Exposition of Jeremiah - Lesson 50

"A Prophesy of Judgment Upon Babylon-The Executioner" By:

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Applicational Text: Romans 13:1-2 ¹Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Expositional Text: Jeremiah 50:9-11 ⁹ For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain. ¹⁰ And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD. ¹¹ Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;

Introduction:

God created man and placed him on the earth in order to settle the Angelic conflict which began before the foundation of the earth. Satan and a third of the angels aligned themselves against God in an angelic rebellion. Satan appealed his case, claiming God was unfair and impugning the character of God. So, God created mankind in order to reveal His justification.

God created man with freewill but maintained His own good and acceptable and perfect will (Directive Will, Permissive Will, and Over-Ruling Will). The powers that be are ordained of God. In His omniscience God's knows the decisions man will make, and with His Over-Rulling Will He permits or prohibits each member of the human race to do that which he wants to do.

God set up a scenario in which He would allow Adam and Eve the use of their permissive will to violate the commandment He had given them concerning the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good an evil. He allowed them to make that choice and bring death to the human race in order to show His amazing grace by providing eternal life. Sin would require a penalty of death, but in His grace he would pay that debt Himself by taking upon Himself humanity, through the virgin birth, bypassing the imputed sin of Adam. He would live a sinless life, die a sacrificial death, conquer the grave with a victorious resurrection, and make that life available to everyone who would exercise their free-will in choosing Him as their redeemer.

This scenario would establish the righteousness of God and His justification for sentencing the fallen angels that had rejected His grace to an eternity in the Lake of Fire. For every angel that rejected God's grace there will be a corresponding believer in the Church Age and the Satanic appeal will be lost. Satan and the fallen angels will be cast into the Lake of Fire and we will move out of time into eternity in a new heaven and a new earth.

God chose the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be the means of introducing this plan and revealing it to the world. God changed Jacob's name to Israel and the nation was formed around Israel's twelve son's and became known as "The Children of Israel."

God gave them The Mosaic Law to reveal His plan. The Law was divided into three segments Codex I contained the commandments which revealed His standards. Codex II described the ritual which revealed the coming Messiah and the means by which He would accomplish this plan. Codex III was the civil law by which they were to be governed as a nation while accomplishing this plan.

God commissioned them as His missionaries to present this plan to the world, and He established a variety of covenants with them. In His covenant agreement with them He gave them title deed to territory and established His conditions for its occupation. We have been studying the Book of Jeremiah which reveals specific prophesies related to their disobedience and God's prescribed discipline.

In our study we have seen God's discipline of the Children of Israel move to the fifth-cycle (Leviticus 26) with God allowing King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians to overthrow them and take them out of their own land into Babylon. Due to the Children of Israel's disobedience God removed His protection and allowed Nebuchadnezzar to overthrow them. God also allowed Nebuchadnezzar and his troops to serve as executioner for the gentile nations God had, himself, judged. God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to serve as executioner of the Egyptians, The Philistines, The Moabites, The Ammonites, The Edomites, The Arabians, and the Elamites.

Now in chapter fifty we get a look at Jeremiah's prophecy of the executioners' pending judgment, the pending judgment of Babylon. This prophecy is structured differently than what we have seen previously in our study. This prophesy concerning the judgment of Babylon, the primary nation that God used in executing God's judgment upon Israel, is written in interchanging segments of the judgment of Babylon and the redemption of Israel. Verses 1 through 3; Verses 9 through 16; Verses 21 through 32; and Verses 35 through 46 relate to the judgment of Babylon, while Verses 4 through 8; Verses 17 through 20, and Verses 33 through 34 relate to the Redemption of the Children of Israel and Judah.

I. Proclamation of The Judgment of Babylon: (1-3)

This prophecy begins with Jeremiah being instructed by the Lord to Issue a prophecy against the Babylon and the Chaldeans. Although God had withdrawn his restraints on Babylon and allowed them to implement His discipline upon the Children of Israel, they are still accountable for their actions. Just because God allows us to exercise our free-will

does not mean we have no accountability, and King Nebuchadnezzar is issued this judgment.

