

August 12 Answers

- 1) The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the nations (cf. Jer 1:5). Previously, God told the nations surrounding Israel: “See, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears my Name, and will you indeed go **unpunished?**” (Jer 25:29 NIV). As Peter said many years later: “For it is time for judgment to begin at the **household** of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not **obey** the gospel of God?” (1 Pet 4:17). Now, through Jeremiah, God spoke directly to the Gentile nations. These oracles were designed to: (1) announce God’s **judgment** on a foreign nation, (2) show that God is sovereign over **all** nations, not just Israel, (3) fulfill God’s intention for Israel to act as **salt** and **light** to the world, (4) warn Israel of the folly of depending on foreign **alliances** for their security, and (5) serve as a message of **encouragement** to Israel (cf. Jer 46:27–28). The oracles to the nations give us several insights into God’s character and plan for the world: (1) Although God chose **Israel** to be His special people, He loves **everyone** and wants the whole **world** to come to Him, (2) God delights in **salvation** and wants to **build** up rather than tear down (Jer 48:47), (3) God is **holy** and will not tolerate **sin**, and (4) God is an impartial **judge**, for both Israel and the nations were held **accountable** for their sin.