

## CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OF JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS, Week 9

## God's Judgment upon Egypt and Babylon

Scripture Reading: Jer. 46:2-28; 50:1, 8-16; 51:6-9, 24-25, 28-37, 44-45, 58-64

- Jeremiah 46:2 **Concerning Egypt:** Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, the king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish, which Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon struck down in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah:
- Jeremiah 46:3 Prepare the buckler and shield, / And draw near to battle.
- Jeremiah 46:4 Harness the horses, / And mount the steeds; / And take your stand with helmets on; / Polish the spears; / Put on the armor.
- Jeremiah 46:5 Why have I seen it? / They are dismayed; / They are turning backward; / And their mighty men are crushed and flee in hasty flight, / And they do not look back; terror is on every side, / Declares Jehovah.
- Jeremiah 46:6 Let not the swift one flee away / And the mighty man escape; / In the north by the river Euphrates / They have stumbled and fallen.
- Jeremiah 46:7 Who is this who rises up like the Nile, / Like rivers whose waters surge?
- Jeremiah 46:8 Egypt rises up like the Nile, / Even like rivers whose waters surge. / And he says, I will rise up and will cover the land; / I will destroy the city and the inhabitants in it.
- Jeremiah 46:9 Go up, O horses, / And drive furiously, O chariots; / And let the mighty men go forth: / Cush and Put, who handle the shield, / And the Ludim, who handle and bend the bow.
- Jeremiah 46:10 For this day belongs to the Lord Jehovah of hosts, / A day of vengeance to avenge Himself on His adversaries; / And the sword will devour and be satisfied, / And it will drink its fill of their blood; / For there is a sacrifice to the Lord Jehovah of hosts / In the land of the north by the river Euphrates.
- Jeremiah 46:11 Go up to Gilead and take balm, / O virgin daughter of Egypt. / In vain you have used many medicines
- Jeremiah 46:12 The nations have heard of your disgrace, / And your cry has filled the earth; / For mighty man has stumbled against mighty man; / Both of them have fallen together.
- Jeremiah 46:13 The word which Jehovah spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt:
- Jeremiah 46:14 Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol; / Proclaim also in Memphis and in Tahpanhes. / Say, Take your stand, and prepare yourself; / For the sword has devoured all around you.
- Jeremiah 46:15 Why are your mighty men prostrate? / He does not stand, because Jehovah has cast him down.
- Jeremiah 46:16 He made many stumble; / A man even fell against his neighbor; / And they said, Arise and let us return / To our own people and to the land of our birth, / Away from the sword of the oppressor.
- Jeremiah 46:17 There they cried, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, is but a noise; / He has let the appointed time pass by.
- Jeremiah 46:18 As I live, says the King, / Whose name is Jehovah of hosts, / Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, / And Carmel is by the sea, so he will come.
- Jeremiah 46:19 Prepare for yourself baggage for captivity, / O inhabitant, O daughter of Egypt; / For Memphis will become a waste, / And it will be burned, without inhabitant.
- Jeremiah 46:20 Egypt is a beautiful heifer; / A gadfly from the north has come on her.
- Jeremiah 46:21 Also her hired men in her midst / Are like fattened calves. / But they have also turned back; / They have fled together; they did not stand. / For the day of their calamity has come on them, / The time of their punishment.
- Jeremiah 46:22 Her sound is like that of a serpent going away; / For they go forth in force, / And with axes they come against her, / Like those who fell trees.
- Jeremiah 46:23 They will cut down her forest, declares Jehovah, / Although it is impenetrable; / For they are more numerous than locusts / And are without number.
- Jeremiah 46:24 The daughter of Egypt is put to shame; / She is given into the hand of a people from the north.
- Jeremiah 46:25 Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, says, I will punish Amon of No and Pharaoh and Egypt and her gods and her kings, even Pharaoh and those who trust in him.
- Jeremiah 46:26 And I will give them into the hand of those who seek their life, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon and into the hand of his servants; and afterward she will be inhabited as in the days of old, declares Jehovah.
- Jeremiah 46:27 But as for you, O Jacob My servant, do not fear; / And do not be dismayed, O Israel. / For indeed I will save you from afar / And your seed from the land of their captivity; / And Jacob will return and be undisturbed / And at ease, and no one will frighten him.
- Jeremiah 46:28 As for you, O Jacob My servant, do not fear, declares Jehovah, / For I am with you; / For I will make a full end of all the nations / To which I have driven you; / Yet I will not make a full end of you, / But will correct you in measure / And will by no means leave you unpunished.
- Jeremiah 50:1 The word which Jehovah spoke **concerning Babylon**, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:
- Jeremiah 50:8 Flee from the midst of Babylon, / And go out from the land of the Chaldeans, / And be as male goats / Before the flock.
- Jeremiah 50:9 For I am about to stir up and bring up against Babylon / An assembly of great nations from the land of the north; / And they will set themselves in array against her, / And she will be taken captive from there. / Their arrows will be like those of an expert mighty man; / None will return empty-handed.
- Jeremiah 50:10 And Chaldea will become spoil; / All those who spoil her will be satisfied, declares Jehovah.
- Jeremiah 50:11 Because you rejoiced, because you exulted, / O you who plunder My inheritance, / Because you spring about as a threshing heifer, / And you neigh like stallions,
- Jeremiah 50:12 Your mother has been greatly ashamed; / She who bore you has become a reproach: / Indeed, she has become the last of the nations, / A wilderness, a dry land and a desert.
- Jeremiah 50:13 Because of the wrath of Jehovah she will not be inhabited, / But she will become a complete desolation; / For every one who passes by Babylon will be astonished / And will hiss at all her wounds.
- Jeremiah 50:14 Set yourselves in array against Babylon all around, / All those who bend the bow; / Shoot at her; spare no arrow; / Because she has sinned against Jehovah;
- Jeremiah 50:15 Raise a shout against her all around. / She has surrendered; her buttresses have fallen, / Her walls have been torn down; / For this is the vengeance of Jehovah: / Take vengeance on her; / As she has done, so do to her.

