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Called to Speak for the Lord – the Book of Jeremiah

Blessing for Baruch, Babylon as
Satan's Kingdom

July 11, 2021

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 45-51

Scripture Reading: Daniel 5

We have some REALLY good stuff here this morning in Jeremiah chs 45-51. We won't read every word of these chapters but we are going to focus on the main themes, one of which – *Babylon* – is of vital importance to us in knowing how to interpret the Bible properly.

Let's begin though by briefly taking a look at a man who we most likely don't know or think about. His name was Baruch. Listen to chapter 45:

Jer 45:1-5 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of

Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: (2) “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: (3) You said, ‘Woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’ (4) Thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. (5) And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”

Who was Baruch? He was Jeremiah's companion and scribe. Here is one account of his faithfulness:

Jer 36:1-10 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: (2) “Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the

nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. (3) It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.” (4) Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him. (5) And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, “I am banned from going to the house of the LORD, (6) so you are to go, and on a day of fasting in the hearing of all the people in the LORD's house you shall read the words of the LORD from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the men of Judah who come out of their cities. (7) It may be that their plea for mercy will come before the LORD, and that every one will turn from his evil way, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people.” (8) And Baruch the son of Neriah did all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the LORD's house. (9) In the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who

came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the LORD. (10) Then, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

Now, what happens to a Baruch in evil days? And when God's judgment is falling down on evil, unrepentant people like Judah? What happens to the true remnant, the elect people of the Lord? God's Words to Baruch answer these questions.

First, notice that the Lord is VERY aware of Baruch – and of us. He knows exactly how Baruch was feeling:

Jer 45:3 You said, ‘Woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’

See it? The Lord knows. He knows His own. *He can put into words what we are feeling.* And then He gives us counsel-

Jer 45:4-5 Thus shall you say to him,

Thus says the LORD: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. (5) **And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not**, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”

This is the Lord’s way of saying this:

1Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

This is *crucial* for us to remember. Listen to those words to Baruch once again:

(5) **And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not**, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD.

Do not seek your treasure here in this world. Do not look to make a name for yourself. Because it is all coming down. Going up in smoke when Christ comes.

Luk 12:19-21 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” (20) But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

So this is what the Lord is saying to Baruch as the Babylonians are wiping out Judah. But he tells him something else – *I will save you out of it*. Because the Lord is sovereign, He is calling the shots, nothing is out of control, and He knows every single one of His flock by name. Not one will perish.

Let me ask you this: *Is it not true that many, many local churches, pastors, professing Christians are in fact seeking great things for themselves here in this world?* And when it doesn’t happen, are they not all discouraged and depressed and ready to give it up? The answer is obvious. That is exactly what we see all around us.

So let's be warned and encouraged by the Lord's words to Baruch. They are words really spoken to every one of the Lord's flock.

The Judgment of Babylon

Now, what you have in chapters 46-51 is this- Judgment upon:

- Egypt
- The Philistines
- Moab
- Ammon
- Edom
- Damascus (Syria), Kedar, Hazor
- Elam
- Babylon

How are we to understand these chapters of Scripture? Are they just prophecies already fulfilled about God's destruction of the enemies of Israel? Well, they are that certainly. His judgment did fall upon them at the hands of Babylon, and then Babylon herself was wiped out by the Medes and Persians (read about that in Daniel).

But notice in particular that the Lord *has the most to say here about His judgment upon Babylon*. Two chapters, one of which is particularly long. So

let's go ahead and read chapters 50-51, and then see how this all relates to what we already read in one of the very last chapters of the Bible, Revelation 18.

Jer 50:1-46 The word that the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, by Jeremiah the prophet:

(2) "Declare among the nations and proclaim, set up a banner and proclaim, conceal it not, and say: 'Babylon is taken, Bel is put to shame, Merodach is dismayed. Her images are put to shame, her idols are dismayed.' (3) "For out of the north a nation has come up against her, which shall make her land a desolation, and none shall dwell in it; both man and beast shall flee away.

(4) **"In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God. (5) They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, 'Come, let us join ourselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.'** (6) **"My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the**

mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold. (7) All who found them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, 'We are not guilty, for they have sinned against the LORD, their habitation of righteousness, the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

(8) "Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as male goats before the flock.

(9) For behold, I am stirring up and bringing against Babylon a gathering of great nations, from the north country.

