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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 39 – Babylon's Fall

THURSDAY

OPEN

What, Beloved, are you investing your life in? What are your hopes? Your dreams? Your goals? What do you plan to attain and how are you going to attain it? Can you do it in your own strength? O Beloved, you will never make it unless God is the "habitation of your righteousness." (See Jeremiah 31:23) Because everything else in this world is going to be brought to an end. Only God lasts.

PART ONE

At the beginning of this week we talked about America and it's not the America that we know. It's America that is imploded and it's so disappointing. And it's so devastating to see what is happening to our country. But how can you and I move forward in the midst of all of this? It's to understand that God's purposes stand and to know that God is the "habitation of our righteousness." (See Jeremiah 31:23) So anything that

God does in our lives that make us dependent on Him is worth it, because then we see who our God is. Then we see His strength. Then we look for His purposes, not ours, and we know the end of the story because we've opened the Book and we've read the Book, and God does nothing but what He tells His prophets beforehand. (See Amos 3:7) So we're seeing in Jeremiah chapter 50 and 51 what God has planned for Babylon. We're seeing that there are two different cities that are predominant in the Word of God. There's Babel that becomes Babylon and there is Jerusalem where God has placed His name, and the place that His throne will be. Okay now, in Jeremiah chapter 51 we're on verse 19. He has just told what the idols are like and how those that follow them are stupid and they are without knowledge. (See Jeremiah 51:17) If you're worshipping anyone other than God; and Precious One, just listen. I want to say it nicely. But that, God says is stupidity. (See Jeremiah 51:17) It is stupidity. He says in verse 19: **"The portion of Jacob is not like these; for the Maker of all is He, and of the tribe of His inheritance...."** (Jeremiah 51:19) In other words, "I'm the Creator." He has just shown us this in verse 15 and 16 of this chapter. (See Jeremiah 51:15-16) He says, **"...The Maker of all is He, and of the tribe of His inheritance; the LORD of hosts is His name,"** (Jeremiah 51:19) **"Jehovah-Sabaoth,"** the One that does **"...His will in the army of heaven...among the inhabitants of the earth...."** (Daniel 4:35) **"He says, 'You are My war-club, My weapon of war....'"** Now when He says, **"...You are My war-club...,**" who is He talking about? (Jeremiah 51:20) He's talking about Babylon. And so if you're color-coding every reference to **"Babylon"** and I did it in black, light black, He says **"...You are My war-club, My weapon of war...."** (Jeremiah 51:20) **"I've used you. You've been the hammer as we saw of all the earth."** (See Jeremiah 50:23) **"...With you I shatter nations...with you I destroy kingdoms. With you I shatter the horse and [the] rider...with you I shatter the chariot and [the] rider...with you I shatter man and woman...with you I shatter old man and youth...with you I shatter young [men] and virgin[s]...with you I**

shatter the shepherd and his flock...with you I shatter the farmer and his team...with you I shatter governors and prefects.” (Jeremiah 51:20-23) Prefects are those that rule over areas of the realm. He says, “I do that with Babylon. I’m God.” [“As I have purposed so it shall come to pass—what I have planned—], Isaiah 14:24, [“No man can thwart.”] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 14:24, 27) He’s God! He says **“But....”** “I’ve used Babylon to do all of this.” “[But] **I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all their evil that they have done...,**” now where? **“...In Zion....” (Jeremiah 51:24)** Listen to me very carefully. Israel is the pupil of God’s eye. It says “apple”; it means the pupil of God’s eye. (See Zechariah 2:8) You don’t stick your finger in God’s eye and get away with it. You don’t come against Israel and get away with it. And you see when America turns from Israel, when America plays the harlot against God and turns against Israel, and they’re playing the harlot. You say, “But it’s politically expedient. But you don’t know what’s happening to the Palestinians and this and that.” Listen, go back to the Word of God and tremble if America does not support Israel. Because God has judged every nation that has not stood with Israel, but has come against it. We think we’re so smart. He says, **“Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain[s]...,”** talking to Babylon. **“...Who destroys the whole earth,’ declares the LORD, ‘And I will stretch out My hand against you, and [I will] roll you down from the crags, and I will make you a burnt out mountain.” (Jeremiah 51:25)** Now mountains are used as a synonym for kingdoms. He says, **“[And] they will not take from you [one] stone for a corner nor a stone for foundations....” (Jeremiah 51:26)** Many, many times when they rebuild a city after it’s been destroyed they’ll take the rocks that are there from the destruction and they will use them to rebuild the city. But Babylon’s not going to be rebuilt. It says, **“They will not take from you even a stone for [the] corner [or] a stone for foundations, but you will be desolate forever,’ declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 51:26)** So you want to mark “forever” because there is no rebuilding. There is no replanting

