**Jeremiah 49 (Lesson 26a)**

**I. Text Of Ch. 49 – Against Am, Ed, Damas, Ked, Haz, Elam (5-5.5min. to read)**

*A. Against Ammon (49:1-6; Am. 1:13-15; Zeph. 2:8-11) – of Lot (Gen. 19:37f; Dt. 2:19)*

1. Condemnation of Malcam (i.e. *King*; Milcom/Molech the pagan god, child sacrifice – 48:7; Dt. 18:9f; 1Kgs. 11:5, 33; city?); also mentions of Heshbon, Ai/ruin, Rabbah (capital – longest continual inhabitance)

2. Ammon had taken land possessed by Gad, probably during deportations of Israel under Sargon II & Tiglath Pileser III (cf. Jud. 11:13). v. 2 = *lex talionis*. Materialism, pride (9:23; 48:29), backsliding (cf. 31:22).

3. Destruction is thorough (vv. 2, 3, 5; *Ant. IX, 7*). Restoration (v. 6).

*B. Against Edom (49:7-22; Dt. 23:7f; Oba.; Nu. 20:14-21; Am. 1:11f) – of Esau (Gen. 36)*

1. vv. 7f – Well-known wisdom of Teman (N; Ob. 8; Job 2:11); Dedan (S) encouraged to turn back (cf. Is. 21:13; Ezek. 27:15, 20; vv. 9-11 – No gleanings (Lev. 19:10); widows & orphans protected by God; vv. 12f – Israel didn’t escape! (25:15, 28f); Bozrah & villages utterly destroyed

2. vv. 14-16 – ambassadors from Edom had come to ally with Judah against Babylon (27:1-6), now Babylon & allies destroy (cf. Joel 3:9-11); strong rebukes for self-reliance & pride (Petra, the *Sik*)

3. vv. 17-19 – object of horror; like overthrow of Sodom & Gomorrah; one like a lion (God or Nebuchad. – 25:30, 38; 4:7; 12:5; 50:17) come up from woods; no shepherd can spare sheep/Edom from lion/God, Neb.

4. vv. 20-22 – death is coming by means of shepherding, lion, eagle, woman in labor imagery; an outcry is heard all the way to the Red Sea! Cf. 48:40f

5. Nabateans, J. Maccabeus (1Macc. 5:65), J. Hyrcanus (*Ant. XIII, 9, 1)*, Herods

6. Strong contrasts b/w God’s people & Edom (Is. 34/35; Ezek. 35/36; Mal. 1)

*C. Against Damascus (49:23-27)*

1. Damascus, Hamath (100miN), Arpad (200miN) are anxious of destruction (cf. Ezek. 7:17); woman in childbirth, hopeless, in pain; all hope in soldiers, position, allies will be vain

2. The great city of praise and joy will be burned/devoured; Ben-hadad a title for Syrian rulers (cf. Ben-hadad Stele) & means “son of God”

*D. Against Kedar & Hazor (49:28-33; cf. 2:10; Is. 21:16f; 60:7; Ezek. 27:21) – of Ishmael (Gen. 25:13; 1Chron. 1:29) – Neb. deployed army in encircling movement*

1. Arabian/Bedouin ppl (not Hazor in Judah!) destroyed 599 BC (Bab. Chron.)

2. Magor-missabib! (*Terror on every side*! 6:25; 20:3, 10; 46:5; Lam. 2:22) – utter destruction; no defenses; *“Arise!”* 2x command from God to Neb.

*E. Against Elam (49:34-39; cf. 25:25; Is. 22:6; Ez. 32:24) – of Shem (Gen. 10)*

1. Far east, past Babylon; play a role in destroying Babylon; not much interaction with Israel in the Bible; they are to be scattered!