And they shall array themselves against her. From there she shall be taken.

Their arrows are like a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed.

(10) Chaldea shall be plundered; all who plunder her shall be sated, declares the LORD.

(11) "Though you rejoice, though you exult, O plunderers of my heritage, though you frolic like a heifer in the pasture, and neigh like stallions, (12)

your mother shall be utterly shamed, and she who bore you shall be disgraced.

Behold, she shall be the last of the nations, a wilderness, a dry land,

and a desert. (13) Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited

but shall be an utter desolation; everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled, and hiss because of all her wounds.

(14) Set yourselves in array against Babylon all around, all you who bend the bow; shoot at her, spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the LORD.

(15) Raise a shout against her all around; she has surrendered; her bulwarks have fallen; her walls are

thrown down. For this is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance on her;

do to her as she has done. (16) Cut off from Babylon the sower, and the one

who handles the sickle in time of harvest; because of the sword of the

oppressor, every one shall turn to his own people, and every one shall flee to

his own land.

(17) "Israel is a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria

devoured him, and now at last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has

gnawed his bones. (18) Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of

Israel: Behold, I am bringing punishment on the king of Babylon and

his land, as I punished the king of Assyria. (19) **I will restore Israel to**

his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire

shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. (20) In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.

(21) “Go up against the land of Merathaim, and against the inhabitants of Pekod. Kill, and devote them to destruction, declares the LORD, and do all that I have commanded you. (22) The noise of battle is in the land, and great destruction! (23) How the hammer of the whole earth is cut down and broken! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations! (24) I set a snare for you and you were taken, O Babylon, and you did not know it; you were found and caught, because you opposed the LORD.

(25) The LORD has opened his armory and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Lord GOD of hosts has a work to do in the land of the Chaldeans. (26) Come against her from every quarter; open her granaries; pile her up like heaps of grain, and devote her to destruction; let nothing be left of her. (27) Kill all her bulls; let them go down to the slaughter. Woe to them, for their

day has come, the time of their punishment.

(28) “A voice! They flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple.

(29) “Summon archers against Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Encamp around her; let no one escape. Repay her according to her deeds; do to her according to all that she has done. For she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. (30) Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed on that day, declares the LORD. (31) “Behold, I am against you, O proud one, declares the Lord GOD of hosts, for your day has come, the time when I will punish you. (32) The proud one shall stumble and fall, with none to raise him up, and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will devour all that is around him.

(33) “Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them. All who took them captive have held them fast; they refuse to let them go. (34) Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will

surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of Babylon.

(35) “A sword against the Chaldeans, declares the LORD, and against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her officials and her wise men! (36) A sword against the diviners, that they may become fools! A sword against her warriors, that they may be destroyed! (37) A sword against her horses and against her chariots, and against all the foreign troops in her midst, that they may become women! A sword against all her treasures, that they may be plundered! (38) A drought against her waters, that they may be dried up! For it is a land of images, and they are mad over idols.

(39) “Therefore wild beasts shall dwell with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches shall dwell in her. She shall never again have people, nor be inhabited for all generations. (40) As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities, declares the LORD, so no man shall dwell there, and no son of man shall sojourn in her. (41) “Behold, a people comes from the north; a mighty nation and many kings are stirring from the farthest parts of the earth. (42) They lay hold of bow and

spear; they are cruel and have no mercy. The sound of them is like the roaring of the sea; they ride on horses, arrayed as a man for battle against you, O daughter of Babylon! (43) “The king of Babylon heard the report of them, and his hands fell helpless; anguish seized him, pain as of a woman in labor.

(44) “Behold, like a lion coming up from the thicket of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make them run away from her, and I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me? (45) Therefore hear the plan that the LORD has made against Babylon, and the purposes that he has formed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the little ones of their flock shall be dragged away; surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate. **(46) At the sound of the capture of Babylon the earth shall tremble, and her cry shall be heard among the nations.**”

Jer 51:1-64 Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will stir up the spirit of a destroyer against Babylon, against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai, (2) and I will send to Babylon winnowers, and they shall winnow her, and they shall empty her land, when they come

against her from every side on the day of trouble. (3) Let not the archer bend his bow, and let him not stand up in his armor. Spare not her young men; devote to destruction all her army. (4) They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans, and wounded in her streets.

