

Message #53**Jeremiah 49:1-39**

God shifts His focus of His ferocious judgment to the nations and cities. He gives some short oracles against foreign nations. The specific areas mentioned here are all Muslim/Arab areas today.

PRIOR TO GOD GIVING ISRAEL ALL OF THE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS HE WILL GIVE HER, HE WILL POUR OUT HIS WRATH ON NATIONS AND CITIES AND THEY WILL BECOME THE TARGET OF HIS ANGER.

Some of this was partially fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar when God caused him to conquer many of these areas. But there are things said in this chapter and in Daniel and Isaiah that have not happened yet. There are five specific judgments named in this chapter:

JUDGMENT #1 – God’s judgment against Ammon. 49:1-6 - modern day Jordan - north

The first mention is Genesis 19:37-38. They came from a son of Lot–Ben-ammi. The Ammonites lived in territory north of Moab, but it is still in part of Jordan today. Their big city was Rabbah. These people were always in conflict with Israel. They actually were sent by God to join the Babylonians in 602 BC when they went in and conquered Judah (II Kings 24:1-2).

In these verses, God rebukes Ammon for daring to occupy Israel’s land after the Babylonians had taken the Israelites captive.

Ammonite forces took Gad and they gave the credit to Molech, the Ammonite deity (I Kings 11:5, 7, 33). The noun “Malcam,” the Septuagint “Milcam” and “Molech” are all derived from the same three Hebrew radicals or consonants–M-L-K. This was their chief deity.

In **verse 2**, God says because you have done this, the days are coming when God will cause a warring group to come up against them and destroy them and then He will turn it back over to Israel. We may certainly see from modern-day Jordan that this has not obviously happened yet. **In fact, the capital of Jordan today is Rabbath-Amman, which is definitely linked back to Ammon and these very Ammonites.**

Rabbah, mentioned in **verse 2**, was located about 14 miles NE of Heshbon, which was the chief city of the day. It would also come down. Rabbah, Jordan, is still a city with a population of over four million people. Ezekiel 29:5 predicts that one day this very city will be a pasture for grazing animals. In **verse 4**, it is predicted God would turn land over to men from the east. The immediate context is Babylon and Arab Bedouins. But to the east are Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and China, and the ultimate fulfillment will be Revelation 9:13-21 in which 1/3rd of mankind will be destroyed.

Ai would be destroyed and the daughters of Rabbah would go into mourning because Malcam with his phony priests and princes would all be gone.

Verse 4 says their arrogance and boasting would be brought down. The people living in this area believed they were invincible because they had mountains on three sides and flowing water in the valley. Jeremiah says in **verse 5** that God would bring terror on the people, and they would be chased as fugitives, but afterwards God would restore them.

We may assume that the fortunes will be restored when God permits Israel to take over the land.

Again we turn to Daniel 11:41 and we learn that in the “end time” the Antichrist will enter the Beautiful land, which is the land of Israel. God says I will rescue Ammon out of his hand.

So one lesson is this—if you take what others should have (Israel’s land), God will eventually reverse it. The people who did the wrong will receive the judgment.

JUDGMENT #2 – God’s judgment against Edom. 49:7-22 - modern day Jordan - south

The Edomites were hostile to Israel (Num. 20:14-30; Judg. 11:17). They controlled the land SE of the Dead Sea. Their land covered about 100 miles. The Edomites can be traced to Esau.

Teman was named for the grandson of Esau (Gen. 36:11). Edom was apparently a place known for its supposed wise men (Obadiah 8). It was located in the north part of Edom. But according to **verse 7**, there was no good counsel left in Edom. Their wisdom had decayed and moved away from truth.

Many from Dedan were living in Teman, so God tells the people of Dedan to flee Teman, because He is bringing serious judgment against the people (**v. 8**). In Ezekiel 25:13, God says He will make this part of the world’s total wasteland.

He does tell the Dedanites that He will permit them to survive by gleaning some leftover crops, but Esau and his relatives will be destroyed (**v. 9-11**).

Jeremiah says this judgment will come because God will cause it to come and no one will be acquitted (**v. 12-13**).

In **verses 12-18**, we see what Edom’s problem was—arrogance. These people were so arrogant and thought they were so secure that by hiding up in the hills in the rocks they could escape judgment.

In **verse 13**, Jeremiah mentions “Bozrah,” which was the capital of Edom, in Jeremiah’s day. Today, Bozrah is a city of about 10,000 people.

But God says I will come get you and bring you down. You will become an object of horror. I will overthrow you like I did Sodom and Gomorrah. No one will survive and no one will live. We know this has not happened yet because over 745,000 people live in south Jordan.

