

Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Egypt (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 46

Introduction to Jeremiah's Messages Concerning the Nations

1 The LORD spoke to Jeremiah about the nations.

Egypt's Defeat at Carchemish (605 BC)

2 He spoke about Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt which was encamped along the Euphrates River at Carchemish. Now this was the army that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah.

- 3 "Fall into ranks with your shields ready!
Prepare to march into battle!
- 4 Harness the horses to the chariots!
Mount your horses!
Put on your helmets and take your positions!
Sharpen your spears!
Put on your armor!
- 5 What do I see?" says the LORD.
"The soldiers are terrified.
They are retreating.
They have been defeated.
They are overcome with terror;
they desert quickly without looking back.
- 6 But even the swiftest cannot get away.
Even the strongest cannot escape.
There in the north by the Euphrates River
they stumble and fall in defeat.
- 7 "Who is this that rises like the Nile,
like its streams turbulent at flood stage?
- 8 Egypt rises like the Nile,
like its streams turbulent at flood stage.
Egypt says, 'I will arise and cover the earth.
I will destroy cities and the people who inhabit them.'
- 9 Go ahead and charge into battle, you horsemen!
Drive furiously, you charioteers!
Let the soldiers march out into battle,
those from Ethiopia and Libya who carry shields,
and those from Lydia who are armed with the bow.
- 10 But that day belongs to the Lord God who rules over all.
It is the day when he will pay back his enemies.
His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied!
It will drink their blood until it is full!
For the Lord GOD who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice
in the land of the north by the Euphrates River.
- 11 Go up to Gilead and get medicinal ointment,
you dear poor people of Egypt.
But it will prove useless no matter how much medicine you use;
there will be no healing for you.
- 12 The nations will hear of your devastating defeat;
your cries of distress will echo throughout the earth.
In the panic of their flight one soldier will trip over another
and both of them will fall down defeated."

Nebuchadnezzar's Future Invasion of Egypt (568/7 BC)

13 The LORD spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Nebuchadnezzar coming to attack the land of Egypt.

- 14 "Make an announcement throughout Egypt.
Proclaim it in Migdol, Memphis, and Tahpanhes.

- ‘Take your positions and prepare to do battle.
For the enemy army is destroying all the nations around you.’
- 15 Why will your soldiers be defeated?
They will not stand because I, the LORD, will thrust them down.
- 16 I will make many stumble.
They will fall over one another in their hurry to flee.
They will say, ‘Get up!
Let’s go back to our own people.
Let’s go back to our homelands
because the enemy is coming to destroy us.’
- 17 There at home they will say, ‘Pharaoh [Amasis] king of Egypt is just a big noise!
He has let the most opportune moment pass by.’
- 18 I the King, whose name is the LORD who rules over all, swear this:
I swear as surely as I live that a conqueror is coming.
He will be as imposing as Mount Tabor is among the mountains,
as Mount Carmel is against the backdrop of the sea.
- 19 Pack your bags for exile,
you inhabitants of poor dear Egypt.
For Memphis will be laid waste.
It will lie in ruins and be uninhabited.
- 20 Egypt is like a beautiful young cow.
But northern armies will attack her like swarms of stinging flies.
- 21 Even her mercenaries
will prove to be like pampered, well-fed calves.
For they too will turn and run away.
They will not stand their ground
when the time for them to be destroyed comes,
the time for them to be punished.
- 22 Egypt will run away, hissing like a snake,
as the enemy comes marching up in force.
They will come against her with axes
as if they were woodsmen chopping down trees.
- 23 The population of Egypt is like a vast, impenetrable forest.
But I, the LORD, affirm that the enemy will cut them down.
For those who chop them down will be more numerous than locusts.
They will be too numerous to count.
- 24 Poor dear Egypt will be put to shame.
She will be handed over to the people from the north.”

A Word of Hope to Egypt

25 The LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will punish Amon, the god of Thebes. I will punish Egypt, its gods, and its kings. I will punish Pharaoh and all who trust in him.

26 I will hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar and his troops, who want to kill them. But later on, people will live in Egypt again as they did in former times. I, the LORD, affirm it!”

Words of Assurance to Israel

- 27 “You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid;
do not be terrified, people of Israel.
For I will rescue you and your descendants
from the faraway lands where you are captives.
The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace.
They will be secure and no one will terrify them.
- 28 I, the LORD, tell you not to be afraid,
you descendants of Jacob, my servant,
for I am with you.
Though I completely destroy all the nations where I scatter you,
I will not completely destroy you.
I will indeed discipline you but only in due measure.

I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.”

Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Philistia (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 47

- 1 The LORD spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza.
- 2 “Look! Enemies are gathering in the north like water rising in a river.
They will be like an overflowing stream.
They will overwhelm the whole country and everything in it like a flood.
They will overwhelm the cities and their inhabitants.
People will cry out in alarm.
Everyone living in the country will cry out in pain.
- 3 Fathers will hear the hoofbeats of the enemies' horses,
the clatter of their chariots and the rumbling of their wheels.
They will not turn back to save their children
because they will be paralyzed with fear.
- 4 For the time has come
to destroy all the Philistines.
The time has come to destroy all the help
that remains for Tyre and Sidon.
For I, the LORD, will destroy the Philistines,
that remnant that came from the island of Crete.
- 5 The people of Gaza will shave their heads in mourning.
The people of Ashkelon will be struck dumb.
How long will you gash yourselves to show your sorrow,
you who remain of Philistia's power?
- 6 How long will you cry out, ‘Oh, sword of the LORD,
how long will it be before you stop killing?
Go back into your sheath!
Stay there and rest!’
- 7 But how can it rest
when I, the LORD, have given it orders?
I have ordered it to attack
the people of Ashkelon and the seacoast.

Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Moab (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 48

The Destruction of Moab

- 1 The LORD God of Israel who rules over all spoke about Moab.

“Sure to be judged is Nebo! Indeed, it will be destroyed!
Kiriathaim will suffer disgrace. It will be captured!
Its fortress will suffer disgrace. It will be torn down!
- 2 People will not praise Moab any more.
The enemy will capture Heshbon and plot how to destroy Moab,
saying, ‘Come, let's put an end to that nation!’
City of Madmen, you will also be destroyed.
A destructive army will march against you.
- 3 Cries of anguish will arise in Horonaim,
‘Oh, the ruin and great destruction!’
- 4 “Moab will be crushed.
Her children will cry out in distress.
- 5 Indeed they will climb the slopes of Luhith,
weeping continually as they go.
For on the road down to Horonaim
they will hear the cries of distress over the destruction.

- 6 They will hear, 'Run! Save yourselves!
Even if you must be like a lonely shrub in the desert!'
- 7 "Moab, you trust in the things you do and in your riches.
So you too will be conquered.
Your god Chemosh will go into exile
along with his priests and his officials.
- 8 The destroyer will come against every town.
Not one town will escape.
The towns in the valley will be destroyed.
The cities on the high plain will be laid waste.
I, the LORD, have spoken!
- 9 Set up a gravestone for Moab,
for it will certainly be laid in ruins!
Its cities will be laid waste
and become uninhabited."
- 10 A curse on anyone who is lax in doing the LORD's work!
A curse on anyone who keeps from carrying out his destruction!

The Humbling of a Complacent Nation

- 11 "From its earliest days Moab has lived undisturbed.
It has never been taken into exile.
Its people are like wine allowed to settle undisturbed on its dregs,
never poured out from one jar to another.
They are like wine which tastes like it always did,
whose aroma has remained unchanged.
- 12 But the time is coming when I will send
men against Moab who will empty it out.
They will empty the towns of their people,
then will lay those towns in ruins.
I, the LORD, affirm it!
- 13 The people of Moab will be disappointed by their god Chemosh.
They will be as disappointed as the people of Israel were
when they put their trust in the calf god at Bethel.
- 14 How can you men of Moab say, 'We are heroes,
men who are mighty in battle?'
- 15 Moab will be destroyed. Its towns will be invaded.
Its finest young men will be slaughtered.
I, the King, the LORD who rules over all, affirm it!
- 16 Moab's destruction is at hand.
Disaster will come on it quickly.
- 17 Mourn for that nation, all you nations living around it,
all of you nations that know of its fame.
Mourn and say, 'Alas, its powerful influence has been broken!
Its glory and power have been done away!'

Judgment on Moab's Cities

- 18 Come down from your place of honor;
sit on the dry ground, you who live in Dibon.
For the one who will destroy Moab will attack you;
he will destroy your fortifications.
- 19 You who live in Aroer, stand by the road and watch.
Question the man who is fleeing and the woman who is escaping.
Ask them, 'What has happened?'
- 20 They will answer, 'Moab is disgraced, for it has fallen!
Wail and cry out in mourning!
Announce along the Arnon River
that Moab has been destroyed.'

21 “Judgment will come on the cities on the high plain: on Holon, Jahzah, and Mephaath,
22 on Dibon, Nebo, and Beth Diblathaim,
23 on Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul, and Beth Meon,
24 on Kerioth and Bozrah. It will come on all the towns of Moab, both far and near.
25 Moab’s might will be crushed. Its power will be broken. I, the LORD, affirm it!