of Babylon. And this is why, Beloved. You know that this is still yet future. Because you can go to Iraq and you can see what Saddam Hussein has rebuilt of the city of Babylon, the temples that he's put there. He was making his name great. He wanted to be like Nebuchadnezzar. But where is he? He's dead and he is in a place of eternal judgment. It says, **"Lift up [the] signal in the land, blow a trumpet among the nations! Consecrate the nations against her...,**" against Babylon, **"...summon against her the kingdoms...Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz; appoint a marshal [over] her, bring up the horses like bristly locusts. Consecrate the nations against her, the kings of the Medes, their governors...their prefects, and every land of their dominion. So the land quakes and writhes, for the purposes ...against Babylon [will] stand...."** (Jeremiah 51:27-29) Now listen, the Medes and the Persians unified together and they conquered Babylon, but just remember they spared it. They spared it. Now watch. He says **"...To make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitants."** (Jeremiah 51:29) And that's what you see in Isaiah 13. So next to that verse you want to write Isaiah 13. (See Isaiah 13:19) **"The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, they stay in the strongholds; their strength is exhausted, they [have become] like women; their dwelling places are set on fire...."** (Jeremiah 51:30) Remember **"fire"** is a key word here. And you go to Revelation chapter 18 and you see Babylon being destroyed by fire, the smoke of her burning going up. (See Revelation 18:8-9) ["The bars of her gates are broken."] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 51:58) **"One courier runs to meet another, and one messenger [runs] to meet another, to tell the king of Babylon that his city has been captured from end to end."** (Jeremiah 51:31) "Run here, run there. Run and tell the king his city has been captured." And that's exactly what happens under the Medes and Persians, but it's gonna happen again. **"For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time it is stamped firm....'"** (Jeremiah 51:33) And in a sense that's what happened with the Medes and the Persians. They stamped it firm, but they

did not destroy it. It says, **“...Yet in a little while the time of harvest will come for her. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has devoured me and crushed me....”** (Jeremiah 51:33-34) Now we’re going back to the time of Jeremiah. **“...He has set me...like an empty vessel....”** (Jeremiah 51:34) Who is he talking about? Who’s the “me”? The “me” is Israel and so I underline the first “me” I marked with the Star of David in verse 34. And then every “me” and “my” I put in blue. He says **“...He has set me down like an empty vessel; he has swallowed me [up] like a monster, he has filled his stomach with my delicacies....”** (Jeremiah 51:34) In other words, Nebuchadnezzar came in—we’re gonna see it in the next program, and we’re going to see what he did to Jerusalem. **“...He has washed me away. May the violence done to me and...my flesh be upon Babylon,’ the inhabitant of Zion will say...“May my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,” Jerusalem will say. Therefore thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I am going to plead your case....”** (Jeremiah 51:34-36) God is going to plead the case of Israel. **“...And exact full vengeance for you...I will dry up her sea and make her fountain dry. Babylon will become a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals, an object of horror and hissing, without inhabitants. They will roar together like young lions, they will growl like lions’ cubs. [And] when they become heated up, I will serve them their banquet and make them drunk, that they may become jubilant and [they] may sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake up...I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams together with male goats.”** (Jeremiah 51:36-40) Now listen to what He says: **“How Sheshak has been captured, and the praise of the whole earth has been seized...!”** (Jeremiah 51:40-41) Who’s the praise of the whole earth? It’s Babylon. I mean the earth loves Babylon. Babylon is me. Babylon is me having my way. Babylon is me in rebellion against God. Babylon is me saying, “Listen, I will make a name for myself.” Now when He says **“Sheshak has been captured....,”** that’s Jeremiah 25:26 when earlier he speaks about the destruction of Babylon. (See Jeremiah 25:26) **“...And the**

