to drink. **16I will scatter them around the world, in places they and their ancestors never heard of, and even there I will chase them with the sword until I have destroyed them completely**.”

### Weeping in Jerusalem

**17**This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says:  
“Consider all this, and call for the mourners.  
    Send for the women who mourn at funerals.  
**18**Quick! Begin your weeping!  
    Let the tears flow from your eyes.  
**19**Hear the people of Jerusalem[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%209&version=NLT&interface=print#fen-NLT-19171d)] crying in despair,  
    ‘We are ruined! We are completely humiliated!  
We must leave our land,  
    because our homes have been torn down.’”

**20**Listen, you women, to the words of the Lord;  
    open your ears to what he has to say.  
Teach your daughters to wail;  
    teach one another how to lament.  
**21**For death has crept in through our windows  
    and has entered our mansions.  
It has killed off the flower of our youth:  
    Children no longer play in the streets,  
    and young men no longer gather in the squares.

**22**This is what the Lord says:  
“Bodies will be scattered across the fields like clumps of manure,  
    like bundles of grain after the harvest.  
    No one will be left to bury them.”

**23**This is what the Lord says:  
“Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom,  
    or the powerful boast in their power,  
    or the rich boast in their riches.  
**24**But those who wish to boast  
    should boast in this alone:  
that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord  
    who demonstrates unfailing love  
    and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth,  
and that I delight in these things.  
    I, the Lord, have spoken!

**25**“**A time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will punish all those who are circumcised in body but not in spirit— 26the Egyptians, Edomites, Ammonites, Moabites, the people who live in the desert in remote places,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%209&version=NLT&interface=print" \l "fen-NLT-19178e" \o "See footnote e)] and yes, even the people of Judah. And like all these pagan nations, the people of Israel also have uncircumcised hearts.”**

**Tower of Babel – foreshadowing prophecy**

### The Tower of Babel

**11**At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. **2**As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+11&version=NLT#fen-NLT-269a)] and settled there.

**3**They began saying to each other, “Let’s make bricks and harden them with fire.” (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) **4**Then they said, “Come, let’s build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world.”

**5**But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. **6**“Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! **7**Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”

**8**In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. **9**That is why the city was called Babel,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+11&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-276b" \o "See footnote b)] because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

The Hebrew word for "confused" in verse 9 is babal, which sounds like babel [[l,b'B](http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/babel.html)] (Babylon). The great evil of the tower builders is their sinful pride against the rule of God. This theme will reappear in the prophetic writings against the city. *balal, which means to confuse or confound in****Hebrew****.*

During the reign of Hezekiah, envoys from Babylon came to Jerusalem ( [2 Ki 20:12-19](https://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=2%20Kings+20:12-19) ). The prophet Isaiah chastised the king for showing off the treasures of Judah and predicted that Babylon would some day carry these riches off.

The prophets describe Babylon as a city of pride and idolatry.

The dominant image of Babylon in Revelation is the city's personification of a rich woman, the "mother of prostitutes" ( [17:5](http://www.biblestudytools.com/revelation/17-5.html) ). Babylon is a great city that rules over the earth.

Babylon, the historic oppressor of God's people, represents the new oppressor of Christ's church. Like the Mesopotamian city, the "great city" (Rome) will be judged and will become a desolate wilderness. The metaphor extends beyond the physical Rome to the entire world, "intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries" ( [17:2](http://www.biblestudytools.com/revelation/17-2.html) ). The people of God, however, will be delivered from the grasp of the prophetic Babylon just as Ezekiel foretold for the exiles held captive in the historic Babylon.

Babylon - the Greek form of BABEL; Semitic form Babilu, meaning "The Gate of God." In the Assyrian tablets it means "The city of the dispersion of the tribes." The monumental list of its kings reaches back to B.C. 2300, and includes Khammurabi, or Amraphel (q.v.), the contemporary of Abraham. It stood on the Euphrates, about 200 miles above its junction with the Tigris, which flowed through its midst and divided it into two almost equal parts.

At the height of its glory in the 7th and 6th centuries B.C.E., the city of Babylon was the largest and wealthiest in the ancient world.

Under the ruthless and ambitious King Nebuchadnezzar II, the sprawling settlement in modern-day Iraq grew as large as Chicago, and boasted towering temples, ornately tiled palaces and imposing city walls thick enough for two chariots to pass each other side by side.

But the glory days of Babylon were short-lived. As foretold by Old Testament prophets, the grand city fell to the Persians in 539 B.C.E. and slowly crumbled over centuries of foreign invasions and occupations.

Although Babylon was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019, there isn't much left to see of the once-unstoppable empire that dazzled Greek historians and enslaved its rivals, most famously the biblical Kingdom of Judah. If you took a trip to Babylon today, located 55 miles (85 kilometers) south of Baghdad, you'd see a tacky recreation built by Saddam Hussein in the 1970s that's been partially destroyed by decades of war. It's a sad ending to such a fabled city.

Just a few short decades after Nebuchadnezzar's death, Babylon was taken by the Persian conqueror Cyrus II, who reduced the city to just another outpost in his vast, Iran-based empire. Two centuries later, Alexander the Great planned to make Babylon the jewel of his Asian empire, but ended up dying in the city in 323 B.C.E. After a solid sacking by the Parthians in the second century C.E., Babylon never made a comeback.

**Notice:**

* Confusion of Babel and in Babylon (they are tied to each other) – both confused about language, worship, religion, etc…
* Language plays a major part in prophecy
* Think about the world today – when people started learning more than one language, the birth of the internet, ability to communicate via amazing means, -- and all the technology that has come forth, industry, and how tripped up as society we’ve become….

**SMALL GROUP WORKSHEET**

**Re-Read Jeremiah 9:11-15**

**Question:** What are the three reasons for God's judgment of destruction and exile?

**Answer:**

The people abandoned the Law of His covenant.

They rebelled against Him through a desire to forge their own destinies.

They adopted the worship of the Baals (false gods).

**Discussion:**

How are we seeing people abandon God in our times?

How are people rebelling against God in our times?

What are people worshipping instead of God in our times?

**Thought:**

We as a world are building a virtual Tower of Babel as we speak much higher and with more evil purpose than the original Babylonians. We know what happened to the Babylonians and even Gods chosen people in Israel when they disobeyed. We must be a Godly light unto this world and be like Jeremiah and let them know – there are coming consequences for all our actions. The only way out is repentance. Unfortunately, one day it will be too late just as with Israel and Judah during the time of Jeremiah.

**Prayer:**

For our hearts to be set towards God and His promises

Our desires be the desires God gives us

Our Worship be for God only!

For our world, country, state, and community to know God, fear God, and love God