

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 29

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Oil painting by Lucas van Valckenborch (1535–1597)

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Twenty-Nine

BABYLON INTRODUCTION PART IV

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COME OUT OF THE CITY OF BABYLON

The call will go out to anyone who will be saved during the Tribulation according to the evangelization of the 144,000 anointed Jewish evangelist and the Jews in particular that are living in and near the city of Babylon during the Tribulation as it is about to be destroyed.

Revelation 18:4-5

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues: ⁵for her sins have reached even unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities (ASV, 1901).

We know that Babylon will be rebuilt and become the world capital of the antichrist (Jeremiah 50:43 & 51:31-32). In addition to the political capital it will also be the economic capital of the world. We see this in Zechariah chapter 5.

Zechariah 5:5-11

⁵Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. ⁶And I said, What is it? And he said, This is the ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their appearance in all the land ⁷(and, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead); and this is a woman sitting in the midst of the ephah. ⁸And he said, This is Wickedness: and he cast her down into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. ⁹Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there came forth two women, and the wind was in their wings; now they had wings like the wings of a stork; and they lifted up the ephah between earth and heaven. ¹⁰Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? ¹¹And he said unto me, To build her a house in the land of Shinar: and when it is prepared, she shall be set there in her own place. (ASV).

The ephah (Str. 374) is a standard of measure of weight and became the symbol of the economy. The Bible adds lead to this economy for a false measure. This demonstrates corruption (wickedness) in the economy. These verses also let us know the place of the corruption is to be placed in the land of Shinar, which is the region of Babylon developed by Nimrod (Genesis 10:10). So, the future world economy throughout most of the second half of the Tribulation will be centered in the

world political headquarters, Babylon. The city, the ecclesiastical system, world economy and government will all be destroyed. Moving forward in Isaiah 13 the Lord tells us how it will happen.

Isaiah 13:1-5

The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. ²Set ye up an ensign upon the bare mountain, lift up the voice unto them, wave the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. ³I have commanded my consecrated ones, yea, I have called my mighty men for mine anger, even my proudly exulting ones. ⁴The noise of a multitude in the mountains, as of a great people! the noise of a tumult of the kingdoms of the nations gathered together! Jehovah of hosts is mustering the host for the battle.⁵They come from a far country, from the uttermost part of heaven, even Jehovah, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah saw another gathering of forces but this time it is *not* the Antichrist's armies. This army is the Lord's. Their purpose will be to destroy Babylon. God will use Gentile believers to destroy Babylon. It will be like an insurrection of those Gentiles who have not committed to the Antichrist and his schemes of deception. The details of the destruction are given in the rest of the Isaiah passages from chapter 13:6 to 14:22.

This destruction is planned in conjunction with the final redemption of Israel. One of the purposes of the Great Tribulation was to bring the Jewish people back to God in Jesus. That is, to break their will (Daniel 12:7). We see this in Isaiah 14.

Isaiah 14:1-2

For Jehovah will have compassion on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the sojourner shall join himself with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. ²And the peoples shall take them, and bring them to their place; and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of Jehovah for servants and for handmaids: and they shall take them captive whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors (ASV, 1901).

The final destruction of Babylon will make it fit only for wild animals who are actually demons. We can see this in Isaiah 13. Even though the Assyrians conquered Babylon and so did the Medes and Persians it is important to emphasize that this manner of destruction has never been achieved before to Babylon. This is similar to what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isaiah 13:19-22

¹⁹And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall shepherds make their flocks to lie down there. ²¹But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and

ostriches shall dwell there, and wild goats shall dance there. ²²And wolves shall cry in their castles, and jackals in the pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged (ASV, 1901).

The Lord says that there will be no surviving remnant at all. This is affirmed by Jeremiah

Jeremiah 50:39–40

³⁹Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wolves shall dwell there, and the ostriches shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. ⁴⁰As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbor cities thereof, saith Jehovah, so shall no man dwell there, neither shall any son of man sojourn therein (ASV, 1901).

When God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah he did it with burning sulphur and pitch. Obviously, no creature on this earth can live in that atmosphere after that. These are demonic creatures explained in the Babylon segment of Revelation.

Revelation 18:1–2

After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird (ASV, 1901).

Babylon will be a place of complete waste during the Messianic Kingdom. It will be a place of smoke and continuous burning occupied by demonic entities.

Isaiah 14:22-23

²²And I will rise up against them, saith Jehovah of hosts, and cut off from Babylon name and remnant, and son and son's son, saith Jehovah. ²³I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith Jehovah of hosts (ASV, 1901).