praise of the whole earth [has] been seized! How Babylon has become an object of horror among the nations!” (Jeremiah 51:41) O Beloved, don’t place your faith in your ambitions and your desires. Make Him the “habitation of righteousness.” (See Jeremiah 31:23) We’ll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

Babylon, as you have seen is going to be made desolate. It is going to be destroyed. So what is God’s word to those of us that are pursuing, so to speak, a Babylonian lifestyle, a Babylonian lifestyle where we play the harlot against God, a Babylonian lifestyle where we live immorally, and maybe even still call ourselves Christians? Listen to what he says. He says, in verse 42, **“The sea has come...over Babylon; she has been engulfed with tumultuous waves. Her cities have become an object of horror, a parched land and a desert, a land in which no one lives....” (Jeremiah 51:42-43)** In other words, He’s going to make it barren. And Beloved, your life will be barren too, if God is not the “habitation of righteousness for you.” (See Jeremiah 31:23) It says, **“...And through [whom] no son of man passes. I will punish Bel in Babylon....” (Jeremiah 51:43-44)** Now that’s a false god. That’s worshipping your way. **“...I will make what he has swallowed...,”** what this god has swallowed, **“...come out of his mouth....” (Jeremiah 51:44)** In other words, “I’m gonna make him vomit.” **“...And the nations will no longer stream to him...,”** to Babylon, **“...even the wall of Babylon has fallen down!” (Jeremiah 51:44)** Now listen to His exhortation. **“Come [out] from her midst, My people...each of you save yourselves from the fierce anger of the LORD.” (Jeremiah 51:45)** Now in Jeremiah 50, verse 8, He says, **“...Wander away from [her]....” (Jeremiah 50:8)** In Jeremiah 51, verse 6, He says: **“...Flee from [her]....” (Jeremiah 51:6)** Now He’s saying: **“Come [out] from her midst, My people and each of you save yourselves from the fierce anger of the**

LORD.” (Jeremiah 51:45) “Make Me your habitation. Come to Me.”
“Now so that your heart does not grow faint, and you are not afraid at the report that [is to] be heard in the land—....’ (Jeremiah 51:46) I think He’s giving them warning “Get out of Babylon!” And I think today He’s speaking to you: “Get out of Babylon. Make the Lord your habitation. (See Jeremiah 31:23) Change the direction of your life. Be consumed with God.” Wait for God. Wait for His righteousness. Wait for that New Jerusalem. And so He says in verse 46, He says **“Now so that your heart does not grow faint, and you are not afraid at the report that will be heard in the land—for the report...,”** now watch it, **“...will come in one year...after that another report in another year....”** “I’m giving you a chance to come out.” **“...And violence will be in the land with ruler [upon] ruler—.”**
(Jeremiah 51:46) “Therefore...[the] days are coming when I will punish the idols of Babylon; and her whole land will be put to shame and all [of] her slain will fall in her midst. Then [the] heaven and [the] earth and all that is in them will shout for joy over Babylon, for the destroyers will come to her from the north,’ declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 51:46-48) They’re gonna shout with joy. I want you to go to Revelation chapter 18 and look at verse 20. **“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her,”** against Babylon. **(Revelation 18:20)** In chapter 19 it says **“After these things I heard...a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous; [and] He has judged the great harlot [Babylon] who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bondservants on her.’ And a second time they said, ‘Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.’” (Revelation 19:1-3)** Now I want to ask you a question. Is that what you want as your destiny? Is that where you want to make your investment, in a city, in a lifestyle, in a world system that is against God, whose smoke rises up forever and ever? (See Revelation 19:3) Go back to

