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

TITLE: Program 32– Judgment On The Pride Of Egypt

TUESDAY

OPEN

When [the disciples asked Jesus when the end of the age would come and what would be the sign of His coming] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:3), one of the things that He said is, “...**Nation will rise against nation....**” (Matthew 24:7) Why all this competition between the nations? Why does somebody get in power and want to rule and subdue and make things go his way? Is it because he's seeking greatness for himself? What does God think about that? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Somehow nations think that they can stand against God and do whatever they please. And what we're going to see today is, that an individual and a nation is not to seek greatness for themselves. You and I were created, Beloved, for the glory of God. What do I mean by the glory of God? I mean to give a correct opinion, a correct estimate of who God is. If you and I go

back to the forming of the nations, and the nations were formed after the flood, after Noah's ark stopped and they got off the ark, Noah's three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth fathered children and they became the nations. (See Genesis 9:18-19) All those nations were instructed that they were to go out, spread out over all the earth, that they to be scattered and they were to multiply. And instead, they went in rebellion against God and they said "No!" And so they built themselves the tower of Babel. You can read about this in Genesis. And they built the tower of Babel and they said this: ["We will make a name for ourselves"]. (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 11:4) They were seeking greatness for themselves. So what God is going to do at this time in Jeremiah, He is going to give the prophecies regarding the nations. Now these prophecies were written down in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. But they come at the end of the book of Jeremiah, because Jeremiah is to be a prophet not only to Judah and to Jerusalem, but he is to be a prophet to the nations. So what God has done is he's saved these prophecies, and He in His sovereignty has had Jeremiah lay them out for the end of the book. The first message comes to Egypt. Now as we look at these, we're not going to labor long, because in the first place we don't have a long time to labor, because we have to cover chapter 46 through 49 and some of these are long. But what I want you to watch for is people in rebellion to God. All right? And just see what you can pick up. Now, if you have downloaded the study guide, if you have gone to preceptsforlife.com, we have a study guide for you. And we have it every time we teach a book of the Bible because we want you to discern truth for yourself. We want you to know truth, because the minute that you get involved in the Word of God you are hearing from God Himself. And God then takes His Word and He uses it to wash you, to cleanse you. He uses it to discern the thought and intents of your heart. He uses it to show you how you should live. So this is what we want to see: What is He saying to the nations? What does it mean to me? What can I learn from them? Chapter 46, verse 1: **"That which came as the word of**

the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.” (Jeremiah

46:1) Now anytime “nations” are mentioned I mark it in a special way. I personally color it green and underline it in brown. So He’s going to tell us now which nations He’s talking to first. Verse 2: **“To Egypt....”** So He’s going to talk to Egypt in chapter 46, in 2-12. He’s got a message, and that message, **“...[concerns] the army of Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt, which [that army] ...,”** and you’ve gotta make sure that you understand that, **“...[which that army] was by the Euphrates River at Carchemish....”**

(Jeremiah 46:2) Now if you have a study guide you can look at that study guide and you can see where Carchemish was. There was a very decisive, important battle that went on in 605 B.C. at Carchemish. And what you had is, you had Pharaoh Neco coming up from Egypt, you have Nebuchadnezzar coming over from Babylon, and you have a conflict there. And so Egypt is bringing up their armies. Of course, Egypt has to go right through the land of Israel. It says, **“...Which was by the Euphrates river....” (Jeremiah 46:2)** And remember, the Euphrates River goes all the way back over to Elam, back in to Babylon, and then it goes north. And this is the way that they traveled because that was their water route and they had to have water. And to go straight from Babylon, straight over to Israel, would be through desert. So it says: **“...Which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:” (Jeremiah 46:2)** So He’s gonna talk to the army. Okay. And this is what he says, **“Line up...shield and buckler...draw [up] near for battle! Harness the horses...mount the steeds....”** He says, **“...And take your stand with helmets *on*! Polish the spears, put on the scale-armor! Why have I seen *it*? They are terrified, they are drawing back, and their mighty men are defeated...[they] have taken refuge in flight, [and] without facing back; terror...on every side!’ declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 46:3-5)** Here you are, you’re all spiffed up for battle and now you’re retreating. He says, **“Let not the swift man flee, nor the mighty man escape; in the north beside**

