

Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations

#9 God's Judgment upon Egypt and Babylon

11/2-8OL Summary:

I. The book of Jeremiah presents a picture of God's coming in to punish and judge the nations, which typify aspects of the world: **A.** In speaking concerning the nations, Jeremiah mentions Egypt first and Babylon last: In God's view, the world is first Egyptian and then Babylonian. /According to the picture in the book of Jeremiah, the last nation to be judged is Babylon; when God judges Babylon, His judgment of the nations will be complete. **B.** For the accomplishment of God's economy, the church, God's New Testament elect, must be separated from the world in all its aspects.

II. Jeremiah 46:2-28 speaks concerning God's judgment on Egypt: **A.** Egypt typifies the world of making a living and of enjoyment, with which Satan, the ruler of the world, typified by Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, occupies and usurps the people chosen by God for His economy: The nation of Egypt signifies the kingdom of darkness, the authority of darkness. /The world is not a source of enjoyment; it is a place of tyranny, and every aspect of the world is a form of tyranny. /In the world Satan is keeping God's chosen people, those destined for the fulfillment of God's purpose, under his usurping hand. /To exist is one thing, but to exist for the divine purpose is another thing. /Satan has usurped people so that they care only for their existence, not for God's purpose in their existence. /One aspect of God's purpose in calling us is to use us to bring others out of the usurpation and tyranny of Satan and the world. **B.** The world is an evil system arranged systematically by Satan: God created man to live on the earth for the fulfillment of His purpose, but His enemy, Satan, in order to usurp the God-created man, formed an anti-God world system on this earth by systematizing people with culture, education, industry, commerce, entertainment, and religion. /All the things on the earth, especially those related to mankind, and all the things in the air have been systematized by Satan into his kingdom of darkness to occupy people and frustrate them from accomplishing the purpose of God and to distract them from the enjoyment of God. /The world is against God the Father, the things in the world are against the will of God, and those who love the world are enemies of God. /"The whole world," the satanic system, "lies in the evil one". /The whole world comprises the satanic world system and the people of the world, the fallen human race. /Lies means remaining passively in the sphere of the evil one's usurpation and manipulation. /The Greek word rendered "evil" in 1 John 5:19 refers to one who is pernicious, harmfully evil, one who affects others, influencing them to be evil and vicious; such an evil one is Satan, the devil, in whom the whole world lies. /Satan is utilizing the material world and the things that are in the world to eventually head everything up in the kingdom of Antichrist; at that hour the world system will have reached its zenith, and every unit of it will be revealed to be anti-Christian. /Satan's evil world system, the kingdom of darkness, was judged through Christ's work on the cross. /Through His death on the cross in the likeness of the flesh of sin, the Lord destroyed Satan, who is in man's flesh. /By judging Satan in this way, the Lord also judged the world,

which is hanging on Satan. /The Lord's being lifted up on the cross caused the world to be judged and its ruler, Satan, to be cast out.

