

**Message #50****Jeremiah 46:1-28**

In Acts 17:26 we read, “and He (God) made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.”

When we objectively go through the books of the Bible, it is very clear **that God is in sovereign control of all nations of the world and in sovereign control over all events in the world.**

We also know in the case of Jeremiah that God told Jeremiah that he had been appointed by God to be “a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5, 10). So far, in the first 45 chapters of Jeremiah, we have been seeing prophetic things concerning Israel, Judah, Jerusalem, and the land and cities of Israel. That all changes in Jeremiah 46.

The next ten chapters of the book of Jeremiah contain prophecies about the nations:

1. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Egypt. **46:2** - modern day Egypt
2. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Philistines. **47:1** - modern day Gaza Strip
3. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Moab. **48:1** - modern day Jordan
4. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Ammonites. **49:1** - modern day Jordan
5. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Edom. **49:7**- modern day Jordan
6. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Damascus. **49:23** - modern day Syria
7. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Kedar. **49:28** - modern day Arabia
8. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Elam. **49:34** - modern day Iran
9. Jeremiah has specific prophecies concerning Babylon. **50-51** - modern day Iraq

As we said, to this point, in the book of Jeremiah, God primarily has been causing Jeremiah to communicate His word to Israel and Judah.

In the next chapters God has specific messages for the nations. Some of the nations are specifically named. But when He says things like “I will make a full end of all the nations” (**v. 28**), we cannot help but see this would include the United States.

From this, we can build a strong case for the fact that one day God will eventually destroy the United States of America. It is no coincidence that this nation is on a downward path. It is actually heading to destruction and God intends to destroy “all” nations. When God fulfills Biblical prophecy for Israel, the nations of the world will pay a high price.

When it comes to Biblical prophecy, there is usually a near application and a far application. For example, **verse 2** says this is about Egypt. So we may expect that in the near future things would happen concerning Egypt. But when we read a verse in **verse 28** that says, “I will make a full end of all the nations,” we realize that this has obviously not happened yet.

**Verse 1 specifically states that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah concerning the nations.**

God is sovereign over nations and individuals and He determines the destinies.

What God does in these chapters is bring the nations before Him for judgment. Now the primary point of this chapter is this:

**GOD'S PEOPLE NEED TO REALIZE ARROGANT POLITICAL POWERS, SUCH AS EGYPT, CANNOT DELIVER THEM FROM ANYTHING AND EVENTUALLY GOD WILL DESTROY THEM.**

God's people make a big mistake when they think the political power of a nation will be their deliverer. That is not true. Political powers may be used by God for certain things, but in the end God will destroy them.

There are three main messages in this chapter we want to see:

**MESSAGE #1** – God's first prophetic message to the Egyptians. **46:1-12**

Now we see from **verse 2** that this first message is aimed at Egypt. This message concerned the army of Egypt, under the direction of Pharaoh Neco, who was the king of Egypt. This Pharaoh killed King Josiah in 609 BC at Megiddo. The events here had already taken place. Pharaoh beat Judah so he thought he could beat Babylon (in 605 BC).

Pharaoh's army was by the Euphrates River at Carchemish, near Turkey and Syrian border. Their arrogance thought they could stop Nebuchadnezzar and defeat the Babylonians. They were in for a real shock.

In **verse 3**, Jeremiah actually assumes the role of being commander of the Egyptian army by commanding them what to do. What this shows is that God is sovereign over the Egyptian army.

What God says to Egypt is get your shields (small shield) and bucklers (large shield) (**v. 3**) and get ready for battle. They were completely confident that they could defeat Nebuchadnezzar, who was being used by God.

Jeremiah says to them, go ahead and get your war horses ready—harness them to pull the chariots and mount the steeds and put on your helmets and polish your spears and put on your armor (**v. 4**). From a human perspective the Egyptians were impressive and intimidating. They were all suited up and ready to go. They will think this way in the Tribulation.

Now according to **verse 5**, with all of their military equipment and all of this military power, they were terrified. Jeremiah asks why are you terrified and why are you drawing back and why are you defeated and why are you terrified everywhere you look and why are you running away like cowards.

Well the answer is because in **verse 6**, the mighty have fallen. It did not matter how fast or how strong, they all went down.

Now in **verses 7-8** we learn who it is that this is all about. Jeremiah gets very specific. It is about Egypt, who rises from the Nile region. The Egyptians were powerful and arrogant and they started to move, thinking they could conquer the world.

They had the weapons and armor and horses and chariots and they proudly marched into battle (**v. 9**). They suited up for war. They had their mercenary soldiers with them from Ethiopia, Put, Libyans and Lydians.

But Egypt neglected to realize what all nations will one day realize is that they are in war against the LORD God of hosts (**v. 10**). God is sovereign over everything connected to Israel and the Promised Land. Egypt actually thought they could win and take over the world. God was bringing the Egyptians up so He could slaughter them for what she did to Israel.

