

## Jeremiah 49:7 – 52:34

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~ This report brings our Spiritual Safari to the end of Jeremiah's main prophetic writings. We will have three subsequent reports to cover Lamentations; which, of course, Jeremiah also wrote. Lamentations is not a prophecy – it is, actually, the Wailing Wall of the Bible! It's appropriate we continue through before returning to the New Testament, because Jeremiah was weeping as he wrote all of this; and he was likely banging his head against the crushed rock of Solomon's Temple, too. Well, one of the primary ways we can know the Bible is the Word of God is from the myriad prophecies that have been fulfilled. There are certain Scriptural facts that are true to this day which validate what was written thousands of years ago; just as God said they would be through His prophets. If you will pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read the text of these four chapters covered by this report – and then read this final report from the Book of Jeremiah – this Bible lesson will be much more meaningful to your heart.

In our last report, we saw the remnant of Judah, which Nebuchadnezzar had left in the land when he took everyone else away as slaves, go down to Egypt; against the expressed warning not to go there spoken by this great man of God, Jeremiah. It was a huge mistake these people made disobeying the Lord, calling His prophet a liar, and going on to Egypt. It isn't going to work out well for them, either. In fact, it's going to be very, very bad. Things were bad in Judah, to be sure. The cities were all laid waste, Jerusalem was razed to the ground, and Solomon's Temple was crushed and burned. The war was over in Israel, and no enemy would want anything to do with Israel now; however, Nebuchadnezzar had his sights set on Egypt next. So, this remnant was simply jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

If the remnant of Judah had stayed in Israel, as God commanded them to, they could have begun to rebuild the city and temple. Well, they erroneously thought they were running away from war and going to a place where they could have peace and plenty. They weren't interested in the hard work it would take to restore Jerusalem and the temple; they just

wanted it nice and easy – they wanted bread and wine served to them. When we, as Christians, sink to that low level in our attitudes, actions and goals – where we don't desire to follow Christ Jesus or to live for God at all cost – and when we refuse to allow His truth to be our guide – we will find ourselves in a place that will not bring peace or plenty. We will never prosper as we insist on disobedience; you can just write that down.

World history teaches us all of that; and our personal life history will also bear that truth out; but we can only recognize it if we are Scripturally discerning. These are great lessons; high principles we have learned from Jeremiah. I have attempted to lift them out for you the best I possibly can – but – I'll be perfectly honest with you, because I always am honest with you dear readers: I don't feel like I have even scratched the surface of truth in our twenty reports that cover this prophecy. I feel like all I have done is stand on the sidelines and overstate the obvious. I am keenly aware that I am absolutely unable to enter into some of the profound mysteries of wisdom God has imbedded in this section of Scripture. I suppose all I can really do is apologize to you dear readers for that shortcoming. I promise you I have done my absolute best....

## **XLIX**

~ Chapter forty-nine verses seven through twenty-two is a prophecy against Edom. This was given to demonstrate to the remnant of Judah that they would have no hope in, and receive no help from the Edomites. Naturally, Edom is Esau — Israel's enemy throughout their history; but God was judging *ALL* of the surrounding nations now! Edom wouldn't have been able to help Judah even if they had wanted to – which they didn't. Edom was third in overall geographical territory; next only to Egypt and Babylon. Remember, Edom was related to Israel by blood. Esau and Jacob were brothers, of course. These two nations had come from these two men. Edom came from Esau, and the Lord had said Esau would become a great nation. Well, they did – for a while. Edom was located in the southeast mountainous region of the Dead Sea. Edom was, actually, the world bank of that day. They were very prosperous; but you won't locate Edom on the map or an Edomite in the world today....

***7 Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?***

~ The rock hewn city of Petra was the Fort Knox gold depository of the ancient world. Babylon and Egypt both stored their treasures in Petra; because it was as secure as a city could possibly be. Well, God said He was going to take away their glory and make the city of Petra an utterly barren and cursed wasteland; and, guess what happened? There is no one dwelling in Petra to this day. The Germans, who were masters at colonizing, attempted to inhabit Petra in the late 1940's; but it didn't even last a year. Those German people packed up and left almost as fast as they got there....

***13 For I have sworn by myself, saith the LORD, that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes.***

~ The great sin of Petra, and of Edom, in general, was nothing other than *pride*! The only entrance or exit to Petra was a little cleft in the rock where the Wadi Musa – meaning the Valley of Moses – met that particular area. Edom had about a thousand years of history before the Nabataean Arabs took over. Later, the Greeks came along and attempted two unfruitful expedition campaigns into Petra; led by Antigonos II and Antigonos III before declaring it impregnable. After that it became totally inaccessible to man altogether until the airplane was invented. Today, you can go to Amman, Jordan and take a bus to a place where you can enter by horseback. The architecture of the chiseled rock reveals Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman influence. Well, God judged it. God said it would never be inhabited again – and it is not inhabited to this day. So, if you want to disprove prophecy of the Bible, all you need to do is move into Petra! It's a ready-made city. All you have to do is go live there. Let me know how that works out for you....