Jeremiah 50:1-3 ¹The word that the LORD spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. ² Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces. ³ For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

We note that this judgment is not just upon the Babylon but upon the land of the Chaldeans, and upon their gods, "...Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces...." Although the Babylonians were polytheistic believing in many gods, their primary god was Bel, also known as Merodach.

This judgment is coming "...out of the north...." This nation coming out of the north is the Medo-Persian Empire that followed the Babylonian empire, ancient Persia is modern Iran today.

With the overthrow of the Babylonians revealed, the prophecy shifts from the judgment of Babylon to the repentance of the Children of Israel and the stage is set for their return to their own land.

II. Repentance and Enquiry of Israel: (Verses 2-8)

Jeremiah 50:4-8 ⁴ In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. ⁵ They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten. ⁶ My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace. ⁷ All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers. ⁸ Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks.

It is "... those day and at that time...." that the Children of Israel and the Children of Judah will "...seek the Lord their God..." Notice that the prophecy shows signs of repentance by "weeping" and a commitment to "...join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten..."

Like the son in the story of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15) When he came to himself he said, "...How many hired servants of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger I will arise and go to my father..."

With the overthrow of the Babylonians the Children of Israel will begin to inquire concerning the way to Zion.

Our discipline, at times, must be difficult before we start asking questions and inquiring concerning the way home. These other nations had reasoned that the God of Israel would not deal harshly with them because He was disciplining them because of their sin. However we are each accountable and God will get around to dealing with each of us in His time, and now it is Babylon's time for Judgment, and that judgment will provide a "home coming" for the Children of Israel

III. From Greatness to Judgment for Babylon: (Verses 9-16)

Jeremiah 50:9-16 ⁹ For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain. 10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD. 11 Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls; 12 Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert. 13 Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues, 14 Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD. 15 Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her. 16 Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land.

Just as God had used Asyria to discipline the ten northern tribes and take them into captivity, He had used Babylon to discipline the Children of Judah and take them into captivity, He here says, "...I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain..." This assembly of great nations is the Medo-Persian Empire which was an assembly of nations that included the lands of the ancient Medes and the ancient Persians as its foundation, later it expanded to encompass much of the ancient world. At its height, under leaders like Cyrus the Great, its territories extended from the Balkans and Egypt in the west to the Indus Valley in the east, encompassing areas that are now Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Notice that the Lord says, "...I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon..." we are reminded again that the powers that exist are ordained by God.

commissions the Medes and the Persians to discipline Babylon.

But God has a pardon for Israel...

IV. A Pardon for Israel: (Verses 17-20)

Jeremiah 50:17-20 ¹⁷ Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones. ¹⁸ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria. ¹⁹ And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead. ²⁰ In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Discipline is administered to modify behavior and bring the wayward back to the path that is most beneficial for them. Does God remain angry with His children forever? **Psalms 103:9 says**, *He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever.*

Way back in Jeremiah 3:12 the Lord said, ¹² Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. And now, that pardon is affirmed.

But, notice, "...for I will pardon them whom I reserve..." That word "reserve" is from the Hebrew word "shaw-ar" and means He will pardon those He has chosen "to leave." (spare) He has chosen to preserve the believer and although they are guilty, He "will pardon" them. This pardon is available to "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (John 3:16)

But now, judgment has been prophesied for Babylon and the Medes and the Persians are God's choice for the following instructions.

V. The Lord Has Declared War on Babylon: (Verses 21-32)

Jeremiah 50:21-32 ²¹ Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee. ²² A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction. ²³ How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations! ²⁴ I have laid a snare for thee, and

thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD. 25 The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans. ²⁶ Come against her from the utmost border, open her storehouses: cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly: let nothing of her be left. ²⁷ Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation. ²⁸ The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple. ²⁹ Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her; for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel. 30 Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD. 31 Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee. 32 And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

Jeremiah uses a literary tactic in describing Babylon. "the land of Merathaim" is a reference to Babylon by characteristic. The word "merathaim" means "double rebellion" and was the name of an area of the Babylonian Empire. And the word "Pekod" means "to call to account," and refers to a particular tribe in the Babylonian Empire. These two areas were specified as a "play on words" rebuke of the characteristics associated with the Empire in general — rebellious and now being held to account for their deeds. "...The LORD hath opened his armoury...." The Lord will pull out all His weapons against Babylon. Pride seems to be the number one indictment against them as indicated by that repeated accusation.