The Lord through Jeremiah gives us some graphic descriptions of the fall of Babylon. Merathaim (Str. 4850) and Pekod (Str. 6489) are both symbolic names for Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:21-27

²¹Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: slay and utterly destroy after them, saith Jehovah, and do according to all that I have commanded thee ²²A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction. ²³How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations! ²⁴I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught,

because thou hast striven against Jehovah. ²⁵Jehovah hath opened his armory, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation; for the Lord, Jehovah of hosts, hath a work to do in the land of the Chaldeans. ²⁶Come against her from the utmost border; open her store-houses; cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly; let nothing of her be left. ²⁷Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation (ASV, 1901).

Jeremiah discusses the gathering of many peoples against Babylon in Chapter 50:41-42 and concludes that chapter with God's decree against Babylon and the anguish of the nations over losing the world capital.

Jeremiah 50:45-46

⁴⁵Therefore hear ye the counsel of Jehovah, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely they shall drag them away, even the little ones of the flock; surely he shall make their habitation desolate over them. ⁴⁶At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth trembleth, and the cry is heard among the nations (ASV, 1901).

The influence that the Babylonian corrupt systems have had on all mankind since the time of Nimrod are the reason that God's judgment will fall on Babylon. He expresses this in Jeremiah chapter 51.

Jeremiah 51:7-9

⁷Babylon hath been a golden cup in Jehovah's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. ⁸Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: wail for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed. ⁹We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country; for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies (ASV, 1901).

Because the world is driven by the Babylonian systems of corruption and they have been especially harsh in persecuting the Jews the judgment will be equally harsh toward Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:24; 35-36

²⁴And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith Jehovah. ³⁵The violence done to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and, My blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say. ³⁶Therefore thus saith Jehovah: Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her fountain dry (ASV, 1901).

The destruction of Babylon will bring about great rejoicing among the faithful seeing God extract His vengeance upon the world system that enslaved so many for so long.

Jeremiah 51:48-49

⁴⁸Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for joy over Babylon; for the destroyers shall come unto her from the north, saith Jehovah. ⁴⁹As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the land (ASV, 1901).

THE PROPHECY OF THE DESTRUCTION PHASE CLOSSES WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS.

Jeremiah 51:54-58

⁵⁴The sound of a cry from Babylon, and of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans! ⁵⁵For Jehovah layeth Babylon waste, and destroyeth out of her the great voice; and their waves roar like many waters; the noise of their voice is uttered: ⁵⁶for the destroyer is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, their bows are broken in pieces; for Jehovah is a God of recompenses, he will surely requite. ⁵⁷And I will make drunk her princes and her wise men, her governors and her deputies, and her mighty men; and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is Jehovah of hosts. ⁵⁸Thus saith Jehovah of hosts: The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly overthrown, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the peoples shall labor for vanity, and the nations for the fire; and they shall be weary (ASV, 1901).

JEREMIAH'S SEALING OF THE EVENTS:

In order to provide a signet or seal of the finality of these events he commands Seriah to perform a physical act to validate or punctuate God's destruction of Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:59-64

⁵⁹The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. Now Seraiah was chief chamberlain. ⁶⁰And Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written concerning Babylon. ⁶¹And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, then see that thou read all these words, ⁶²and say, O Jehovah, thou hast spoken concerning this place, to cut it off, that none shall dwell therein, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. ⁶³And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates: ⁶⁴and thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise again because of the evil that I will bring upon her; and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah (ASV, 1901).

A sealing or some act signifies an event that is decreed within the heart of God and man. One example is baptism. It is an outward act of something that has happened to the believer internally. Such is also true of signing a contract or making a public declaration of some other oath. We see God doing this with Abraham in Genesis 15:9-17 to signify the Abrahamic Covenant. He has Abraham divide animals and He passes through them as a smoking furnace.

We see this in the book of Ruth with the kinsman taking off of a shoe to signify or confirm the agreement to allow Boaz to become the Goel in his place. (Ruth 4:7). All these acts provide some visibility to the oaths of the heart for all to see and witness.

So what we see here is Jeremiah telling Seraiah the staff officer to the king Zedekiah who was responsible for the comfort of the king and going to Babylon as a prisoner of war to take a copy of the scroll of Jeremiah 50:52-58 tie to a rock and cast into the Euphrates River as a sign that Babylon Will Sink!