***16 Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the LORD.***

***17 Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof.***

***18 As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.***

~ Next, we move along to Damascus beginning in verse twenty-three. Many cities claim to be the oldest city in the world. Well, Damascus is likely the rightful owner of that title. It is estimated that Damascus was founded in the third millennium B.C. Here, in Jeremiah chapter forty-nine is the prophecy against Damascus. God said it would be destroyed; and it has been destroyed so many times that you couldn't find the original city if you wanted to. Any number of piles of rock in Syria may or may not be the original city of Damascus. Of course, Damascus is the capital of Syria today; and it is in constant danger of being destroyed yet again. Syria is and has been at war in one way or another perpetually forever. Damascus could be gone – again – at any moment....

***23 Concerning Damascus. Hamath is confounded, and Arpad: for they have heard evil tidings: they are fainthearted; there is sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet.***

~ In verses twenty-eight through thirty-three, we have prophecies against two extremely prosperous places: the kingdoms of Kedar and Hazor. Frankly we know very little, if anything, about either one of them. Well, Nebuchadnezzar later did exactly as Jeremiah had written. As we conclude this chapter, we also see the destruction of Elam; another ancient tremendous civilization that simply cannot be found today. God told this remnant of Judah through Jeremiah that there was nowhere they could run to and no one they could turn to for help – except for *UP* – to Him. Of course, they never did that; and that's where they made their fatal mistake. This entire chapter of the Bible is prophecy that has literally been fulfilled exactly the way God said it would be as He spoke through His prophet Jeremiah....

***28 Concerning Kedar, and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the LORD; Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east.***

***34 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying,***

***35 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might.***

~ So, the remnant of Israel from Judah now trudges off to Egypt with Jeremiah and Baruch in tow — against their will. It has always seemed strange to me how Israel has always been lured in the direction of Egypt. Abraham disobeyed God when the famine came and ran to Egypt. If he had not disobeyed God, there wouldn't have been any Hagar and, thus, there wouldn't have been any Ishmael! Isaac, Abraham's son, did the same thing. Jacob, same thing — and, although involuntarily, Joseph ended up in Egypt, too. Everyone connected with the line of Israel ended up in Egypt at some point in their Scriptural history. Then, even at the end of the nation Israel in this Book of Jeremiah, we saw King Zedekiah of Judah calling on Egypt for help; and, here they go again. To this day, Israel calls upon Egypt — and, to this day, they still have trouble with them. Well, that day will come to an end — and we'll get to that later in our safari....

## **L and LI**

~ These chapters contain the prophecies against Babylon and the Chaldeans; the first great world power — the head of gold in Daniel — the top nation in the history of the world. Even unto this day, there has never been any civilization quite like Babylon. At the time in which we are studying, it appeared as if Jeremiah was completely wrong; and it looked like Israel was going to disappear — while Babylon grew stronger and stronger. Well, God said Babylon would be destroyed and never brought back again; and judgment came upon Babylon in the most severe way possible. Gabryus, from Media Persia, later came against the Chaldeans in a most clever way and, literally overnight, Babylon was no more. Babylon has been a perpetual desolation ever since. We'll examine all of this in detail in

the Book of Daniel when our Spiritual Safari arrives there. Beginning in verse four of chapter fifty, and running through chapter fifty one, Jeremiah looks way down into the future to the Day of the Lord – and the Jews are going back to Zion someday, friends; you can just write that down, too. Verse twenty-five of chapter fifty-one can be compared to Revelation chapter eight verse eight....

## LII

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes commentary of the prophecy of Jeremiah in our expedition through the entire Word of God with another reading assignment. If you have read these four chapters, as suggested at the beginning of this report, after prayer – then read them again – after praying again! This fifty-second chapter is a retrospective look at the overthrow and captivity of Judah. The royal line of David through Solomon ended exactly as God said it would with Jehoiachin. See verses thirty-one through thirty-four of this chapter. Remember, Zedekiah was not from Judah – he was the vassal of Nebuchadnezzar. Every single word and detail of fulfilled prophecy worked out precisely the way God spoke it through Jeremiah. King David’s line continued through his other son, Nathan – and Mary came through Nathan’s lineage. That places Jesus as the King from the line of David. A-Men ~

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