

## CUP OF GOD'S WRATH UPON ALL NATIONS

(Jer 25:1-26) 09/12/18

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### I. CONTEXT OF CHAPTER 25

- A. *This chapter deals with a time of national and international ramifications. In 605 B.C. (some say 606), the Babylonians defeated the Egyptians at the Battle of Carchemish, thus bringing to an end the domination of Palestine by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt. Carchemish was one of the decisive battles of the world because it affected the course of history in western Asia. Through it Jeremiah was enabled by the Lord to see the working out of the divine purposes of judgment on Judah by means of Babylon (EXP).*
- B. *Battle of Carchemish Carchemish is mentioned in the western campaigns of several Assyrian kings. In 717 BC, Sargon II made Carchemish an Assyrian province and appointed a governor. After the fall of Nineveh, the Assyrian kings removed to Haran, and then to Carchemish. In 605 BC, Pharaoh Neco II and the Egyptian army came to Assyria's aid and faced Nebuchadnezzar II in battle at Carchemish (Jer. 46:2). [Four years earlier] ...in a pro-Babylonian move, King Josiah attempted to prevent the Egyptian advance at Megiddo [Battle at Megiddo], but he was fatally wounded (2 Chr. 35:20-25) (Bible Places).*

### II. TIME FRAME OF THE PROPHECY (1-3)

- A. In the previous chapters, Jeremiah was speaking of the time of King Zedekiah. Jeremiah gave the time frame for the forthcoming prophecy. Chapter 25 takes place in the **fourth** year of **Jehoiakim** (605 BC).
- B. Jeremiah also recorded that **Nebuchadnezzar II** began his first year as **king of Babylon** in the same year. Two major events took place in Nebuchadnezzar's first year in power. The first was the battle of Carchemish. The second was Nebuchadnezzar's first wave of the deportation of Judah (1).
- C. Jeremiah calculated the years beginning at King Josiah's **thirteenth year** as king (628 BC). King Josiah reigned for a total of 31 years that ended in 609 BC. Adding Jehoiakim's four years as king, the total time that passed since Josiah's thirteenth year was **twenty-three years** (3a).
- D. Jeremiah's prophecy was to all of the inhabitants of **Judah** and to **Jerusalem** (2).

### III. BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY PROPHESED (3b-10)

- A. Did not Listen to the Lord (3b-4)
  - 1. Jeremiah told all of Judah that though God had spoken to them time after time they would not listen.
  - 2. God had repeatedly spoken to them through His **prophets**, who are also **His servants**, concerning judgment (2Ki 17:13; Jer 7:25).
- B. Must Turn from Evil Ways (5)
  - 1. Even though judgment had been forecasted against them, God was offering them a chance to repent.
  - 2. They were to **turn** to the Lord away **from** there disobedient ways and deeds. If they would have, they would have remained in the Promised Land.
- C. Must Not Go After Other Gods (6)
  - 1. God was also asking them to repent from their idolatry. They continually went after **other gods**.
  - 2. If they would have repented, then God would not have been **provoked** to anger to bring judgment against them (**do you no harm**).
- D. Provoked the Lord (7)
  - 1. Nevertheless, they would not repent or listen to the Lord.
  - 2. Therefore, because the Lord was provoked to anger, He brought down judgment upon them.
- E. Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar Was Sent (8-9a)
  - 1. Since they chose not to obey the Lord's words, God was going to bring judgment.
  - 2. Judgment would come in the form of **King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon**. The "**families of the north**" would be the allies that submitted to his power after the battle of Carchemish.
  - 3. The Lord called King Nebuchadnezzar, "**My servant**," not because he was godly but because he was an instrument of the Lord through whom He would carry out His judgment.
- F. Desolation and Removal of Joy (9b-10)
  - 1. Not only would Judah be judged, but **all the nations** would eventually be judged.

2. Even though Judah would experience its first wave of deportation shortly, they all would eventually be taken into captivity and Jerusalem would be **utterly destroyed**. The same would happen to the other nations (9b).
3. With this destruction and judgment comes the removal of **joy** and **gladness**. All normal activity including normal celebrations of marriage would cease while in captivity (10).