The Futility of Moab’s Insolence

26 “Moab has vaunted itself against me.
So make him drunk with the wine of my wrath
until he splashes around in his own vomit,
until others treat him as a laughingstock.
27 For did not you people of Moab laugh at the people of Israel?
Did you think that they were nothing but thieves,
that you shook your head in contempt
every time you talked about them?
28 Leave your towns, you inhabitants of Moab.
Go and live in the cliffs.
Be like a dove that makes its nest
high on the sides of a ravine.
29 I have heard how proud the people of Moab are,
I know how haughty they are.
I have heard how arrogant, proud, and haughty they are,
what a high opinion they have of themselves.
30 I, the LORD, affirm that I know how arrogant they are.
But their pride is ill-founded.
Their boastings will prove to be false.

Lament for Moab

31 So I will weep with sorrow for Moab.
I will cry out in sadness for all of Moab.
I will moan for the people of Kir Heres.
32 I will weep for the grapevines of Sibmah
just like the town of Jazer weeps over them.
Their branches once spread as far as the Dead Sea.
They reached as far as the town of Jazer.
The destroyer will ravage her fig, date, and grape crops.
33 Joy and gladness will disappear
from the fruitful land of Moab.
I will stop the flow of wine from the winepresses.
No one will stomp on the grapes there and shout for joy.
The shouts there will be shouts of soldiers,
not the shouts of those making wine.
34 Cries of anguish raised from Heshbon and Elealeh
will be sounded as far as Jahaz.
They will be sounded from Zoar as far as Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah.
For even the waters of Nimrim will be dried up.
35 I will put an end in Moab
to those who make offerings at her places of worship.
I will put an end to those who sacrifice to other gods.
I, the LORD, affirm it!
36 So my heart moans for Moab
like a flute playing a funeral song.
Yes, like a flute playing a funeral song,
my heart moans for the people of Kir Heres.
For the wealth they have gained will perish.
37 For all of them will shave their heads in mourning.
They will all cut off their beards to show their sorrow.
They will all make gashes in their hands.

- They will all put on sackcloth.
- 38 On all the housetops in Moab
and in all its public squares
there will be nothing but mourning.
For I will break Moab like an unwanted jar.
I, the LORD, affirm it!
- 39 Oh, how shattered Moab will be!
Oh, how her people will wail!
Oh, how she will turn away in shame!
Moab will become an object of ridicule,
a terrifying sight to all the nations that surround her.”

Moab's Punishment and Restoration

- 40 For the LORD says,
“Look! Like an eagle with outspread wings
a nation will swoop down on Moab.
- 41 Her towns will be captured.
Her fortresses will be taken.
At that time the soldiers of Moab will be frightened
like a woman in labor.
- 42 Moab will be destroyed and no longer be a nation,
because she has vaunted herself against the LORD.
- 43 Terror, pits, and traps are in store
for the people who live in Moab.
I, the LORD, affirm it!
- 44 Anyone who flees at the sound of terror
will fall into a pit.
Anyone who climbs out of the pit
will be caught in a trap.
For the time is coming
when I will punish the people of Moab.
I, the LORD, affirm it!
- 45 In the shadows of the walls of Heshbon
those trying to escape will stand helpless.
For a fire will burst forth from Heshbon.
Flames will shoot out from the former territory of Sihon.
They will burn the foreheads of the people of Moab,
the skulls of those war-loving people.
- 46 Moab, you are doomed!
You people who worship Chemosh will be destroyed.
Your sons will be taken away captive.
Your daughters will be carried away into exile.
- 47 Yet in days to come
I will reverse Moab's ill fortune.”
says the LORD.

The judgment against Moab ends here.

Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Ammon (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 49:1–6

- 1 The LORD spoke about the Ammonites.

“Do you think there are not any people of the nation of Israel remaining?
Do you think there are not any of them remaining to reinherit their land?
Is that why you people who worship the god Milcom
have taken possession of the territory of Gad and live in his cities?

- 2 Because you did that,

I, the LORD, affirm that a time is coming
when I will make Rabbah, the capital city of Ammon,
hear the sound of the battle cry.
It will become a mound covered with ruins.
Its villages will be burned to the ground.
Then Israel will take back its land
from those who took their land from them.
I, the Lord, affirm it!

- 3 Wail, you people in Heshbon, because Ai in Ammon is destroyed.
Cry out in anguish, you people in the villages surrounding Rabbah.
Put on sackcloth and cry out in mourning.
Run about covered with gashes.
For your god Milcom will go into exile
along with his priests and officials.
- 4 Why do you brag about your great power?
Your power is ebbing away, you rebellious people of Ammon,
who trust in your riches and say,
‘Who would dare to attack us?’
- 5 I will bring terror on you from every side,”
says the Lord GOD who rules over all.
“You will be scattered in every direction.
No one will gather the fugitives back together.
- 6 Yet in days to come
I will reverse Ammon’s ill fortune.”
says the LORD.