the river Euphrates they have stumbled and [they have] fallen.” He says, **“Who is this that rises like the Nile....” (Jeremiah 46:6-7)** In other words, Egypt is saying, “We’re gonna get Babylon. They’re not gonna succeed; they’re not gonna come down this way. So they rise like the Nile River that overflows its banks. **“...Like the rivers whose waters surge about? Egypt rises like the Nile, even like....” (Jeremiah 46:7-8)** **“...And He...said, ‘I will rise and cover [the] land....’”** “I’ll take over.” Seeking greatness for himself. And he says, **“...I will surely destroy the city and its inhabitants.’ Go up, you horses, and drive madly, you chariots, that the mighty men [might] march forward: Ethiopia and Put, that handle the shield, and the Lydians, that handle *and* bend the bow.” (Jeremiah 46:8-9)** This is Libya this is over in this area of the continent of Africa. And here are these men coming, and here they are that bend the bow. And it says, **“...That day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts....” (Jeremiah 46:10)** “You’re seeking greatness for yourself, you think that you’re going to rise up like the Nile, that you’re going to take over, and that they’re going to be just put down?” He says, **“...that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts....” (Jeremiah 46:10)** What is God saying? God’s saying, “I’m in charge. I’m in charge.” In Daniel chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar eventually discovers this. And he eventually discovers, “Hey, you didn’t get famous, you didn’t get great on your own. I’m the one that did it.” And that’s when Nebuchadnezzar turns around and takes a pen, the quill out of Daniel’s hand and begins to write in Daniel chapter 4, and as he writes he says, **“...[I know that you do according to your will]...,”** now watch, **“...in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay [your] hand, [none can say: What are you doing?].” (Daniel 4:35, KJV)** Why? Because [He is God and there is no other]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 45:18, KJV) **“[So] that day belongs to the Lord...of hosts, a day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; and the sword devour and be [sated] and drink its fill of their blood; For there will be a slaughter for the**

Lord...of hosts, in the land of the north by the river Euphrates.”

(Jeremiah 46:10) In other words, they're gonna go north, and they are going to get slaughtered. It is a day of vengeance, and this is what he says: **“Go up to Gilead and obtain balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt! In vain [you] have multiplied remedies; there is no healing for you. The nations have heard....,”** now catch this word “shame,” **“...[The nations have heard] of your shame....” (Jeremiah 46:11-12)** It's all the talk. I mean, they're all talking how “Egypt was defeated! Egypt was defeated at the battle of Carchemish!” And it says, **“...One warrior has stumbled over another....” (Jeremiah 46:12)** What happened...they believe according to the records, not in the Bible, but according to their records, what they believe is, the weak men, they got afraid. The strong men are there. They start to retreat. The strong men can't get by the weak men. They're just stumbling in this battle. He says, **“For one warrior has stumbled over another, and both of them have fallen down together.” (Jeremiah 46:12)** Now that's the first message. Verse 13: **“This is the message which the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to smite the land of Egypt.” (Jeremiah 46:13)** Do you remember that? Do remember it from last week? Do you remember how after, in chapter 39, when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem? (See Jeremiah 39:1) And he left a remnant in the land? (See Jeremiah 39:10) And the remnant went to Jeremiah and they said, What should we do? Where should we go? Ask God and tell us. (See Jeremiah 42:2-3) [“Whatever God says, whether we like it or not, we will do it.”] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 42:6) And so Jeremiah goes to the Lord. Ten days later he comes back with the answer. And he says, “You are to stay in this land, you are not to go down to Egypt.” And then he tells them the consequences of going down to Egypt. (See Jeremiah 42:10-17) And they put their hands on their hips, thinking that they are smarter than God, that they are greater than God, and they want their pleasure. And they say,

“We’re going to Egypt. We’re going to Egypt where we will not know famine. We’ve been in famine and we’re going to go to Egypt. We’re going to go to Egypt. (See Jeremiah 43:2-7) We’re making bread cakes to the queen of heaven, she took care of us and we didn’t suffer then. (See Jeremiah 44:17-18) What are they doing? They’re seeking greatness for themselves instead of the glory of God. So they said, we’re gonna go to Egypt. We’re not gonna see the sword anymore; we’re not going to face famine. We’re not going to suffer pestilence. Oh, oh, oh! Wait until you hear what happened.

PART TWO

God had written it in Isaiah chapter 31, verse 1: **“Woe [be unto] those who go down to Egypt for help [in the time of trouble and don’t look to God]....” (Isaiah 31:1)** Here are the children of Israel. They have seen Jeremiah’s word come to pass. They have seen Babylon come and destroy them just as Jeremiah said, just as was written in that scroll, just as Baruch copied it and re-copied it after the king burned it. And yet, now after they’ve seen all this, they are determined that they are going to return to Egypt. And so what does God say? I want to back you up to Jeremiah because it’ll help you appreciate the next message more. But I want to back you up to Jeremiah chapter 44, verse 24: **“Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including...the women, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt.’” (Jeremiah 44:24)** They said, we are going to back to Egypt and they went back to Egypt. (See Jeremiah 43:6-7) And those saucy women were saying, [“Our husbands knew we were making bread cakes to the queen of heaven and they allowed us to do it], (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 44:19) and we were better off, and we had food then and we had plenty. We had prosperity and we’re going to do this.” (See Jeremiah 44:17) What are they doing? Now listen carefully, they are seeking their greatness. They are seeking their glory instead of God’s. They have refused to listen.