#### IV. SEVENTY YEARS IN CAPTIVITY (11-14)

##### A. Seventy Years in Captivity (11)

1. The nations will be under Babylonian rule for seventy years because the Babylonian rule will last seventy years. The end of the Babylonian rule will allow for the release of Judah from captivity.
2. This is the first time Jeremiah mentioned the length of the captivity. Elsewhere Jeremiah talks about seventy years as the duration of the Babylonian Captivity (Jer 29:10).
3. *Defenders of the precise period of seventy years offer a choice between 605 B.C. (or 606) and 536 B.C., when resettlement took place under Zerubbabel and Joshua; or 586 B.C., the beginning of the Babylonian captivity, and 516 B.C., the year of the completion of Zerubbabel's temple (so Archer et al.). Of the two options for the precise-dating view, the former appears more tenable in view of the period of the three deportations, dating from Jehoiakim's reign to Jehoiachin's to Zedekiah's. (EXP).*
4. *This period probably began in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, when Jerusalem was first captured and the temple treasures were taken. It ends with the decree of Cyrus to let the Jews return, spanning from ca. 605/04 B.C. to 536/35 B.C. The exact number of Sabbath years is 490 years, the period from Saul to the Babylonian captivity. This was retribution for their violation of the Sabbath law (cf. Lev. 26:34, 35; 2 Chr. 36:21] (MSB).*

##### B. Babylonian Punishment After Seventy Years (12-14)

1. After seventy years, the Lord will punish Babylon. This will take place during the reign of Cyrus the Great of Persia in 536 BC. Because of the **iniquities** of the Babylonian rule they will come to **everlasting desolation** (12).
2. The Lord will not only fulfill His prophecies concerning Judah, but He will also fulfill His prophecies of judgment against the nations (13).
3. *[Babylon's] rule was terminated by the Medes and Persians under Cyrus [c. 536–535 B.C.]. (EXP).*
4. As Babylon made slaves out of the nations, including Judah, the Lord will bring the Babylonians into servitude (14).

#### V. PUNISHMENT OF ALL NATIONS (15-26)

##### A. Cup of Wrath to All the Nations (15)

1. This prophecy has in view the destruction that Nebuchadnezzar will bring to the nations at Carchemish and Judah.
2. This vision or figure of speech portrayed Jeremiah prophesying the judgment of God's cup of wrath to the nations.
3. The **cup of wine of wrath** is a common expression of judgment as it is used here (Jer 49:12; 51:7; Job 21:20; Psa 60:3; Isa 51:17, 22; Eze 23:31; Mar 10:39; 14:36; Joh 18:11). Sometimes the cup symbolizes blessing (Psa 16:5; Luk 22:17; 1Co 10:16).

##### B. Nations Made to Drink the Cup (16-17)

1. When the nations drink the Lord's cup, that is, the **sword that [the Lord] will send**, they will become delirious and insane with fear and chaos.
2. The Lord's judgment will be the sword in the hand and rule of Nebuchadnezzar.
3. The nations are named in vss. 18-26.

#### VI. NAMING OF THE NATIONS

- A. Kings of Jerusalem (18)
- B. King of Egypt (19)
- C. Kings of Uz, Kings of Philistine land (Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron and the remnant of Ashdod) (20)
- D. Kings of Edom, Moab and the sons of Ammon (21)
- E. Kings of Tyre and Sidon (22)
- F. Kings of Dedan, Tema, Buz (23)
- G. Kings of Arabia (24)
- H. Kings of Zimri, Elam and Media (25)
- I. Kings of the north, Sheshach (26)

#### VII. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

- A. Twenty-Three Years in Jeremiah's Eyes

1. How difficult it was for Jeremiah, through no fault of his own, to watch the spiritual decline of Judah. Similar to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, spiritual decline is the norm among man.
  2. *Sad indeed it must have been for Jeremiah to look back on twenty-three years of faithful, earnest ministry for the Lord and then to have to pronounce it a failure as far as Judah was concerned (v.3). (EXP)*
- B. The Cup of God's Wrath
1. The cup of God's wrath will come again as depicted in the book of Revelation.
  2. Similar to Jeremiah's warning, the apostle John has warned the world of the coming cup of God's wrath (Rev 14:8, 10; 16:19; 18:6).