**Jeremiah 47 (Lesson 25a)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 47 – Judgment Of Philistia (1 min. to read)**

*A. History Of Philistia (see Humphries, 469)*

*B. Future For Philistia – “The LORD is going to destroy the Philistines” (v. 4)*

1. Introduction (v. 1)

a. *“Before Pharaoh conquered Gaza”* (not in LXX but in many others)

b. Indeterminate time but some possibilities include:

i. Pharaoh Necho II marched to Harran in 609/8 B.C.

ii. Pharaoh Hophra’s campaign (589-570 BC)

c. The enemy under consideration is Babylon – *“from the north*” (v. 2). Happens Dec. 604 B.C. and/or 581 B.C.

2. Destruction (vv. 2-5a)

a. Babylon overflows & floods as Egypt did (v. 2; 46:7; cf. Is. 8:7f).

b. The terror is so overwhelming the natural inclinations of the fathers to protect their children is neglected (v. 3).

c. All allies, as we have seen with Egypt and Israel, are cutoff and/or abandon one another as Babylon invades everyone (v. 4f). Caphtor is OT word for Crete, origin of Philistines (Am. 9:7).

3. Compassion (vv. 5b-7)

a. The pagans’ futile attempts to appeal to their false gods for mercy by various customs prohibited under the LOM (cf. 16:6; Dt. 14:1; 1Kgs. 18:28; Mic. 1:16). The sword of the LORD (cf. Ezek. 21:3-5) won’t be sheathed till all are destroyed.

b. *“While Jeremiah pleads for the divinely-wielded sword to cease its ravages, he is aware that it constitutes God’s judgment upon a pagan nation.”* (Harrison, 173)

c. The NIV supplies *“You cry…”* suggesting this is not Jeremiah, but rather the Philistines crying for mercy.

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 47**

A. Explain the starkness of the imagery of fathers abandoning their children.

B. Will fleshly allies be able to withstand the Lord?

C. Is it proper for Christians to mourn for the destruction of the ungodly?

**III. Applications For Chapter 47**

A. Rather than to offer children as objects of brutal appeasement for false gods, we should be dedicating them to the LORD (1Sam. 1-2; Eph. 6).

B. Those who do not know God see flaming fire (cf. 2Thess. 1:7b-9)

**Jeremiah 48 (Lesson 25b)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 48 – Judgment On Moab (5.5 min. to read)**

*A. Desolation of Moab (48:1-10) – lots of prophetic perfect in this chapter!*

1. Cf. other oracles against Moab in Num. 24:17; Is. 15-16; 25:10-12; Jer. 9:26; 25:21; 27:3; Ezek. 25:8-11; Amos 2:1-3; Zeph. 2:8-11; Jeremiah recycles & renews much of this language, esp. Balaam and Isaiah.

2. One city after another is falling; fortresses broken down, ppl flee for lives

3. Chemosh rendered impotent (cf. Mesha Stele); *“Chemosh was the principal Moabite deity (Nu. 21:29), and the sacrificing of children was an important part of his cult (2 Ki. 3:27). Solomon erected a high place for Chemosh in Jerusalem (1 Ki. 11:7), but it was demolished under Josiah (2 Ki. 23:13).”* (Harrison, 175)

4. Moab is encouraged to “take flight”; some translations render verse 9 with the idea of Moab being sown with salt

5. Jeremiah/others reminded to stay the course b/c of the reasons for this judgment (v. 10)

*B. The Pride & Complacency of Moab (48:11-39; synonyms in v. 29 add emphasis!)*

1. *“Partly because of location, Moab had never undergone the experience of exile, even though invaded and occupied periodically. It was thus compared with a vintage wine which had been allowed to settle on its dregs instead of being decanted from vessel to vessel. The simile is particularly apposite because of the esteem in which Moabite vineyards were held (cf. Is. 16:8-11). However, Moabite wine will not be decanted carefully in time of crisis, but will be emptied wantonly.”* (Harrison 175)

2. Moab is settled on the lees & will be violently shaken & splashed all over; she becomes as a drunk wallowing in vomit (cf. 25:15-29). The sound of crying out would normally be the song of the vintagers as they tread the grapes; it has turned into the wail of the afflicted. Loads of wordplays in Hebrew as well.

3. They are a laughingstock in part b/c they scorned Israel (lex talionis).

4. The royal city of Dibon (location of the Mesha Stele) is depicted as a delicate girl descending from her glory and sitting in the dust. Her mighty men are slaughtered. Her power is cut off & authority broken.

5. The upturn will be that idolatry will cease from the land, much the same effect as on Israel/Judah (vv. 34f).

6. Jeremiah weeps for Moab as a pipe plays dirge music (v. 36; cf. Mt. 9:23)

6. Moab depicted as shattered vessel (cf. Jehoiachin in 22:28; Israel in ch. 19).

*C. Total Domination By Babylon (48:40-46); Hope (48:47)*

1. While Moab is called to flee like a dove, Babylon is depicted as a mighty eagle swooping in to devour (cf. 49:22; Dt. 28:49).

2. They will be unable to escape the terror, pit, and snare (cf. Is. 24:17f).

3. *“Moab’s predicted extinction began with a heavy Nabatean settlement in the first century BC, and culminated under the Arabs in the Byzantine period.”* (Harrison, 178) *“Moab would cease to be a people (v 42), yet would be restored. The restoration would seem to involve only individuals rather than a national recovery, and likely was to be fulfilled in Christ.”* (Mott, 188)

4. Curse of Balaam (vv. 45f; cf. Num. 21:28f; 24:17)

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 48**

A. What will happen to those who mock God’s people? (vv. 26f)

B. Why is pride opposite to the nature of a true servant of God? (v. 29)

**III. Applications For Chapter 48**

A. *“Jer. 48:10: Cursed be the man who does God’s work ‘negligently’ (ASV) or ‘deceitfully.’ Whatever God commands of us should be done wholeheartedly in the way He has purposed. Anything less is ‘negligent’ or ‘deceitful’ and will be punished by God (cf. Acts 5:1-11; Col. 3:17, 23; Rev. 3:15-17).”* (Harkrider, 118)

B. *“Misplaced confidence in the arm of flesh will destroy any nation (9:23; 17:5; Pss. 44:3; 118:8, 9; 146:3-7; Luke 12:15-21; 1 Tim. 6:17).”* (Humphries, 475)