Jeremiah 50:16 Cut off the sower from Babylon, / And the one who handles a sickle in the time of harvest; Because of the sword of the oppressor / Each one will turn to his people, / And each one flee to his own land.

Jeremiah 51:6 **Flee from the midst of Babylon**, / And let each man save his life; / Do not be cut off in her iniquity; / For this is a time of vengeance to Jehovah; / He will give full recompense to her.

Jeremiah 51:7 Babylon has been a golden cup in Jehovah's hand / That has made all the earth drunk. / The nations have drunk of her wine; / Therefore the nations have become mad.

Jeremiah 51:8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and become broken; / Howl over her; / Take balm for her pain, / If perhaps she may be healed.

Jeremiah 51:9 We tried to heal Babylon, but she is not healed; / Forsake her, and let each one of us go to his own land; / For her judgment has reached to heaven / And has been lifted up to the clouds.

Jeremiah 51:24 And I will repay Babylon / And all the inhabitants of Chaldea / With all their evil which they have done / In Zion before your eyes, declares Jehovah.

Jeremiah 51:25 Indeed, I am against you, O mountain of destruction, / Declares Jehovah, / Which destroys the whole earth; / And I will stretch out My hand upon you / And roll you down from the rocks / And make you a burning mountain.

Jeremiah 51:28 Prepare the nations against her, / The kings of the Medes, / Their governors and all their officials, / And all the land of their dominion.

Jeremiah 51:29 And the land trembles and writhes, / For the purposes of Jehovah against Babylon stand, / To make the land of Babylon a waste, / Without inhabitant.

Jeremiah 51:30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting; / They remain in strongholds; / Their might has failed; they have become like women. / Her dwellings are on fire; her bars are broken.

Jeremiah 51:31 Runner runs to meet runner, / And messenger to meet messenger, / To announce to the king of Babylon / That his city has been captured from end to end.

Jeremiah 51:32 And the crossing places have been seized, / And they burn the marshes with fire, / And the men of war are terrified.

Jeremiah 51:33 For thus says Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, / The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor / At the time when it is trodden; / Yet a little while and the time of harvest will come to her.

