

Overview :

In the next two chapters Babylon is *rewarded double according to her works*. The cup of God's fury goes around and the king of Babylon drinks the double portion at last. Babylon had been employed as the rod in God's hand for the judgment of Judah and all the other nations. Now is *the time appointed for the end* (Dan 8:19) and the rod shall be thrown into the fire of God's wrath. One century before Isaiah foretold the destruction of Babylon by Cyrus (Isa 45). During Jeremiah's lifetime he had *seen the wicked in great power, and spreading like a green bay tree*. But now God gives him a visionary promise that *the transgressors shall be destroyed together* (Ps 37:35 & 38). These historical events of 539 BC will be repeated and completed at the battle of Armageddon (Rev 17-19).

This chapter interweaves both the terrible judgments of God on Babylon, and the glorious blessings of God for his people; because Babylon is destroyed to make way for the restoration of the captivity of God's own.

I. The Ruin of Babylon v 1-3, 9-16, 21-32, 35-46

II. The Redemption of Zion v 4-8, 17-20, 33-34

v 1 - 3 A Word of Warning

Bel - The Babylonian name for the god known as Baal ('master').

Baal was the supreme god of the Canaanites: their sun-god (~ Greek god : Zeus).
full name = *Bab Belu*

Merodach ('possessor') - Bel's surname in Babylon

In all primitive cultures Baal was known as both powerful and vindictive. During bad times (storms, flooding, drought, plague . . .) human sacrifices were made to appease Baal's anger.

Deuteronomy 12:29-32

v3 *out of the north* hist: *the kings of the Medes*, **51:11** in 539 BC
doct: *The King of Kings*, **Rev 19:11** ~ 2031 AD
spir: **Ephesians 4:11**

curious finds : { 539 BC - 2031 AD = 2570 y + 70 y = total of **2640 y** = 40 x 66 }
{ ch 50 : 46 v ; ch 51 : 64 v ; 50 + 51 = 101 ; 46 + 64 = 110 }