In **verses 19-22**, God says I will cause one to come up like a lion. God says I have chosen the one I will permit to do this. He will sweep in like an eagle and you will be in pain and you will be destroyed.

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We learn when this happens, the “earth will quake” (v. 21).

The lesson is self-sufficient pride will destroy you.

No specific prophecy here is mentioned about restoration for Edom. However, when we turn to Daniel 11:41 we learn that some from Edom will be rescued, when the Antichrist goes on his murder spree in Israel.

So our conclusion from what we saw last week concerning Moab, and now concerning Ammon and Edom, which all comprise modern day Jordan, is that God will spare some of the Arabs who live in that part of the world.

JUDGMENT #3 – God’s judgment against Damascus. **49:23-27** - city modern day Syria

There are three Syrian cities named here. There is Hamath, Zobah, and Damascus. Hamath was located about 110 miles north of Damascus. Arpad was located about 95 miles north of Hamath. Damascus is in southern Syria. It was at one point the capital of both Hamath and Arpad.

Damascus is the oldest city in the world and it has been occupied for a longer period of time than any in history. It is first mentioned in Genesis 14:15 and it was a key Biblical city throughout the Old Testament and also a key city in New Testament times. Paul was traveling to Damascus when God saved him—Acts 9:2-3.

Damascus is the 4th holiest city in Islam and has a population today of over 2 million people.

Jeremiah did not go into great detail about what the sins were nor of the upcoming destruction. But he did say she will be destroyed.

The lesson here is no city, no matter how old the city, will escape judgment.

The people will be disheartened with an anxiety that cannot be calmed. The people will be helpless and they will panic and God says I will bring the city down.

We get some amazing data concerning prophetic truth about Damascus from Isaiah 17. From Isaiah 17 we may make the following prophetic predictions concerning what will happen to Damascus and Syria during the Tribulation:

- 1) During the Tribulation Damascus and other Syrian cities will be gone. 17:1-3
- 2) People from Syria will look to the Holy One of Israel for salvation not to religion. 17:7-8
- 3) Strong Syrian cities will be forsaken and abandoned. 17:9-11
- 4) Syria will experience the wrath of God. 17:12-14

JUDGMENT #4 – God’s judgment against Kedar and Hazor. **49:28-33 modern day Arabia**

There were many nomadic tribes that lived in the Syrian region. The inhabitants were sheep herders and skilled archers (Is. 21:16-17).

Kedar was the second oldest son of Ishmael, who formed a tribe who bore his name (Gen. 25:13; I Chron. 1:29). Not a lot is known about them. There is a prediction made about them in Isaiah 21:16-17 that says this:

“For thus the Lord said to me, ‘In a year as a hired man would count it, all the splendor of Kedar will terminate; and the remainder of the number of bowmen, the mighty men of the sons of Kedar, will be few; for the LORD God of Israel has spoken.’”

Jeremiah says both of these places would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. These were people who typically lived in remote areas. God says when I send my judgment, I will track you down.

Now much of this was accomplished by Nebuchadnezzar, however, carefully notice **verse 33**, this area will become “a haunt of jackals a desolation forever; no one will live there, nor will a son of man reside in it.” We think complete fulfillment will be in the Tribulation in Revelation 9:13-21.

The people from Kedar in Arabian known today as Qederites, still live in these areas. It is difficult to track down the Arabian Hazor, which is different from the Hazor of Israel.

JUDGMENT #5 – God’s judgment against Elam. **49:34-39 - modern day Iran**

Elam was the oldest son of Shem, Noah’s son (Gen. 10:22). This was located on the western edge of ancient Persia, known today as Iran.

God says I will break the bow of Elam and I will destroy their might. I will shatter them before their enemies. It will happen in the **last days**.

In the end, God says I will permit some of them to live and to have their fortunes.

In Isaiah 11:11 we learn that God will permit a “remnant of His people” who live in Elam/Iran to be delivered. We learn from Isaiah 21:2 that Elam/Iran will be judged by God for the groaning that she has caused to the world.

For the most part, Iran has been a nightmare for Israel, and a nightmare to the rest of the world.

We learn in Isaiah 22:6 that the day that God pours out His wrath, many from Elam/Iran will take up arms and will be against Israel.

Dr. John Walvoord writes: “The complete destruction of Elam does not seem to have been fulfilled in history and may have its final chapter in the future in connection with the judgments at the second coming of Christ” (*The Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p. 151).

But eventually, after all is done, in the “last days” God will “restore the fortunes of Elam.”