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

TITLE: Program 37 – Two Cities

TUESDAY

OPEN

There are two cities, Beloved, throughout the Word of God, and you are a citizen, really, of one or the other. The first city is Babylon, and Babylon is the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth. The second is Jerusalem the “city of righteousness” (Isaiah 1:26) where God has placed His name and where righteousness dwells. (Jeremiah 33:16; 2 Peter 3:13) Which city are you headed for? Which city are you a member of?

PART ONE

We're in the closing chapters of Jeremiah. Can you believe it? We are about finished. We have spent eight weeks on Jeremiah, Part 2. And if you put that whole series together, Part 1 and Part 2, I mean, you know that God has ordained the teaching of the Book of Jeremiah for this time. Well we're looking today at two cities. We're looking at Babylon. God's going to deal with Babylon in Jeremiah chapter 50 and 51. God's going to deal with

Jerusalem, the city of God, in Jeremiah chapter 52. We are in Jeremiah chapter 50, and I'm having to make tracks (and you all know it), because we have lots to cover. But in Jeremiah chapter 50, we are looking at the roots of Babylon. And so this is what I want you to do: in your Bible, now I would suggest you use a pencil so you can move it around, but next to verse 12 where he talks about Babylon's mother: **"...[And] she who gave you birth will be humiliated. Behold, she will be the least of nations, a wilderness, a parched land [in] a desert," (Jeremiah 50:12)** next to that write "Genesis chapter 11, verse 1-9." Now in Genesis chapter 11, we find the city of Babel. We find them making a tower that reaches from earth to heaven so that they won't be scattered around the earth. (Genesis 11:4) All right? And this is the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth. But it is Ham's descendant Nimrod that makes this kingdom and calls it Babel. (Genesis 10:9-10) So when you come to Genesis chapter 11 what you find is, you have men uniting against God, uniting in disobedience against God, thinking that they can get away with it. So they build a city. They build a tower. God comes down to look at the city. (Genesis 11:4-5) And this is what He says, in verse 6, Genesis 11: **"...They are one people...they all have the same language...this is what they began to do...now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them."** (Genesis 11:6) What he's talking about is man is made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26) Man is brilliant. Man has all sorts of abilities. But some men have this kind of ability, others have this kind. And what you do is you put them all together, and when you put them all together if they have a purpose it's going to be hard to stop them. And God wants to stop them. And the reason He wants to stop them is because they are sinners. Because they are sinners and they will just go deeper and deeper and deeper into sin. This is what's happening in America. You throw off the restraints of God and you go deeper and deeper into sin. It all becomes about you—your way, your politics. You know, a disregard, just using God to get your way, but not really following God. So He comes down and He confuses

their language (Genesis 11:7), and it says in verse 8: **“So the LORD scattered them abroad....” (Genesis 11:8)** God’s purpose, as we’re looking at this week, we’re looking at the purposes of God which He will perform. (Jeremiah 1:12) It will come to pass. As He has purposed so it will come to pass. Isaiah 46:10-11) **“So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth....” (Genesis 11:8-9)** Now this is the root, but let’s go to the future because what I’m about to read to you in Jeremiah does not, for the most part, fit the destruction of Babylon when the Medes and the Persians came in and conquered them, as is recorded in Daniel chapter 5. Daniel 5:28) So you come to Revelation chapter 17. In Revelation chapter 17 it’s talking about **“...the judgment of [a] great harlot who sits on many waters....” (Revelation 17:1)** Now watch: **“With whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” (Revelation 17:2)** Now you’ve got to remember, He’s not talking about getting, literally, in bed, but He uses immorality as a description of us playing the harlot against God. Not making God the habitation of our righteousness, walking away from God and being adulteresses. (Jeremiah 50:7) **“You adulteresses, [don’t] you know that friendship with the world is [enmity with] God...? (James 4:4)** So we crawl with the world. All right. So Babylon, this city represents **“...The great harlot...with whom the kings of the earth [and the people of the earth commit] immorality....” (Revelation 17:1-2)** And it says in verse 5, **“...On her forehead a name was written, a mystery, ‘BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.’” (Revelation 17:5)** You want to see all the immorality? You want to see all the abominations of the earth? Then I’ll tell you what, you look at this city, you look at the world. So I asked you to go through Revelation 17 and 18.