2. Set throne in Elam (cf. 1:15f; 39:5; 43:10; 52:9); dated 597 BC

3. Present at Pentecost (Acts 2:9) – restoration via the gospel! (v. 39)

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 49**

A. Identify the location and fall of each kingdom/city/nation discussed in ch. 49.

B. What does Ben-hadad mean?

**III. Applications For Chapter 49**

A. *“The sea of humanity can never be at rest or quiet…”* (Humphries, 493)

B. Being son of a false god (a “Ben-hadad”) will bring destruction (cf. 1Kgs. 15:18; 20:1, 9; 2Kgs. 6:24; 8:7; 13:3; 2Chron. 16:2)

**Jeremiah 50 (Lesson 26b)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 50 – Against Babylon (6-6.5 min. to read)**

*A. Pronouncement Against Babylon (50:1-10; cf. 25:11f, 26; Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17-18)*

1. vv. 1-3 – prophetic perfect for Babylon’s fall; Bel/Baal = master; Merodach/Marduk – cf. Evil-Merodach/Amel-Marduk, Merodach- Baladan, Mordecai; Marduk assumed roles of Baal; idols in v. 2 in Heb. is “dung pellets” (cf. Lev. 26:30; Dt. 29:17; 1Kgs. 15:12; 21:26; Ezekiel uses it 38x!)

2. vv. 6f – Israel/Judah were guilty in part b/c of poor leadership (ch. 23) but Babylon’s claim to innocence is wholly ridiculous; both were guilty!

3. vv. 8-10 – Any Israelites in Babylon needed to flee while they had time; some immediately remained (i.e. Daniel) & others stayed even when Cyrus’ decree was issued (Ezra 1:1-4); they should be as male goats (i.e. leading the herd, escaping the pen first); conqueror is identified as the Medes in 51:11, 27f; cf. 50:9

*B. Babylon & Israel Contrasted (50:11-20)*

1. *“Because”* 3x in v. 11; pride & insolence of Babylon (Is. 47:7-10)

2. The measure that Babylon had dealt out to others is the same measure she is being dealt by God – lex talionis. The queen of the nations at Carchemish will become the least of the nations (v. 12).

3. Assyria had judged Israel (Is. 10:5f) & was judged by God (Is. 10:24-27); Babylon had judged Judah (Jer. 25:9) & now they are judged by God

4. *“At that time”* reveals the fulfillment of this in history

*C. Pride & Power Of Babylon Broken (50:21-46; cf. Dan. 4-5)*

1. Babylon was once the *hammer of the world* (cf. 25:9; 27:6; 51:20-23; Assyria in Is. 10-11; Messiah in Ps. 2)

2. Merathaim (S; “double punishment”); Pekod (E; “visitation/punishment”)

3. vv. 24-28 – vv. 26f – the young bulls of Babylon (soldiers) will become sacrifices; penitent cry of Israel and/or happy tears at deliverance & vengeance for the temple of the Lord (contrast ch. 7 & their idolatry of the temple); Cyrus Cylinder credits Marduk for defeat

4. vv. 29-32 – the Hebrew personifies Babylon as “Pride” several times in this section but English translations water this down

5. vv. 33f – God as *go-el*, kinsman redeemer! (cf. ch. 32); God restores rest

6. The sword of the Lord (47:6; 49:37; Is. 10:5, 15; 34:5f; Ezek. 21) will fall on Babylon’s citizens, weapons, treasures, and waters (note Cyrus’ redirecting river to invade Babylon). Destruction will be like Sodom & Gomorrah! (cf. Is. 13:10, 19f); v. 38 – idols in Heb. Actually “terrors”

7. vv. 41-46 – cf. 6:22-24 for Babylon; here of Persia; cf. 49:19-21 of Edom

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 50**

A. Why did the children of Israel need to inquire of the way to Zion? (vv. 4f)

B. What former chapter explored the concept of the *go-el* or kinsman redeemer?

**III. Applications For Chapter 50**

A. The Lord is the habitation of righteousness/justice (v. 7)

B. *“Jer. 50:9,21,25; 51:7,20: The great nations are only tools in God’s hands. He uses them to accomplish His purposes, then holds them accountable for their own misdeeds, just as individuals will be held accountable at the end of time (cf. Rev. 18:1-10; 20:11-15).”* (Harkrider, 125) (cf. Is. 40:15)