

Jeremiah Ch 51:59-64 • “All the Evil”

Background: Ch 51 wraps up God’s description of His judgment vs Babylon. As we saw in Ch 50, the emphasis in these chapters (50-51) is less on the defeat of Babylon by Cyrus in 539BC than it is the demise of future Babylon (cf Rev 18). How to tell the two scopes of prophecy apart? If it hasn’t happened yet, it’s long-term (end times) prophecy!

- v58 Walls of Babylon one of wonders of ancient world; 200’ high & chariot races. See also Hab 2:12-14.
- v59 Prior verse (v58) closes prophecies directed to Judah about Babylon. Starting in v59 we have a footnote directed to Babylon about Babylon!
- Seraiah = Baruch’s brother (see Jer 32). Same father / grandfather. Given a message by God thru Jeremiah in 594/3BC. (4th year of Zedekiah). Same year as Judah plots against Babylon – possibly why Z. is summoned. Seraiah goes with Zekekiah (in charge of supplies / provisions).
- v60-61 God has a message for Seraiah to declare when he arrives in Babylon. Essentially wants him to read Jer Ch 50:1 – 51:58 (copied to new scroll?)
- v61-62 Interesting this is 7-8 years before Babylon sacks Jerusalem and 55 years before Cyrus conquers Babylon – in other words, this is long-term prophecy!
- Reminder how we know: when Cyrus defeats Babylon the city is still inhabited. Historical accounts confirm remains inhabited thru 1100AD and later.
- Also Jeremiah 51:26 says not a stone will be taken after Babylon’s destruction. But at least six cities built w rubble from Babylon (Seleucia, Hillah, Bagdad, etc.)
- v63-64a Conclusion of Selaiah’s proclamation. “Weary” cf v58 – connection to Jerusalem. Same judgment on Babylon as Jerusalem; same outcome. Also compare Selaiah casting a stone to Revelation 18:21ff — Babylon sinking.
- v64b Why does God send prophecy to Babylon? Better question: why not. Consider Ezekiel; Daniel. Also consider Matt Ch 2 – how did wise men know? Answer: who was chief of the wise men? Daniel!
- Preview of coming attractions: Jeremiah ≠ speak / write Ch 52. Still inspired!
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- 50v41ff Prophecy of army defeating future Babylon – who? Angels & saints returning w Jesus? Chronology doesn’t work (Rev 19 > Rev 18) Review timeline (Jezreel Valley / Babylon / Jerusalem / Bozrah) Even if timeline wrong, Is 63:1-6 sinks “angels & saints” theory (cf Jer 50:9-10). So who defeats Babylon???
- APP *Why do we care? Because prophecy gives us hope!*