

Jeremiah Ch 25 • “Behold, Disaster Shall Go Forth ”

- Background Left off w/ Jeremiah addressing people of Judah (Ch 24)
- v1 So this is actually earlier than Ch 24 (c. 606/605BC)
Significant date: Nebuchadnezzar comes to power, Jehoiakim shifts alliance, and (potentially) marks beginning of 70 years of captivity.
- v2-3 23 years of ministry to date (during good kings and bad kings)
But despite Jeremiah’s faithfulness, no one is listening!
- v4-7 People not listening to prophets isn’t new (cf Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah);
people not listening will result in harm to God’s people.
- v8-11 Nebuchadnezzar = God’s servant. Doesn’t mean he’s a good guy!
God uses evil-doers for His purposes; doesn’t excuse their evil deeds.
- 70 yrs – many argue “70” is rounded / figurative. Not how prophecy works!
70 shows up in Jer 29, Dan 2, Zach 1, 2 Chron 36:20-21.
And 2 Chron 26 gives reason for 70 (Sabbaths / land).
Not hard to calculate 70 ≈ 606BC (first deport) / 536BC (first return).
Alternative method: 586BC (destruction of temple) / 515BC (rebuilt)
- v12-14 Interesting that 70 is also duration of Babylonian Empire (short!).
Why? Judged by God for THEIR sins!
Note: hint of short AND long-term fulfillment – “all the nations” (v13) ≈
Babylon falls AGAIN @ Revelation Ch 18-19.
- v15 “Cup of God’s wrath” referred to repeatedly (Jer & Lam as well as
Job 21, Ps 60, Is 51, Ez 23, and Rev 14, 16, 17, 18).
- v16 Focus shifts from judgment v. Judah to judgment v. surrounding nations.
- v17 Did Jeremiah travel to each (unlikely) or convey msg thru rep (cf 27v3)?
- v18 Starts with Jerusalem (Judah) – judgment begins in house of the Lord.
- v19-24 Egypt, Uz (home of Job), Philistines, region of Jordan, Phoenicia, Arabia
- v25-26 Cities further to the east (v25) and all other kings / peoples!
Note: this section (v15-26) expanded upon in Jer 46-51.
- Those chapters (46-51) and this section clearly have long-term fulfillment.
Why? Comprehensive description of judgment (all kings – plural),
AND the “atbash” of Sheshach (v26) – cryptogram for “Babylon.”
Calling attention to a future (singular) king of Babylon – judged last!
“King of Sheshach” points us to Antichrist!

- v27-29 Nations facing God's wrath completely helpless.
Won't have any choice but to drink.
If God punishes own people, how much more so those who persecute them?
- v30 See Revelation 14:17-20!
- v31-32 Whole earth will hear voice of Lord pronouncing judgment!
Reads sentence (v31) and carries out sentence (v32).
This HAS to be reference to end of Tribulation.
Note descriptions of God: lion, treader of grapes, prosecutor, warrior, storm!
- v33 Elsewhere we read # / bodies in Judah will be problem post-invasion;
here we read # / bodies is not just a local problem but worldwide crisis!
- v34-38 People throughout the world will wail and mourn.
Loudest wailing will come from shepherds!
- APP Obviously "shepherd" in broadest sense (cf Ch 23).
But have to think about churches that go into and thru Tribulation.
Are we (all of us) avoiding their error?
Are we (all of us) shepherding people toward repentance? Toward Jesus?