Now, verse 15: **“...He said to me, ‘The waters [that] you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples...multitudes [tongues] and nations....And the ten horns which you saw....’” (Revelation 17:15-16)** Now this is the final world power, the power of the anti-christ and the beast. **““...These will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and...burn her up with fire.”” (Revelation 17:16)** Now remember we’re talking about God’s purposes so watch what it says, **“For God has put it in their hearts....” (Revelation 17:17)** This final world kingdom, this kingdom of the anti-christ, this kingdom of the beast, this kingdom of the man of lawlessness, this kingdom of the little horn of Daniel chapter 7. (Daniel 8:9-12) It says, **““...God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose....”” (Revelation 17:17)** In other words, you see these nations gathered together again in a common purpose, but it’s God. There, God’s going to use those ungodly nations to fulfill His purpose on Babylon, this harlot of abominations and immoralities. And then it says, **““...Execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of [the LORD]...be fulfilled.”” (Revelation 17:17)** Now watch what He says, **““The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”” (Revelation 17:18)** You say, “It’s Rome. It sits on seven mountains.” No, honey, it’s not. That bad interpretation was passed down because somebody didn’t study inductively, they didn’t discover truth for themselves. So now in chapter 18 you have the judgment of this harlot. **“...He cried out with [a loud voice] a mighty voice....,”** verse 2, **“...‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great...!’” (Revelation 18:2)** You’re gonna see that in Jeremiah. You see it in Jeremiah 51:8. (Jeremiah 51:8) You see it in Isaiah 21:9. (Isaiah 21:9) And you see it in Revelation 14:8: the fall of Babylon. (Revelation 14:8) **““...She has become a dwelling place of demons...a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. [For all the nations] For all the nations have**

drunk...the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of immorality* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

(Revelation 18:2-3) And then he says this, **“I heard another voice from heaven, saying...” (Revelation 18:4)** Now hang on, you’re going to love it when you get to Jeremiah. **“...‘Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues.’” (Revelation 18:4)** Now it says in verse 8: **“‘For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will...,’”** you want to get this, **“‘...[will] be burned...with fire...; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.’” (Revelation 18:8)** Just remember this: God is stronger than all of them. He is omnipotent. He is all powerful. **“‘And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of immorality* and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament...when they see the smoke of her burning.’” (Revelation 18:9)** Oh, Precious One, it is so neat to see these things and then to go back and read Jeremiah, and that’s what we’re about to do. But it says in verse 19: **“‘...They threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’” (Revelation 18:19)** So what you have is you have a total desolation of this city, this great city that rules over the kings of the earth because there is an empire, a ten horned and then an eleventh horn empire, that is the final empire of the last days. That goes against Babylon and destroys her and fulfills God’s purpose, and carries out what God has to say is going to happen to Babylon in the last days. So when we read Jeremiah, you go back to Genesis and remember her beginnings: Rebellion against God. Then you go to Revelation and you see her end. And then you read Jeremiah and you have a better understanding. We’ll do it. We’ll start it, in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Get that Bible open to Jeremiah chapter 50. We've got lots to cover, but we're ready. We're ready because we understand what Revelation says about the demise of Babylon. And what you're going to see is that in Jeremiah he is taking us all the way to that end time. You'll be able to sort it out as we go along and we'll do it together. Verse 14: **"Draw up the battle lines against Babylon on every side..."** 50, verse 14, **"...All you who bend the bow; shoot at her, do not be sparing with your arrows, for she..."** Babylon, **"...has sinned against the LORD. Raise your battle cry against her on every side! She has given herself up, her pillars have fallen, her walls have been torn down. For this is the vengeance of the LORD..."** (Jeremiah 50:14-15) You say, "How do I know that's not what happened when Babylon was conquered by the Medes and the Persians?" You know because you read about how they got into the city. And how they come into this big hall where the king is having a party, and they're drunk and they're drinking out of the vessels from Jerusalem from the house of the Lord. (Daniel 5:1-4) And they're toasting and, all of a sudden, **"...‘MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.’"** (Daniel 5:25) They're writing on the wall, "Your days are numbered." They didn't destroy Babylon then. They did not destroy Babylon. So there has never been a destruction like this of Babylon. Babylon continues to be inhabited. Now, let's go on. It says, **"...As she has done to others, so do to her. Cut off the sower from Babylon and the one who wields the sickle [in] the time of harvest..."** It says, **"...From before the sword of the oppressor they will each turn back to [their] own people...they will each flee to [their] own land."** (Jeremiah 50:15-16) In other words, He's saying, "Get out of here!" And so they're going to flee. **"Israel is a scattered flock, the lions have driven them away..."** (Jeremiah 50:17) Now who are the lions? He's not talking about literal lions. It says, **"...The first one who devoured him was the king of Assyria... [the] last one who has broken his bones..."** Israel's

bones **“...is Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.” (Jeremiah 50:17)**

Because Assyria came against Israel and was the enemy, but they did not invade the city and tear down the walls, and tear down the temple, but Nebuchadnezzar did. We read about it in Jeremiah 52. (Jeremiah 52:12-14)