Jeremiah’s Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Edom (early 605 bc)

Jeremiah 49:7–22

7 The LORD who rules over all spoke about Edom.

“Is wisdom no longer to be found in Teman?
Can Edom’s counselors not give her any good advice?
Has all of their wisdom turned bad?

- 8 Turn and flee! Take up refuge in remote places,
you people who live in Dedan.
For I will bring disaster on the descendants of Esau.
I have decided it is time for me to punish them.
- 9 If grape pickers came to pick your grapes,
would they not leave a few grapes behind?
If robbers came at night,
would they not pillage only what they needed?
- 10 But I will strip everything away from Esau’s descendants.
I will uncover their hiding places so they cannot hide.
Their children, relatives, and neighbors will all be destroyed.
Not one of them will be left!
- 11 Leave your orphans behind and I will keep them alive.
Your widows too can depend on me.”

12 For the LORD says, “If even those who did not deserve to drink from the cup of my wrath must drink from it, do you think you will go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, but must certainly drink from the cup of my wrath.

13 For I solemnly swear,” says the LORD, “that Bozrah will become a pile of ruins. It will become an object of horror and ridicule, an example to be used in curses. All the towns around it will lie in ruins forever.”

- 14 I said, “I have heard a message from the LORD.
A messenger has been sent among the nations to say,
‘Gather your armies and march out against her!
Prepare to do battle with her!’”

- 15 The LORD says to Edom,
“I will certainly make you small among nations.
I will make you despised by all humankind.
- 16 The terror you inspire in others
and the arrogance of your heart have deceived you.
You may make your home in the clefts of the rocks;
you may occupy the highest places in the hills.
But even if you made your home where the eagles nest,
I would bring you down from there,”
says the LORD.
- 17 “Edom will become an object of horror.
All who pass by it will be filled with horror;
they will hiss out their scorn
because of all the disasters that have happened to it.
- 18 Edom will be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah
and the towns that were around them.
No one will live there.
No human being will settle in it,”
says the LORD.
- 19 “A lion coming up from the thick undergrowth along the Jordan
scatters the sheep in the pastureland around it.
So too I will chase the Edomites off their land.
Then I will appoint over it whomever I choose.
For there is no one like me, and there is no one who can call me to account.
There is no ruler who can stand up against me.
- 20 So listen to what I, the LORD, have planned against Edom,
what I intend to do to the people who live in Teman.
Their little ones will be dragged off.
I will completely destroy their land because of what they have done.
- 21 The people of the earth will quake when they hear of their downfall.
Their cries of anguish will be heard all the way to the Gulf of Aqaba.
- 22 Look! Like an eagle with outspread wings,
a nation will soar up and swoop down on Bozrah.
At that time the soldiers of Edom will be as fearful
as a woman in labor.”

Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Damascus (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 49:23–27

- 23 The LORD spoke about Damascus.
- “The people of Hamath and Arpad will be dismayed
because they have heard bad news.
Their courage will melt away because of worry.
Their hearts will not be able to rest.
- 24 The people of Damascus will lose heart and turn to flee.
Panic will grip them.
Pain and anguish will seize them
like a woman in labor.
- 25 How deserted will that once-famous city be,
that city that was once filled with joy!
- 26 For her young men will fall in her city squares.
All her soldiers will be destroyed at that time,”
says the LORD who rules over all.
- 27 “I will set fire to the walls of Damascus;
it will burn up the palaces of Ben Hadad.”

Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning the Nations: Kedar and Hazor (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 49:28–33

28 The LORD spoke about Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered.

“Army of Babylon, go and attack Kedar.

Lay waste those who live in the eastern desert.

29 Their tents and their flocks will be taken away.

Their tent curtains, equipment, and camels will be carried off.

People will shout to them,

“Terror is all around you!”

30 The LORD says, “Flee quickly, you who live in Hazor.

Take up refuge in remote places.

For King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has laid out plans to attack you.

He has formed his strategy on how to defeat you.”

31 The LORD says, “Army of Babylon, go and attack

a nation that lives in peace and security.

They have no gates or walls to protect them.

They live all alone.

32 Their camels will be taken as plunder.

Their vast herds will be taken as spoil.

I will scatter to the four winds

those desert peoples who cut their hair short at the temples.

I will bring disaster against them

from every direction,” says the LORD.

33 “Hazor will become a permanent wasteland,

a place where only jackals live.

No one will live there.

No human being will settle in it.”

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