Jeremiah 51, verse 49: “[Indeed Babylon is] **to fall for the slain of [the] Israel...also for Babylon the slain of...the earth have fallen. You who have escaped the sword, depart! Do not stay...!**” (Jeremiah 51:49-50) He said, “**Wander away....**” (Jeremiah 50:8) He said: “**Flee...!**” (Jeremiah 51:6) He says, [“Come forth from her midst. Save yourselves!”]. (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 51:6) Now He’s saying, “**...Depart! Do not stay! Remember the LORD from afar, and let Jerusalem come to your mind.**” (Jeremiah 51:50) You say, “But I’m not a Jew.” But there is a: “**...new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven...;**” Revelation chapter 21. (Revelation 21:2) And it is the holy city where you and I will live forever and ever if we belong to God. (See Revelation 21:2) It says “**We [have] are ashamed because we have heard reproach; disgrace has covered our faces, for aliens have entered the holy places of the LORD’S house.**” (Jeremiah 51:51) They’ve walked into the holy of holies. That’s what they did in Nebuchadnezzar’s day. That’s what they did in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. That’s what they will do in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) “**Therefore behold, the days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘When I will punish her idols, and the mortally wounded will groan throughout her land. Though Babylon should ascend to the heavens...though she should fortify her lofty stronghold, from Me destroyers will come to her....’**” (Jeremiah 51:52-53) “**Though Babylon should ascend to the heavens....**” (Jeremiah 51:53) Go back to Genesis chapter 11, verse 4. (See Genesis 11:4) Look at Isaiah chapter 14, verses 11 to 15. (See Isaiah 14:11-15) They think they can do it on their own. And this is what He says: “**The sound of an outcry from Babylon...of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans! For the LORD is going to destroy Babylon...He will make her loud noise vanish from her. And their waves will roar like many waters; the tumult of their voices sound forth. For the destroyer is coming against her, against Babylon, and her mighty men will be captured, their bows are shattered....,**” why? Now listen, and don’t ever forget it. “**...The LORD is**

a God of recompense, He will fully repay.” (Jeremiah 51:54-56) [You sow to the flesh; of the flesh you reap corruption. You sow to the Spirit, of the Spirit you reap eternal life.] (PARAPHRASE Galatians 6:8) He says **“I will make her princes and her wise men drunk, her governors, her prefects...her mighty men, that they may sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake up,’ declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘The broad wall of Babylon will be completely razed and her high gates will be set on fire...;”** Revelation 18:9. (See Revelation 18:9) **“...So the peoples will toil for nothing** [the peoples will toil for nothing]...” **(Jeremiah 51:57-58)** Are you toiling for nothing? Are you setting up treasures in heaven? **“...And the nations will become exhausted only for fire. “ (Jeremiah 51:58)** Babylon will be destroyed by fire. You saw it in Revelation chapter 18. (See Revelation 18:8-9) **“The message which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the grandson of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign....” (Jeremiah 51:59)** Who is Seraiah? It is Baruch’s brother. And Baruch’s brother goes with King Zedekiah in the fourth year of his reign to go to Babylon. (See Jeremiah 51:61) Think Daniel chapter 3, when Nebuchadnezzar gathers all the prefects and the satraps and everyone that’s ruling his kingdom and makes them come and bow to down before a head, a statue all of gold because Nebuchadnezzar intends to rule forever and ever and ever. (See Daniel 3:1-3) He forgets that there’s a God in heaven. O Beloved, in the fourth year of Zedekiah, that’s when you see Jeremiah 27 and 28 saying, “You go to Babylon.” (See Jeremiah 27:12 & 28:14) But now he takes another message: “Babylon’s going to be destroyed. Come out of Babylon.” (See Jeremiah 51:6)