We also see that the Antichrist, known as the king of Babylon will not be in Babylon when this destruction comes about. The fact that he will not be in his capital city is given to us in two passages in Jeremiah's book.

Jeremiah 50:43

The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail (KJV).

Jeremiah 51:31-32

One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end, And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted (KJV).

Obviously, because the Antichrist is not in Babylon, as he has to be told by a messenger that his city is being destroyed and his troops in the city are becoming frightened. Comparing the Scripture of Armageddon Stage one with these we can see that the Antichrist is meeting his forces in the Valley of Jezreel.

THE JEWS ARE WARNED:

The Jews will be warned to flee out of the city before the destruction comes. God gives them this prophecy several times in Jeremiah's book. New believers in the Tribulation will read this and understand what they must do in following God's commands.

Jeremiah 50:6-8:

My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place. All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers. Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks (KJV).

Jeremiah 50:28:

The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple (KJV).

The Jews who escape from Babylon will make their way to Jerusalem to announce the destruction to the Jews there. They are declaring God's vengeance on the persecution of the Jews and the desecration of the Temple by the Abomination of Desolation. This is the image of the Antichrist in the Holy of Holies by the False Prophet, which became alive. (Revelation 13:11-15)

Jeremiah 51:5-6

⁵For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah, of his God, of Jehovah of hosts; though their land is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. ⁶Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and save every man his life; be not cut off in her iniquity: for it is the time of Jehovah's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense (ASV, 1901).

God is warning the saved Jews to leave so they will not inappropriately suffer God vengeance on Babylon. They again are commanded to go to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 51:10.

The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God (KJV).

THE FOURTH WARNING COMES.

Jeremiah 51:45.

My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD (KJV).

THE LAST WARNING IS GIVEN.

Jeremiah 51:50

Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind (KJV).

It is important to restate the fact that Babylon has never yet been destroyed. When the Medes and the Persians conquered Babylon under the leadership of Cyrus in 539 B.C. there was only one death, which was Belshazzar (Daniel 5:6). During a drunken orgy he seeing the handwriting on the wall he was so scared he had diarrhea.

In 539 BC, Cyrus captured Elam (Susiana) and its capital Susa. Towards the end of September, Cyrus' armies, under the command of Gubaru, the governor of Gutium, attacked Opis on the river Tigris and defeated the Babylonian army.

Then on October 10, the city of Sippar was seized without a battle, with little to no resistance from the populace. It is probable that Cyrus engaged in negotiations with the Babylonian generals to obtain a compromise on their part and therefore avoid an armed confrontation.

Nabonidus was staying in the city at the time, and soon fled to the capital, Babylon, which he had not visited in years.

Two days later, on October 12 (Julian calendar; October 7 by the Gregorian calendar), Gubaru's troops entered Babylon, again without any resistance from the Babylonian armies. Herodotus explains that to accomplish this feat, the Persians diverted the Euphrates river into a canal so that the water level dropped "to the height of the middle of a man's thigh," which allowed the invading forces to march directly through the river bed to enter at night. On October 29, Cyrus himself entered the city of Babylon and detained Nabonidus. Most historical records note that Nabonidus was the last Babylonian king. The Bible is the exception and has caused the doubters no end of condemnation of the authority of the Scriptures. Belshazzar was appointed by his father, Nabonidus, as co-regent. In the ziggurat of Ur, four cylinders were found containing a prayer of Nabonidus. This prayer and a variation of it also found at Ur, place Belshazzar in a very close relationship with Nabonidus. It names Belshazzar as the first-born son and asks for the god's special blessing on him. Other documents declare him crown prince with a high level of responsibilities of state.

It is also important to keep in mind that Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51, Isaiah 13 and 14 as well as Revelation chapters 17 and 18 all speak of a total destruction of Babylon. It is not a partial destruction. The capture of Babylon in 539 B.C. was without a skirmish in the city. It simply was left to become an uninhabited place over the years.

BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION IS TIED TO THE REGENERATION OF ISRAEL:

Jeremiah 50:4-5

In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten (KJV).

We can see in our present day and age that Israel is back in their land but they are back in unbelief. Their regeneration as a believing nation will not come about until the Antichrist's armies try and attack them at Bozrah (Petra). So these chapters are discussing end time events, not historical events. We must remember that there is a chronology to the entire Bible from creation to the re-establishment of the eternal order (New Jerusalem). We live in time and space and one event follows another until all has been fulfilled in God's timing. Then time and space will be eliminated as God fulfills the prayer He taught us "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." In heaven there is no time or space.