(5) For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD of hosts, but the land of the Chaldeans is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. (6) “Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the LORD’s vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her.

(7) Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD’s hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad. (8) Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed. (9) We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to heaven and has been lifted up even to the skies. (10) The LORD has brought about our vindication; come, let us declare in

Zion the work of the LORD our God. (11) “Sharpen the arrows! Take up the shields! The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because his purpose concerning Babylon is to destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance for his temple.

(12) “Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon; make the watch strong; set up watchmen; prepare the ambushes; for the LORD has both planned and done what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

(13) O you who dwell by many waters, rich in treasures, your end has come; the thread of your life is cut. (14) The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: Surely I will fill you with men, as many as locusts, and they shall raise the shout of victory over you.

(15) “It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. (16) When he utters his voice there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses. (17) Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every

goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. (18) They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

(19) Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name. (20) “You are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms; (21) with you I break in pieces the horse and his rider; with you I break in pieces the chariot and the charioteer; (22) with you I break in pieces man and woman; with you I break in pieces the old man and the youth; with you I break in pieces the young man and the young woman; (23) with you I break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; with you I break in pieces the farmer and his team; with you I break in pieces governors and commanders.

(24) “I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the LORD. (25) “Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the

LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain. (26) No stone shall be taken from you for a corner and no stone for a foundation, but you shall be a perpetual waste, declares the LORD. (27) “Set up a standard on the earth; blow the trumpet among the nations; prepare the nations for war against her; summon against her the kingdoms, Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz; appoint a marshal against her; bring up horses like bristling locusts. (28) Prepare the nations for war against her, the kings of the Medes, with their governors and deputies, and every land under their dominion. (29) The land trembles and writhes in pain, for the LORD's purposes against Babylon stand, to make the land of Babylon a desolation, without inhabitant.

(30) The warriors of Babylon have ceased fighting; they remain in their strongholds; their strength has failed; they have become women; her dwellings are on fire; her bars are broken. (31) One runner runs to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to tell the king of Babylon that his city is taken on every side; (32) the fords have been seized, the marshes are

burned with fire, and the soldiers are in panic. (33) For thus says the LORD 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 her harvest will come.”

(34) “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me; he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel; he has swallowed me like a monster; he has filled his stomach with my delicacies; he has rinsed me out. (35) The violence done to me and to my kinsmen be upon Babylon,” let the inhabitant of Zion say. “My blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,” let Jerusalem say. (36) Therefore thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will plead your cause and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her fountain dry, (37) and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, the haunt of jackals, a horror and a hissing, without inhabitant. (38) “They shall roar together like lions; they shall growl like lions' cubs. (39) While they are inflamed I will prepare them a feast and make them drunk, that they may become merry, then sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the LORD. (40) I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams and male

goats. (41) “How Babylon is taken, the praise of the whole earth seized! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations! (42) The sea has come up on Babylon; she is covered with its tumultuous waves. (43) Her cities have become a horror, a land of drought and a desert, a land in which no one dwells, and through which no son of man passes.

(44) And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and take out of his mouth what he has swallowed. The nations shall no longer flow to him; the wall of Babylon has fallen. **(45) “Go out of the midst of her, my people! Let every one save his life from the fierce anger of the LORD!**

(46) Let not your heart faint, and be not fearful at the report heard in the land, when a report comes in one year and afterward a report in another year, and violence is in the land, and ruler is against ruler. (47) “Therefore, behold, the days are coming when I will punish the images of Babylon; her whole land shall be put to shame, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her. (48) Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them, shall sing for joy over Babylon, for the destroyers shall come against them out of the north, declares

the LORD. (49) Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel, just as for Babylon have fallen the slain of all the earth. (50) “You who have escaped from the sword, go, do not stand still! Remember the LORD from far away, and let Jerusalem come into your mind: (51) ‘We are put to shame, for we have heard reproach; dishonor has covered our face, for foreigners have come into the holy places of the LORD's house.’ (52) “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will execute judgment upon her images, and through all her land the wounded shall groan. (53) Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify her strong height, yet destroyers would come from me against her, declares the LORD.