III. Jeremiah 50 and 51 speak concerning God's judgment on Babylon: **A.** Babylon began from Babel: At Babel Satan caused the human race to rebel against God, to worship idols, and to exalt man's self; thus, Babel was the origin, the source, of man's rebellion against God, man's worship of idols, and human self-exaltation. /Babel had its continuation in Babylon, which, in the sight of God, is the consummation of human government. /Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, was even identified with Satan as Satan's embodiment. /Babylon destroyed God's holy city and His holy temple and carried God's holy people and the vessels of God's temple into captivity. **B.** In Revelation 17 and 18 the restored Roman Empire is called Babylon the Great, which has two aspects—religious and material: Revelation 17 is an unveiling of religious Babylon—the apostate Roman Catholic Church. /In the eyes of God the Roman Catholic Church, which perpetuates much of Judaism and has assimilated much of paganism, is Babylon. /The harlot in 17:1 is the apostate Roman Catholic Church. /Because God hates the apostate church, at the beginning of the great tribulation God will cause Antichrist and his ten kings to destroy the Roman Catholic Church. /Revelation 18 is an unveiling of material Babylon—the city of Rome. /In Revelation 17 and 18 two aspects of Babylon—the religious aspect and the material aspect—are mixed together. /The harlot in 17:16 denotes religious Babylon, signifying the Roman Catholic Church, whereas the woman in verse 18 denotes material Babylon, signifying the city of Rome. /Material Babylon, the city of Rome, will become hateful in the eyes of God because it has been the source of both devilish politics and devilish religion. /Christ as another Angel will shine over the earth to destroy Babylon the Great, the city of Rome, with His great authority. **C.** The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit: Babylon is the mixture of the things of God with the things of idols. /King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon burned the house of God in Jerusalem, and he carried away all the vessels in God's house for God's worship and put them in the temple of his idols in Babylon. /In the New Testament this mixture is enlarged with the great Babylon. /We must come out of every situation where man's power is mixed with God's power, where man's ability is mixed with God's work, and where man's opinion is mixed with God's word. **D.** Babylon the Great will have two falls—the fall of religious Babylon and the fall of material Babylon: The fall of religious Babylon will take place at the beginning of the great tribulation. /The fall of material Babylon will take place at the end of the great tribulation. /The praise in 19:1-4 is related not mainly to the fall of material Babylon but to the fall of religious Babylon, because in the eyes of God religious Babylon is more hateful than material Babylon. **E.** God will judge Babylon to such an extent that nothing of Babylon will remain in the universe.

CP1: Having been turned from darkness to light, we come out of this world, a place of tyranny, and carry out God's economy.

Jer. 46:25 Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, says, I will punish Amon of No and Pharaoh and Egypt and her gods and her kings, even Pharaoh and those who trust in him.

John 17:14 I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world. **12:31** Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

OL1: In speaking concerning the nations, Jeremiah mentions Egypt first and Babylon last. In God's view, the world is first Egyptian and then Babylonian. According to the picture in the book of Jeremiah, the last nation to be judged is Babylon; when God judges Babylon, His judgment of the nations will be complete. **OL2:** For the accomplishment of God's economy, the church, God's New Testament elect, must be separated from the world in all its aspects. **OL3:** Egypt typifies the world of making a living and of enjoyment, with which Satan, the ruler of the world, typified by Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, occupies and usurps the people chosen by God for His economy. The nation of Egypt signifies the kingdom of darkness, the authority of darkness. The world is not a source of enjoyment; it is a place of tyranny, and every aspect of the world is a form of tyranny. **OL4:** In the world Satan is keeping God's chosen people, those destined for the fulfillment of God's purpose, under his usurping hand. To exist is one thing, but to exist for the divine purpose is another thing. Satan has usurped people so that they care only for their existence, not for God's purpose in their existence. One aspect of God's purpose in calling us is to use us to bring others out of the usurpation and tyranny of Satan and the world.

Jeremiah presents God's economy to us that we may turn back to our source and origin, the Triune God as the fountain of living waters. Then we will enjoy Him and will receive His dispensing into us for the accomplishment of His economy. God will then take care to keep the world away from us. Today in our church life there should not be anything Babylonian. We should clear away any rebellion against God, any exalting of ourselves, and any worshipping of idols. Then we will be God's elect under His dispensing to enjoy Him. Instead of enjoying Egypt as a good place for our living, we will enjoy the Triune God, and the church life will be our living. In such a situation we will be blessed by God.

Application: Newcomers and Youth/College students
Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

FN [open]: The first item of the spiritual and divine blessings of the New Testament jubilee, which are the blessings of the gospel of God, is to open the eyes of those who are fallen and turn them from darkness to light, that they may see the divine things in the spiritual realm. To see these things requires spiritual sight and divine light.