But on the other hand, the Children of Israel have a strong redeemer.

VI. Redemption For Israel: (Verses 33-34)

Jeremiah 50:33-34 ³³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go. ³⁴ Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall throughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

Their Redeemer is strong, the Lord of host is His name, He will not only plead their case but He will bring rest to their land while defeating the Babylonians.

The Biblical Doctrine of Redemption

The word "redeemer" is translated from the Hebrew word, "gaw-al" which means "buy back one's property." This is the only word that is translated "redeemer" in the Old Testament as it speaks of God's purpose. We were created by Him and belonged to Him,

but Adam sold us out and we are born estranged from God. God knew this was going to happen, so, before He formed Adam out of the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives, God developed a plan by which He could buy us back, a plan by which we could be pardoned. The details of that plan are given in the New Testament.

There are four Greek words are used in the New Testament that help us understand redemption and those who have been reserved: **agorastheteh**, **lutrohsetai**, **apolutrohsis**, and **exagorasen**. The first Greek word is "**agorastheteh**" (ήγοράσθητε). It is used in I Corinthians 6:19-20 where it is translated, "bought." I Corinthians 6:19-20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

"Agorastheteh" means "to make a purchase in the slave market." It is used in I Corinthians to identify the fact that Jesus Christ has purchased us from the slave market of sin. Only a free man could purchase a slave from the slave market. A slave could not own property, so, he could not purchase his own freedom. Therefore, Jesus Christ was the only one qualified to redeem us. The Old Sin Nature is passed down through the male, according to Psalm 51:5 with I Timothy 2:14-15. Because of His virgin birth, Jesus did not receive the imputed sin of Adam. Therefore, He was not born in the slave market like the rest of us. And He did not commit any personal sin. So, He never became enslaved to sin but remained a free man. Therefore, He was qualified to purchase at the slave market. No other man could have purchased us from the slave market because Jesus is the only man born outside the slave market and the only one who stayed out of bondage to sin. Adam was created outside the slave market of sin but became enslaved through personal sin. This word "agorastheteh" (ἡγοράσθητε) translated, "bought" in I Corinthians 6:19-20, simply tells us we were purchased from the slave market.

The second Greek word concerning redemption is "lutrohsetai" (λυτρώσηται). It is translated, "redeemed" in Titus 2:14, where, speaking of Christ, it says: "Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity..." "Lutrohsetai" means "to set free by paying the ransom." With His death on the Roman cross, Jesus went into the slave market and paid our sin debt in order that we might go free. With the purchase price of His blood, He provided for our freedom from the authority and penalty of sin.

The third Greek word is "apolutrohsis" (ἀπολύτρωσις). "Apolutrohsis" is a strengthened form of "lutrohsetai." It has the prepositional prefix "apo" which means "from" and speaks of releasing from bondage upon the payment of a ransom. The distinction between lutrohsetai and apolutrosis is important: Lutrohsetai emphasizes the payment of debt or purchase price, while apolutrosis emphasizes the deliverance as a result of the payment. Apolutrohsis is used in Hebrews 11:35 in reference to deliverance from affliction. It is also used in Luke 21:28 concerning the deliverance of the saints at the Second Advent of Christ. It is used in Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14 with reference to liberation from the guilt and doom of sin and freedom into a life of liberty. It is used in Romans 8:23; I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:14; and in Ephesians 4:30 of deliverance from the bondage of our physical mortal and corruptible bodies.