We'll see it at the end of this week. **“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, just as I punished the king of Assyria. And I will bring Israel back to his pasture and he will graze on Carmel....’”**

(Jeremiah 50:18-19) He's going to; God is going to bring Israel back to the land of Canaan, back to the land of Israel now called Eretz Israel, never in the Bible called the land of Palestine. **“...His desire...,”** Israel's desire, **“...will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and Gilead.”**

(Jeremiah 50:19) It's beautiful hill country, **“‘In those days and at that time,’ declares the LORD....’”** You want to mark the “time phrase,” **“...‘Search will be made for the iniquity of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found....’”**

(Jeremiah 50:20) Remember the new covenant. This is the new covenant: when I will take away their sins. [I will be their God, they will be my people.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 32:38) He says, **“...for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.” (Jeremiah 50:20)** Not all Israel will be saved. Zechariah tells us that they will go through the fire, but only one-third will survive. (Zechariah 13:9) **“‘Against the land of Merathaim, go up against it...against the inhabitants of Pekod. Slay and utterly destroy them’....” (Jeremiah 50:21)** Both of those places are in the south of Babylon and one means “double rebellion” or “punishment” (the first one). And the other one is Pekod which is on the bank of the Tigris River. He says, **“The noise of battle is in the land....” (Jeremiah 50:22)** What land? The land of Babylon. **“...And great destruction. How the hammer of the whole earth has been cut off and broken...!” (Jeremiah 50:22-23)** Who's the hammer? Who's the hammer of the whole earth? Who's the one that God

has used as His hammer to execute His judgment against Israel because Israel would not believe? Because Judah would not believe? It is Babylon. But He says: ["Now this hammer is broken"]. (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 50:23) And He goes on to say: **"...How Babylon has become an object of horror among the nations! I set a snare for you and you were also caught, O Babylon, while you...were not aware; you have been found and [you have been] seized [while you were not aware]...."** (Jeremiah 50:23-24) Listen, Beloved, you and I need to be prepared for the days ahead and that's the purpose of Precepts for Life. It's to establish you in God's Word so that you will know truth and you will be able to live accordingly. He says, **"...You have been found and...seized because you have engaged in conflict with the LORD."** (Jeremiah 50:24) In other words, you are opposing God. You are not making Him the habitation of your righteousness as we talked about yesterday. (Jeremiah 31:23) And as we see in verse 7 of this chapter. (Jeremiah 50:7) **"The LORD has opened His armory [He] has brought forth the weapons of His indignation...it is [the] work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans."** (Jeremiah 50:25) **"Come to her from the farthest border; open...her barns, pile...up [her]...heaps and utterly destroy her...."** That's what you read about in Revelation. **"...Let nothing be left to her."** (Jeremiah 50:26) Babylon is to be utterly destroyed. You don't want to be a part of that city. You don't want to be part of that mindset. You don't want to be part of this harlotry and the abominations of the earth. You need to believe on Jesus Christ. When you believe on Jesus Christ then you move to the heavenly city Jerusalem. It becomes your future. It becomes your habitat for all of eternity. You can read about it in Revelation 21 and 22. **"Put all [of] her young bulls....,"** speaking of Babylon **"...to the sword; let them go down to the slaughter! Woe be [unto] them, for their day has come, the time of their punishment."** (Jeremiah 50:27) Remember God has a time, a day; an hour. **"There is [the] sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon,**

to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD...vengeance for His temple.” (Jeremiah 50:28) In Jeremiah 52 you are going to see the destruction of the temple. (Jeremiah 52:13) So God is going to take His people out of Babylon, He’s going to bring a remnant, they’re going to come to Zion, and they’re going to testify of what they saw, and they’re going to say: God’s purpose stands.” (Jeremiah 50:28; Isaiah 14:24) He has brought, **“...Vengeance for His temple. ‘Summon many against Babylon, all those who bend the bow: Encamp against her on every side, let there be no escape....’” (Jeremiah 50:28-29)** And that’s what you see in Revelation. You see the nations coming against her, or you see this coalition of nations. **“...According to all...she has done, so do to her....” (Jeremiah 50:29)** We sow to the flesh, we reap of the flesh, we sow corruption, we reap corruption. (Galatians 6:8) **“...For she...,”** Babylon, **“...has become arrogant against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.” (Jeremiah 50:29)** We’ve seen that arrogance in Genesis. (Genesis 11:4) We see that arrogance in Revelation. (Revelation 18:7) We see that arrogance throughout the Word of God. **“‘Therefore her young men will fall in [the] streets, and all her men of war will be silenced in that day,’ declares the LORD. ‘Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one,’ declares the Lord...of Hosts, ‘For your day has come, the time when I will punish you. The arrogant one will stumble and fall....’” (Jeremiah 50:30-32)** You don’t want to belong to that city.