There are two contrasts in Acts 26:18. They are

"darkness and light" and "the authority of Satan and the authority of God". Furthermore, it reveals not only a contrast, but also a turning. What a glorious turning it is! For example, if you were able to move from the worst company to the best company, you would be overjoyed. However, the turning "from darkness to light" and "from the authority of Satan to God (the authority of God)" is a much more amazing one than that. In fact, although it is improbable to move from the worst company to the best company, an inconceivably amazing transfer that far surpasses that happened to you when you believed in Lord Jesus.

This is a blessing which surpasses every man's understanding, so many Christians do not properly understand it. May the Lord open your and my eyes and minds. **Eph. 1:17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, **18** The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,

Once you understand the value of this outstanding and amazing turning, you will forget yourself and give thanks and praises to the Lord and gladly give yourself and your whole life to Christ and church. Therefore, in order not to love and come out of this world typified by Egypt and Babylon, you should first know and experience the value of Christ and church in God's economy on the positive side.

Next, we should recognize that the world is the system of Satan, not a source of enjoyment, but a place of tyranny. Every aspect of this world is a kind of tyranny. You need to come out of the worldly system that occupies you to complete God's economy. Furthermore, you need to help others and take them out of the usurpation of Satan.

For example, a student's duty is to study and a working person's duty is work, so man must take study or work seriously. But if you think you are too busy to go to the church meetings or do the morning revivals, then study and work become the world that occupies you. Whether you are a student or a businessman, the meaning of human existence is to be filled with God, express Him and represent Him; therefore, sanctify your time, enjoy the Lord every day, and participate in the meetings every week. Furthermore, help others to read the Bible together and enjoy the Lord and bring them to the meetings.

Prayer: "Oh Lord, we thank you for turning us from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God. Seeing the value of this amazing turning, I further pressure the Lord and church and give myself to the Lord. Study and work are my duty, but if these things interfere with my church life, then study and work have become the world to me. May I come out of this world, be filled with God, express Him, and represent Him. And may I be able to help others and take them out of Satan's robbery.

CP2: Put your mind on the spirit, your mind will be renewed, the concept of value will be changed and come out of Babylon which God hates

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him; **James 4:4** Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever determines to be a friend of the world is constituted an enemy of God. **Rev. 18:4** ...Come out of her, My people, that you do not participate in her sins and that you do not receive her plagues; **19:2-3** For true and righteous are His judgments; for He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and He avenged the blood of His slaves at her hand...they said, Hallelujah! And her smoke goes up forever and ever.

OL1: God created man to live on the earth for the fulfillment of His purpose, but His enemy, Satan, in order to usurp the God-created man, formed an anti-God world system on this earth by systematizing people with culture, education, industry, commerce, entertainment, and religion. **OL2**: In Revelation 17 and 18 the restored Roman Empire is called Babylon the Great, which has two aspects—religious and material. The harlot in 17:16 denotes religious Babylon, signifying the Roman Catholic Church, whereas the woman in verse 18 denotes material Babylon, signifying the city of Rome. Since Babylon the Great is twofold, to come out of her means to come out of both religious Babylon and material Babylon. **OL3**: Material Babylon, the city of Rome, will become hateful in the eyes of God because it has been the source of both devilish politics and devilish religion. **OL4**: Christ as another Angel will shine over the earth to destroy Babylon the Great, the city of Rome, with His great authority.

We all need to have a clear vision of the world. To us the things which we need for our existence may simply be earthly things, or they may become a world, a system of Satan. When you are preoccupied with eating, eating becomes an item of the world to you. When you are preoccupied with marriage, marriage becomes an item of the world to you. When you become preoccupied with clothing, housing, and transportation, these also become items of the world to you.

In **Romans 12:2**, Paul said, "And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind". To be fashioned according to this age is to be conformed to the present course of the world. Instead of being conformed to the present age, we should be transformed by the renewing of the mind. The more we are transformed, the more we are delivered from the flesh, the self, and the world.