Jeremiah 51:34 Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me; / He has crushed me; / He has made me an empty vessel; / He has swallowed me up like a dragon; / He has filled his stomach with my delicacies; / He has washed me out.

Jeremiah 51:35 The violence done to me and my flesh be on Babylon! / The inhabitant of Zion will say; / And my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea! / Jerusalem will say.

Jeremiah 51:36 Therefore thus says Jehovah, / I will indeed plead your cause / And execute vengeance for you; / And I will dry up her sea / And make her fountain dry.

Jeremiah 51:37 And Babylon will become a heap of ruins, / A habitation of jackals, / An astonishment and a hissing, / Without inhabitant.

Jeremiah 51:44 And I will punish Bel in Babylon / And bring what he has swallowed out of his mouth; / And the nations will not stream unto him any longer; / Even the wall of Babylon will fall down.

Jeremiah 51:45 Come out from the midst of her, My people, / And let each man save his life / From the burning anger of Jehovah.

Jeremiah 51:58 Thus says Jehovah of hosts, / The broad walls of Babylon will be utterly laid bare; / Her high gates will be burned with fire. / So the peoples will have labored in vain; / And the nations, only for fire; and they will have wearied themselves.

Jeremiah 51:59 The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. (Now Seraiah was quartermaster.)

Jeremiah 51:60 And Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come on Babylon, even all these words that are written concerning Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words;

Jeremiah 51:62 And say, O Jehovah, You have spoken concerning this place, to cut it off, so that nothing should dwell in it, neither man nor animal, for it will be an eternal desolation.

Jeremiah 51:63 And as soon as you have finished reading this book, you shall bind a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates,

Jeremiah 51:64 And say, Thus Babylon will sink and will not rise up because of the evil which I will bring upon it, and they will weary themselves. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

### Day 1

#### I. The book of Jeremiah presents a picture of God's coming in to **punish and judge the nations**, which typify aspects of the world—46:2; 47:1; 48:1; 49:1, 7, 23, 28, 34; 50:1:

- A. In speaking concerning the nations, Jeremiah mentions Egypt first (46:2-28) and Babylon last (chs. 50—51):
  1. This indicates that, in God's view, the **world is first Egyptian and then Babylonian**.
  2. According to the picture in the book of Jeremiah, the last nation to be judged is Babylon; when God judges Babylon, His judgment of the nations will be complete.
- B. For the accomplishment of God's economy, the church, God's New Testament elect, must be **separated from the world in all its aspects**—John 17:14, 16; Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17.

### Day 2

#### II. Jeremiah 46:2-28 speaks concerning **God's judgment on Egypt**:

- A. **Egypt** typifies the **world of making a living and of enjoyment**, with which Satan, the ruler of the world, typified by Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, **occupies and usurps** the people chosen by God for His economy—Gen. 12:10; 41:57—42:3; Num. 11:4-6; Heb. 11:25; John 12:31:
  1. The nation of Egypt signifies the **kingdom of darkness**, the authority of darkness—Col. 1:13; Matt. 12:26.
  2. The world is not a source of enjoyment; it is a place of tyranny, and **every aspect of the world is a form of tyranny**—Gal. 4:8.
  3. In the world Satan is keeping God's chosen people, those destined for the fulfillment of God's purpose, under his usurping hand—Eph. 2:2; Luke 13:11-12:
    - a. To exist is one thing, but to exist for the divine purpose is another thing—Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.
    - b. Satan has usurped people so that they **care only for their existence**, not for God's purpose in their existence—Matt. 6:25, 31-33.
  4. One aspect of God's purpose in calling us is to use us to **bring others out of the usurpation and tyranny of Satan and the world**—Acts 26:18; Eph. 3:9.

