



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Jeremiah; Lamentations Sermon Series
Supports Session 12: Just
Sermon Title: "Judgment"
Passage: Jeremiah 50-51

Connection to Session 12

God will bring judgment on those who defy Him.

Opening/Introduction

Many of us struggle with the idea of judgment and grace. We want certain people to face God's judgment but may think otherwise about ourselves.

Jeremiah 50-51 is fierce and frightening. These two chapters consist of an introduction to the judgment (50:1-3) and a recapping conclusion (51:48-54). Six sections fall between and include a reversal of fortunes between Babylon and Judah (50:4-20), reasons for judgment (50:21-32), return of Judah by the Redeemer (50:33-46), restoration of Judah (51:1-32), a request from Judah for Babylon's judgment (51:34-44), and rejoicing over the Lord's acts.

These chapters on the Lord's judgment of Babylon teach us several truths about judgment.

Outline

1. Warned

- a. The Lord does not gloss over painful and hard truths of the Scripture. He called out false gods by name (50:2), took responsibility for Babylon's suffering (50:9), named Babylon's sins (50:11), and commanded destruction of Babylon (50:21).
- b. The Lord always warns before He judges. If grace will not motivate the lost to repent, He will use the possibility of judgment. He would rather save than judge.

2. Universal

- a. The Lord spoke specifically of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon, saying, "I am about to punish the king of Babylon and his land" (50:18). If Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon could not escape the Lord's judgment, can any great person or nation escape it? WA Criswell said, "The judgment of God pursues a man's wrong. There is no hiding from it."¹
- b. The Lord exempts no one from judgment because no one is free from sin. There is no one righteous (Rom. 3:9-10) and all have sinned (Rom. 3:23).

- c. When unbelievers stand before the Lord in judgment, not one will escape. The small and great will both stand there in judgment. The scene will be so fearsome that earth, heaven, death, and Hades will strain in vain to find a place to hide.

3. Guaranteed

- a. In Jeremiah 29, the Lord promised to return Judah and Jerusalem to the Promised Land. The downfall of Babylon was necessary to fulfill that prophecy. It happened in 539 BC.
- b. Babylon's idols Bel and Marduk proved impotent and useless before the Lord's judgment (50:1-2). They failed. The Lord will not.
- c. Much of Jeremiah 50-51 appears in Revelation 17-18². There Babylon falls again. Afterwards, Christ returns.

4. Inclusive

- a. In Jeremiah 50-51, the Lord addressed Babylon through Jeremiah like He addressed Israel and Judah. He spoke to Babylon as if He ruled Babylon just like He ruled Israel and Judah. He spoke to them as their Ruler because He is Lord over all nations.
- b. Did Jeremiah travel to the nations and deliver these messages? Jonah went to Nineveh. Amos went back and forth between the northern and southern kingdoms. Elijah and Elisha traveled to Gentile territories. Jeremiah went to the Euphrates River to dramatize a sermon.³ Jeremiah and other prophets communicated the Lord's Word to Gentiles and Gentile nations.
- c. There are no national, ethnic, language, or geographical limits to God's lordship.

5. Timely

- a. Jeremiah 50-51 provides incentive to hurry to neighbors and nations to share the gospel. The message provides incentive (50:20). Zion's voice provides incentive (50:28). The promise provides incentive (51:5).
- b. Since all lost people stand condemned like Babylon, what is the moral status of believers who have no urgency to share the message?
- c. Since we have a limited time on earth, our responsibility is to get the gospel to the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time.

Conclusion

The Lord brought down Babylon's evil to return Judah back to the Promised Land. Jesus will bring down global evil to return Eden to the world. Imagine picking up a young child who hated going to school. We pick up that child and ask, "What was the best part of your day?" Quickly we hear, "When you came and got me." One day Jesus will return to get us, eliminate evil, and take His throne. That will be the best part of our day(s).

¹WA Criswell, *Isaiah: An Exposition* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan 1977), 113.

²Kendell H. Easley, *Revelation*, vol. 12, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 335.

³Fred Wood and Ross McLaren, *Jeremiah and Lamentations* vol. 16, The Holman Old Testament Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006).

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