The fourth Greek word is "exagorasen" (ἐξηγόρασεν). It is used in Galatians 3:13 where it is translated, "redeemed." "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] everyone that hangeth on a tree." "Exagorasen" means to purchase a slave and give him his freedom in such a way that he will never be enslaved again. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law and we can never be put under that curse again. Exagorasen is a great word and affirms the doctrine of our security in Christ Jesus.

Let me quickly summarize these four words. "Agorastheteh" means to purchase in the slave market. "Lutrohsetai" means to pay the ransom needed to set us free. "Apolutrohsis" emphasizes deliverance as a result of payment. "Exagorasen" means to purchase a slave and set him free in such a way that he will never be put in the slave market again. In John 8:36 Jesus said "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." The ransom price has been paid, but you must accept it.

We saw back in Jeremiah 50:20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

This "pardon" is available to "...whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord..." In Jeremiah's day, redemption was in anticipation of the coming Messiah, and this doctrine was taught through the ritual of the Mosaic Law, today this redemption is historical the debt has been paid.

The Babylonians had rejected the "redeemer", and their days of glory were limited, desolation has now been prophesied...

VII. From Glory To Desolation For Babylon: (Verses 35-46)

Jeremiah 50:35-46 35 A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men. ³⁶ A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed, ³⁷ A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed. 38 A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols. ³⁹ Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. 40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein. 41 Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. ⁴² They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon. 43 The king of Babylon hath

heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail. ⁴⁴ Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me? ⁴⁵ Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them. ⁴⁶ At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.

What more needs to be said? God has revealed His plan for the restoration of His people and the judgment of those who abused them. This prophecy was not fulfilled instantly, there was a "Window of Grace," to allow for repentance but at the appointed time all of this was fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar had his own personal "on again and off again" relationship with the God of Israel but came to recognize the God of Israel is the true and living God of heaven and of earth. In our study of chapter fifty-one we will have a summary review of the pending judgment. Then we have a Tribute of Praise to God, followed by a revelation of the tool God is going to use in His deliverance of Israel "The Lord hath opened his armoury", with a personal message to the exiled captives in Babylon.

Conclusion:

In the midst of reviewing these various nations and God's judgment upon them we might have some confusion with our Applicational Text in Romans 13:1-2 ¹Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

We are instructed to be subject "...unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. In order to understand this when there is so much godlessness in government, we must understand the chain of authority which God has established through the Divine Institutions: Volition, Marriage, Family, Government, and the Church. God is the original and supreme authority we are to recognize volitionally. Then each of the other institutions is to be in compliance with His authority design. Yes, He established the institutions, but each is to conform to His design, and all are to conform to His authority. We must evaluate our compliance in each of these institutions and respond to each according to Gpd's authority. In a fallen world there will be the distortion of God's directive and when there is a conflict between what God has said and what the institutional authority requires, we are to adhere to the divine chain of command.

Peter and the other apostles encountered such a conflict in the early days of the Church Age, and it is recorded in Acts 5:27-29 ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, ²⁸ Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine,

and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. ²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

The problem with this instruction is the Biblical ignorance of Christians, many have never heard of The Five Divine Institutions and most lack the doctrinal foundation to make a good choices and decisions.

Throughout my ministry I have repeatedly been told I should simply preach the gospel and stay away from doctrine. Excuse me, doctrine is the gospel. The word "gospel" means "good mews," and that good news begins with the message of salvation, but includes the promises, principles, doctrines and the mechanics for living the Christian life. When a preacher tells me, "I just preach the love of Jesus," I attempt to point out that the promises, principles, doctrines, and mechanics of the Christian life not only identify the "love of Jesus," they magnify and implement that love.

Our study of Jeremiah focuses on the judgments of God and inserts into those judgments the amazing grace of God. Our study is designed to acquaint us with who God is and to understand the promises, principles, doctrines, and mechanics for living the life He designed for us.

But it begins at Salvation:

- For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...
- With the heart man believes unto righteousness...
- But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...
- For whosever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!

Let Us Learn From The Failure of Others and Avoid

The Pain, Loss, or Suffering of

Personal Discipline!