## Day 3

- B. The world is an evil system **arranged systematically by Satan**—1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4:
1. God created man to live on the earth for the fulfillment of His purpose, but His enemy, Satan, in order to usurp the God-created man, formed an **anti-God world system** on this earth by systematizing people with culture, education, industry, commerce, entertainment, and religion—Eph. 3:11; Gen. 1:26-28; 2:8-9; 4:16-24.
  2. All the things on the earth, especially those related to mankind, and all the things in the air have been systematized by Satan into his kingdom of darkness to **occupy people and frustrate** them from accomplishing the purpose of God and to **distract** them from the enjoyment of God—1 John 2:15-17.
  3. The world is against God the Father, the things in the world are against the will of God, and those who love the world are **enemies of God**—vv. 15-17; James 4:4.
  4. “The whole world,” the satanic system, “lies in the evil one”—1 John 5:19:
    - a. The **whole world** comprises the **satanic world system** and the people of the world, the **fallen human race**.
    - b. **Lies** means **remaining passively** in the sphere of the evil one’s usurpation and manipulation; the whole world and the people of the world are lying passively under the usurping and manipulating hand of Satan, the evil one.
    - c. The Greek word rendered “**evil**” in 1 John 5:19 refers to one who is pernicious, harmfully evil, one who **affects others, influencing them to be evil and vicious**; such an evil one is Satan, the devil, in whom the whole world lies.
  5. Satan is utilizing the material world and the things that are in the world to eventually head everything up in the kingdom of Antichrist; at that hour the world system will have reached its zenith, and every unit of it will be revealed to be anti-Christian—2 Thes. 2:3-12.

...God did not create the world. God created an earth. But **Satan came in to systematize the entire earth**, making it a cosmos, which we call the world. This cosmos is full of Satan’s power and evils. It is the domain, the little monarchy, of Satan. The cosmos is Satan’s kingdom, which attracts and usurps people. So **our flesh is attracted and usurped by the world**. Such a flesh is **poisoned** by Satan, the enemy of God, contaminated and corrupted with sin, which is the nature of Satan, and also attracted and usurped by the world. (*Excerpt from the Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 2, section 2*)

6. Satan’s evil world system, the kingdom of darkness, was **judged through Christ’s work on the cross**—John 12:31-32; 16:11:
  - a. Through His **death on the cross** in the likeness of the flesh of sin, the Lord destroyed Satan, who is in man’s flesh—Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:14.
  - b. By judging Satan in this way, the **Lord also judged the world**, which is hanging on Satan—John 16:11.
  - c. The Lord’s **being lifted up on the cross** caused the world to be judged and its ruler, Satan, to be cast out—12:31-32.

## Day 4

III. Jeremiah 50 and 51 speak concerning **God’s judgment on Babylon**:

- A. Babylon began from Babel—Gen. 10:8-10:
1. At Babel Satan caused the human race to rebel against God, to worship idols, and to exalt man’s self; thus, **Babel** was the origin, the source, of man’s **rebellion against God, man’s worship of idols, and human self-exaltation**—11:1-9.

**The World System**

The Bible reveals that Satan has formed a satanic system called the **world**. Through the world, the satanic cosmos, Satan has **systematized fallen mankind under his usurping hand**. But this evil world system has been **judged**.

Because the world system is connected to Satan, when he, the ruler of the world was judged, the **world was judged as well**. Regarding this, the Lord Jesus said, “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out” (John 12:31). The ruler of this world was cast out when Satan was destroyed on the cross. Simultaneously, the **world system related to Satan was judged**.

This judgment can be compared to the crucifixion of the old creation when our old man was crucified. When the old man was crucified, the entire old creation was crucified. Likewise, when **Satan was destroyed through Christ’s death**, the **world was judged**. (*Excerpt from the Life-Study of Mark, chapter 49, section 3*)