(54) “A voice! A cry from Babylon! The noise of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans! (55) For the LORD is laying Babylon waste and stilling her mighty voice. Their waves roar like many waters; the noise of their voice is raised, (56) for a destroyer has come upon her, upon Babylon; her warriors are taken; their bows are broken in pieces, for the LORD is a God of recompense; he will surely repay. (57) I will make drunk her officials and her wise men, her governors, her

commanders, and her warriors; they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

(58) “Thus says the LORD of hosts: The broad wall of Babylon shall be leveled to the ground, and her high gates shall be burned with fire. The peoples labor for nothing, and the nations weary themselves only for fire.”

(59) The word that Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon, in the fourth year of his reign. Seraiah was the quartermaster. (60) Jeremiah wrote in a book all the disaster that should come upon Babylon, all these words that are written concerning Babylon. (61) And Jeremiah said to Seraiah: “When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, (62) and say, ‘O LORD, you have said concerning this place that you will cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate forever.’ (63) When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, (64) and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon

her, and they shall become exhausted.””
Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

God’s judgment upon Babylon 110 verses! What is this all about?

Well, let’s make some observations here about several of these verses which give us a clue that the destruction of Babylon was more than just the historic destruction of that ancient kingdom. Check it out-

(50:4) “In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God. (5) They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, ‘Come, let us join ourselves to the LORD **in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.**’ (6) “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold. (7) All who found them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, ‘We are not guilty, for they have sinned against the LORD, their habitation of righteousness, the LORD, the hope of their fathers.’

Jer 50:19-20 I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. (20) In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.

Jer 50:33-34 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them. All who took them captive have held them fast; they refuse to let them go. (34) Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of Babylon.

Jer 50:46 At the sound of the capture of Babylon the earth shall tremble, and her cry shall be heard among the nations.”

Jer 51:5-6 For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD of hosts, but the land of the Chaldeans is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. (6) “Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment,

for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her.

Jer 51:45 “Go out of the midst of her, my people! Let every one save his life from the fierce anger of the LORD!

There are some pretty strong hints here that this judgment upon the historic Babylon represents something greater – something yet to come. [This is going to take more time to explore than we have this morning, but let's just introduce what is here].

Consider the themes:

1. A day would come when Israel and Judah would genuinely repent and seek the Lord.
2. There will be an “everlasting covenant” established between them and the Lord.
3. A restoration of Israel in such a way that: *In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.*
4. Repeated command to “come out of” Babylon. Do not be a part of

her and do not linger there because her judgment is imminent. “*Get out of the midst of her, my people!*” Reminds us of Lot fleeing Sodom.

All of these themes Jeremiah announced so long ago are fore-shadows of God's promised judgment of the Babylon that has been behind all of the Babylons of history. That is to say, we should easily recognize this language and these themes *as New Covenant promises which have now begun in Christ*. In this kind of OT prophecy/promise passage, we can know that “Israel and Judah” are in fact not the earthly Israel, but are the true Israel – the elect of God, the true Church. Let me show you:

Jer 31:31-33 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make **a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah**, (32) not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. (33) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law

within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Now, let's permit the New Testament to interpret "Israel and Judah" for us –

Heb 10:12-18 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, (13) waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. (14) For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (15) And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," (17) then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." (18) Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Hebrews is talking about the people of God in Christ. The true Israel which consists of all the elect of God from all nations. And the Apostle in doing so is telling us that when Jeremiah and other OT prophets spoke of "Israel and Judah" in New Covenant wording, they

are not telling us that the people of God are the Jews and that the Promised Land is Palestine and Jesus is going to come and be King in the earthly Jerusalem, and so on. That is the stuff that most of us have been taught and it is the error that fuels all of the mishandling and twisting of the Bible, missing God's real and vastly greater plan of redemption in Christ.

So when we come to Babylon, and when Jeremiah is telling us that God has decreed His judgment upon Babylon, and that prophetic scripture is meshed with New Covenant language and concepts, we know that he is speaking of God's judgment of *a much more vast and worldwide Babylon*. And in fact, that is just the case as we will see.

Let me just get you pointed in the direction we will plan to pick up at next time:

Rev 18:1-8 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. (2) And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean

spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. (3) For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” (4) Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; (5) for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. (6) Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. (7) As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’ (8) For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

“Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;”

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. It is Babylon, and it is going down along with all who love it.

We will see obvious parallels between Rev 18 and Jeremiah 50-51. And in particular, let’s leave off with this command given to us as Christ’s people