During this time as Israel is beginning to seek out God they will enter into the everlasting covenant with Him. This is the same New Covenant, which is everlasting. (Prophecied in Jeremiah 31:31-34) Christ Himself announced it at the last supper and it was launched with the coming of the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant, which Jeremiah prophecied is specifically addressed to the Jews but the Church, is the beneficiary of it so that the Jews will be made jealous of our freedom in Christ. We leave the covenant at the time of the rapture and the Jew

will be left to seek God themselves as demonstrated by the events of the Great Tribulation. It will bring them to their knees so they want God's everlasting covenant.

Babylon Destroyed:

All the merchants will mourn over the destruction of Babylon for their fortunes were made from the corruption that is inherent within the economy. The Revelation speaks of them in chapters 17 and 18, which we have seen in terms of economic Babylon. There are also three groups of people that will rejoice in the Babylonian destruction.

Revelation 18:20

Rejoice over her, [thou] heaven, and [ye] holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her (KJV).

Even though there will be lamenting on the earth by kings, merchants and transporters in Heaven there will be rejoicing. The saints, apostles and prophets will all be celebrating the destruction. They realize that the destruction of the Babylonian systems marks the near return of Christ to the earth.

The passage in Revelation 18 ends with an interesting picture of the totality of Babylon's destruction.

Revelation 18:21-24

And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth (KJV).

Jeremiah commanded that a scroll of parts of his book be wrapped around a stone and cast into the Euphrates River to symbolize the sinking of Babylon never to surface again. Now the text here states that another person, an angel also casts a stone the size of a millstone into the sea to depict how totally Babylon will disappear so as not to be found anymore. Babylon will cease to be the world center and capital because she was guilty of the blood of the prophets (Two Witnesses) and the slaughter of the Tribulation saints.

During the second stage of the Campaign of Armageddon, while the Antichrist moves his forces into the Valley of Jezreel, his enemies, which are the underground or resistance forces, take the opportunity to destroy Babylon suddenly and quickly. According to Isaiah 13:3, they will be Gentile believers of the Tribulation. Just prior to this they will make their way to Jerusalem to report to the Jews who are there. This sudden destruction of the world political and economic

capital will cause great distress on the earth, but not in heaven. Because when Babylon gets destroyed it will signal to those in Heaven that the Second Coming will occur soon. Along with the destruction the regeneration of the Nation Israel will occur shortly. The final discussion about Babylonian destruction occurs relative to the Messianic Kingdom when God describes the future status of the Arab nations.

The first of these two desolate spots will be the former world capital of the Antichrist: Babylon. Several passages make this point.

Isaiah 13:20–22:

It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall shepherds make their flocks to lie down there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and ostriches shall dwell there, and wild goats shall dance there. And wolves shall cry in their castles, and jackals in the pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged (ASV, 1901).

The uninhabitable ruins are described as similar to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jeremiah 50:39–40:

Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wolves shall dwell there, and the ostriches shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbor cities thereof, says Jehovah, so shall no man dwell there, neither shall any son of man sojourn therein (ASV, 1901).

Later, Jeremiah emphasized the totality and completeness of Babylon's desolation.

Jeremiah 51:41–43:

How is Sheshach taken! and the praise of the whole earth seized! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations! The sea is come up upon Babylon; she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof. Her cities are become a desolation, a dry land, and a desert, a land wherein no man dwells, neither does any son of man pass thereby (ASV, 1901).

Throughout the Kingdom period, no man will even so much as pass by the ruins of Babylon, something that is hardly true today. Not only is Babylon to be a desolate waste throughout the Kingdom, it will also be a place of continual burning and smoke throughout the Millennium.

Revelation 19:3:

And a second time they say, Hallelujah. And her smoke goes up for ever and ever (KJV).

It is obvious that the animal inhabitants, as we know them, mentioned in Isaiah 13:20–22 and Jeremiah 50:39–40, cannot live in a place of continual burning pitch and brimstone and so there cannot be literal animals. What they actually are is explained.

Revelation 18:1–2:

After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird (ASV, 1901).

This place of continual burning and smoke will be a place of confinement for many demons during the Kingdom period. It is clear from Revelation nine and other passages that demons have animal- like features, and this is what the animals of the Isaiah and Jeremiah passages actually represent. In fact, the Hebrew word translated as *wild goats* refers to demons in goat form.

Next message: Isaiah Chapter 13 continued

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