2. Babel had its continuation in Babylon, which, in the sight of God, is the consummation of human government—Jer. 50:1; Dan. 2:32-34:
  - a. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, was even identified with Satan as Satan’s embodiment—Isa. 14:4, 11-15.
  - b. Babylon **destroyed** God’s holy city and His holy temple and carried God’s holy people and the vessels of God’s temple into **captivity**—2 Chron. 36:17-20.
- B. In Revelation 17 and 18 the restored Roman Empire is called Babylon the Great, which has two aspects—**religious and material**:
  1. Revelation 17 is an unveiling of **religious Babylon**—the apostate **Roman Catholic Church**:
    - a. In the eyes of God the Roman Catholic Church, which perpetuates much of Judaism and has assimilated much of paganism, is Babylon.
    - b. The harlot in 17:1 is the apostate Roman Catholic Church.
    - c. Because God hates the apostate church, at the beginning of the great tribulation **God will cause Antichrist and his ten kings to destroy the Roman Catholic Church**—vv. 16-17.
  2. Revelation 18 is an unveiling of **material Babylon**—the **city of Rome**:
    - a. In Revelation 17 and 18 two aspects of Babylon—the religious aspect and the material aspect—are **mixed together**:
      - 1) The **harlot** in 17:16 denotes **religious Babylon**, signifying the Roman Catholic Church, whereas the **woman** in verse 18 denotes **material Babylon**, signifying the city of Rome.
      - 2) Since Babylon the Great is twofold, to come out of her means to come out of both religious Babylon and material Babylon—18:4.

- b. Material Babylon, the city of Rome, will become **hateful** in the eyes of God because it has been the source of both **devilish politics** and **devilish religion**— vv. 6-8, 20-24.
- c. Christ as another Angel will **shine over the earth** to destroy Babylon the Great, the city of Rome, with His great authority—vv. 1-2.

### Day 5

- C. The **principle of Babylon** is **mixing** the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit—17:1-5:
  - 1. Babylon is the **mixture of the things of God with the things of idols**:
    - a. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon burned the house of God in Jerusalem, and he carried away all the vessels in God's house for God's worship and put them in the temple of his idols in Babylon—2 Chron. 36:6-7; Ezra 1:11.
    - b. In the New Testament this mixture is enlarged with the great Babylon—Rev. 17:3-5.
  - 2. We must **come out of every situation** where man's power is mixed with God's power, where man's ability is mixed with God's work, and where man's opinion is mixed with God's word—18:4, footnote 1.

### Day 6

- D. Babylon the Great will have two falls—the **fall of religious Babylon** and the **fall of material Babylon**—14:8; 18:2:
  - 1. The fall of religious Babylon will take place at the beginning of the great tribulation— 17:16-17.
  - 2. The fall of material Babylon will take place at the end of the great tribulation—18:2, 21.
  - 3. The **praise** in 19:1-4 is related not mainly to the fall of material Babylon but to the fall of religious Babylon, because in the eyes of God religious Babylon is more hateful than material Babylon.
- E. God will judge Babylon to such an extent that **nothing of Babylon will remain in the universe**:
  - 1. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesied that once Babylon has been destroyed, it **will not be restored**—Isa. 14:22-23; Jer. 50:39; 51:62.
  - 2. When God destroys both the religious and the political Babylon at the end of the age, that will be the **end of the judgment** on Babylon prophesied in chapters 50 and 51.
  - 3. **Babylon the Great will be destroyed, removed from the earth, and cast into the lake of fire, and the New Jerusalem will be brought in to be the prominent center of God's eternal kingdom in the new heaven and new earth**—Rev. 11:15; 21:2, 10-11.

### The Practice of Dealing with the World

If we wish to practice dealing with the world, we should pay our attention to one point—that is, to **close our mind to the world**.

When we begin to learn the lessons of dealing, sin and the world often return to our thinking; that is, we often have a mind to sin or to love the world. At such a time our responsibility is to close our mind and refuse these thoughts.

Of course, it is very difficult to close our mind toward the thoughts of sin, because **sin lives within us**. Not until we are raptured will we be delivered from this inward difficulty. Therefore, even mature and learned Christians are still tempted by thoughts of sin.

The difficulty of the world is something of an **outward nature**. The Bible states that sin dwells in us, but it never mentions that the world lives in us. Since the nature of the world is outward, it is easy to shut off the thoughts of the world. When speaking of dealing with the world, 1 John 2 admonishes the young saints. Thus, this matter does not require much experience; it can and ought to be practiced when we begin to **follow the Lord**. On the contrary, if a saint is constantly being disturbed by the world and is unable to shut out worldly thoughts, this proves that he is still young and immature. (*Excerpt from the Experience of Life, chapter 5, section 11*)