And so God says to them, **“Nevertheless hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who are living in the land of Egypt, ‘Behold, I have sworn by My great name,’ says the LORD, ‘never shall My name be invoked again by the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt,’ [says the LORD], ‘As the Lord GOD lives. Behold I am watching over them for harm and not for good....’”** (Jeremiah 44:26-27) Now as I read this to you, I want you to know that I believe, Precious One, that God, and this is hard to say, but God is judging America. And He is going to continue to judge America as we seek greatness for ourselves. As our president, as our political leaders, as leaders in the communities, as governors, anyone that is seeking greatness for himself, anyone that thinks he’s smarter than God. Anyone that thinks that he has a right to play the role of God in a person’s life. So that all we’re doing, instead of looking to God to take care of us, we are looking to government to take care of us. I believe that even Israel, as Israel is looking to the nations for their approval, and their approbation, if they do that, if the prime minister of Israel leads the people that way, then what he is doing is, he is seeking greatness for himself instead of glory from God. To give glory to God is to give a true, or a correct estimate, of who God is. And so these people say they are going to Egypt and so God says this: **“Behold, I am watching over them for harm and not for good....”** I’m in Jeremiah 44 verse 27, **“...And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will meet their end by...sword...by famine until they are completely gone. [The one] who escape[s] the sword will return out of the land of Egypt to the land of Judah few in number....”** (Jeremiah 44:27-28) He’s just going to leave a small remnant to a testimony. **“..Then all the remnant of Judah who [has] gone [in]to the land of Egypt to reside there will know [that My] word will stand....”** (Jeremiah 44:28) And then He says, He is going to give them a sign, and he tells them that Nebuchadnezzar is going to come down against them. (See Jeremiah 44:29-30) Now look at Jeremiah chapter 46 in verse 14: **“Declare in Egypt and**

proclaim in Migdol, proclaim also in Memphis and [and in] Tahpanhes....” (Jeremiah 46:14) And you see these cities mentioned in Jeremiah 43:2-3 and 44:1. (See 43:7 & 44:1) “...Say, ‘Take your stand and get yourself ready, for the sword has devoured those around you.’ Why have your mighty ones become prostrate? They do not stand because the LORD has thrust them down. They have repeatedly stumbled; indeed, they have fallen [against one another]. Then they said, ‘Get up! And let us go back to our...people and to our native land away from the sword of the oppressor.’ They cried there, ‘Pharaoh king of Egypt is *but a big noise*....” (Jeremiah 46:14-17) Here they’re going down to Egypt for help and they look at Pharaoh and they say: “‘...He has let the appointed time pass...!’ (Jeremiah 46:17) Now watch how God defines himself, “‘[As I live],’ declares the King whose name is the LORD of hosts, ‘Surely one shall come [up] *who looms*...like Tabor among the mountains, or like Carmel by the sea. Make your baggage ready for exile, O daughter dwelling in Egypt....” (Jeremiah 46:18-19) And he’s talking to those Jews that went down. “‘...For Memphis will become a desolation....” Nebuchadnezzar is coming. He says, “‘...It will even be burned down *and bereft of inhabitants*. Egypt is a pretty heifer, *but a horsefly* is coming from the north—it is coming! Also her mercenaries in her midst are like fattened calves...even they too have turned back *and*...fled away together; they did not stand *their ground*. For the day of their calamity has come upon them....” (Jeremiah 46:18-21) God had said to them in Jeremiah, we studied it last week: “If you go down to Egypt and, to get away from the king of Babylon, I want you to know, I’m gonna bring the king of Babylon down against Egypt.” (See Jeremiah 43:11) It says, “‘*Its sound moves along like a serpent; for they move on like an army...and [they] come to her as woodcutter with axes. They have cut down her forest,*’ declares the LORD; ‘Surely it will [be] *no more*...found, even though they are *now* more numerous than locusts

and are without number. The daughter of Egypt has been put to shame, [go] over to the power of the people of the north.” (Jeremiah 46:22-24)

In other words, “Egypt’s been conquered. The Egypt in which you were trusting.” And the Bible says: **“Woe [be unto] those [that] go down to Egypt for help [in the time of trouble and] do not look to [God]....”**

(Isaiah 31:1) To the sovereign God of all the universe, who wounds, who heals, who kills, who makes alive, who moves armies. Who puts His hooks, as we see in Ezekiel 38, in the jaws of nations and brings them down to accomplish His will. (See Ezekiel 38:4-5) **“The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says, ‘Behold, I am going to punish Amon of Thebes...,’”** that’s a god, **“...and Pharaoh, and Egypt along with [their] gods and [her] kings, even Pharaoh and those who trust in him. I shall give them over to the power of those who are seeking their lives, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon...[in] the hand of [their] officers....”**

(Jeremiah 46:25-26) And then he has one more thing to say about Egypt and its future. But you’ll have to wait until tomorrow. Just know Egypt exists today, Egypt is a power. Egypt is seeking greatness for itself. You say, “They shouldn’t do that.” Are you seeking greatness for yourself or are you seeking to be a humble servant of God Almighty, thanking him for this life and willing to stand in the days of judgment that are coming.