God says that He is the one who determines who wins and who loses. It wasn't Egypt who would win. It wasn't Babylon who would win; it was God who would win. There was a slaughter that took place at the Battle of Carchemish and the Egyptians were crushed.

But carefully observe the wording in **verse 10**, there is a day of vengeance coming with which God will "avenge Himself on His foes." There is a day of slaughter coming in which God will pour out His vengeance on this God-mocking, Christ-rejecting, Bible-hating, Israel-hating world, and that day will be the Great Tribulation.

God predicts in Revelation that He will slaughter ½ of the world's population. That will be somewhere near four billion people who will be slaughtered in the "day of vengeance."

In **verse 11-12**, God warns any who want to ignore God that there will be no escape or healing from His judgment.

Apparently, many of the Egyptians believed they could go up to Gilead and obtain a healing balm. But Jeremiah says you will not find any healing there. It will be too late.

In fact, according to **verse 12**, eventually the humiliation and defeat of the Egyptians will be known worldwide. God will have destroyed her and the nations will talk about it.

## **MESSAGE #2** – God's second prophetic message to the Egyptians. **46:13-26**

The second message is a sequel message to the first message. Only it is more specific. This had not taken place yet. God was sending Nebuchadnezzar to Egypt to destroy them (**v. 13**). Nebuchadnezzar was God's servant (25:9; 27:6; 43:10). He was not a servant in the sense that he loved God and His word, but in the sense that God had raised him up to use him for His purposes.

So Jeremiah says you need to proclaim to the people in your cities what God is going to do. You need to get ready in your major Egyptian cities because the fight is coming right to you. You don't have to go up north; they will come to your cities, Migdol, Memphis and Tahpanhes (v. 14).

When this happens your mighty warriors will be prostrate on the ground. They will not be standing because God will have destroyed them (v. 15).

Their key fighters will realize it is hopeless and they will flee further into Egypt thinking they will escape (v. 16).

They will cry out to Pharaoh, but he will turn out to be nothing but a big noise (v. 17). He will turn out to be nothing but a big-mouthed braggart.

According to **verse 18**, God is the warrior who is over everything, like the Tabor among the mountains or Carmel by the sea. Tabor was a mountain range on the eastern side of the Promised Land and Carmel was a mountain range on the west side of the Promised Land.

God says get ready to go into exile (v. 19). God says I am sending a judgment that will burn down Memphis and destroy the people.

God says I will invade Egypt like a horsefly and when this day comes, even the mercenaries will be scared (v. 20-21). Egypt is like a heifer, but the Babylonian horsefly is coming and no one can stop it. God says I am bringing calamity on these people.

God says I will send a serpentine power to infiltrate Egypt and destroy her like locusts (v. 22-23).

Egypt will be put to total shame (v. 24).

God says I will punish the leaders of Egypt and their false gods and all those who trust in them.

God says I will give them over to Nebuchadnezzar, and he will destroy them (v. 25-26). Amon of the Thebes, was the chief deity and capital of upper Egypt. Memphis was the capital of lower Egypt.

God says I will bring Egypt down and I will bring the destruction right to your major cities. Egypt will play a major role in the Tribulation. The Antichrist will go into Egypt just before he is destroyed by Jesus Christ (Dan. 11:42-43). Afterwards, God will restore her as in days of old (v. 26). There will be a remnant from Egypt, who will worship in the Millennium (Is. 19:19-25).

**MESSAGE #3 – God’s prophetic message to Israel. 46:27-28**

In Jeremiah 30:10-11, God promises Israel that when He is destroying the nations, He will not completely destroy Israel. When God is pouring out His wrath on nations, He always has His eye on Israel. God gives Israel some encouraging truth:

**(Encouraging News #1) - Do not fear. 46:27a**

**(Encouraging News #2) - Do not be dismayed. 46:27b**

**(Encouraging News #3) - God will save Israel. 46:27c**

**(Encouraging News #4) - God will bring Jewish descendants back to the land. 46:27d**

**(Encouraging News #5) - God will see to it that Israel will return and not be disturbed. 46:27e**

**(Encouraging News #6) - God will see to it that Israel will be secure and never tremble again.  
46:27f**

**(Encouraging News #7) - Do not fear. 46:28a**

**(Encouraging News #8) - God is with Israel. 46:28b**

**(Encouraging News #9) - God will put a full end to all the nations. 26:28c**

**(Encouraging News #10) - God has driven His Jewish people into those nations. 26:28d**

**(Encouraging News #11) - God will never make a full end of Israel. 26:28e**

**(Encouraging News #12) - God will properly correct His people. 26:28f**

**(Encouraging News #13) - God will punish His people. 26:28g**

**PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:**

- 1. God is in total and complete sovereign control over all nations of the world.**
- 2. God uses different nations at different times for His purposes.**
- 3. God has fulfilled many of these prophecies literally.**
- 4. God has not fulfilled some of the prophecies, which means they are yet to be fulfilled.**
- 5. When God’s judgment comes, no one will escape it.**
- 6. No matter how dark things are and no matter who is in power, there are bright promises from God for faithful people of God.**