The religious Babylon is revealed as "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of the Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth". In Revelation 2:20 she is signified by Jezebel. In contrast to political Babylon, religious Babylon, the apostate Roman Catholic Church,

is very mysterious. It has God, Christ, and Satan within it. It has a name that it proclaims God and preaches Christ as the Savior. But when its members believe its preaching, they are brought into the secrets, mysteries, and deep things of Satan to worship idols.

Application to business person/graduate students

For young ones, job and marriage are very important. But although these are important, don't let your heart driven by them. Because if you love job or marriage etc. more than you love the Lord, these become the world to occupy your heart.

For example, one fiancée was arranged for you by the Lord. You need to make progress in this important project with the brothers and sisters who take care of you. But Satan may work behind the scene and attack you through the fiancée, through family members, or through other things in this matter of marriage, telling you "your parents may feel ashamed if your wedding ceremony is not more showy", "income is most needed after wedding, so I need to work overtime", "I should spend more time on dating, and reduce my attendance of meetings". The target of Satan's attack is to derive you from the Lord and the church and occupy you so that you cannot carry on God's economy.

In this case, your mind is fashioned according to this age which is the system of Satan and you can hardly escape from the bondage of Satan. In such time, you need to repent and turn to Christ and the church from the project of your marriage. Then proceed the matter of marriage in the fellowship with Christ and the church. The most important thing is the fellowship with Christ and the church. Then all the other things will go smoothly. Amen! Put your mind on your spirit and pray over the vision of God's economy which you have been listening. Then the Lord will renew your mind and let you have the divine concept of value.

Young people should honor marriage. To be anointed is the real honoring of God and man. So please pray in the spirit and have dates in spirit to honor marriage.

Heb. 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and the bed undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Matt. 3:2 And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near. FN¹ **Repent**: To repent is to have a change of mind issuing in regret, to have a turn in purpose. In John the Baptist's preaching, repentance, as the opening of God's New Testament economy, involved making a turn for the kingdom of the heavens. This indicates that God's New Testament economy is focused on His kingdom. For this we should repent, change our mind, make a turn in our life-pursuit. The goal of our pursuing has been other things. Now our pursuing must turn toward God and His kingdom.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, God's enemy Satan is trying to usurp and occupy man whom God created using human needs such as education, occupation and marriage etc. Renew my mind and let me have the divine concept of value so that I would not be fashioned according to this age. I give my job, marriage to the Lord so that my mind would not be occupied by marriage and job nor deprived from the Lord and the church. Amen!"

CP3: Come out of Babylon, the mixture of the things of God and the things of man, make the church prosper with a heart of good earth

Gen. 11:4 And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth. **Jer. 51:9** We tried to heal Babylon, but she is not healed; forsake her, and let each one of us go to his own land; for her judgment has reached to heaven... **61-62** ...When you come to Babylon,...say, O Jehovah, You have spoken concerning this place, to cut it off,...for it will be an eternal desolation. **Rev. 11:15** ...The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever. **21:2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...

OL1: The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit. **OL2:** Babylon the Great will have two falls—the fall of religious Babylon and the fall of material Babylon. **OL3:** God will judge Babylon to such an extent that nothing of Babylon will remain in the universe.

The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit. It is pretending that something of man is something of God. It is receiving man's glory to satisfy man's lust. Therefore, Babylon is mixed and corrupted Christianity. What should our attitude be toward Babylon? **Rev. 18:4** says, "And I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you do not participate in her sins and that you do not receive her plagues." **2 Cor. 6:17-18** also says, "Therefore 'come out from their midst and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you.'" ...According to God's Word, His children cannot be involved in any matter containing the character of Babylon. God said that we must come out from every situation where man's power is mixed with God's power, where man's ability is mixed with God's work, and where man's opinion is mixed with God's Word.

In Revelation the restored Roman Empire is called Babylon the Great. Babylon the Great has two aspects—a political aspect and a religious aspect....The political aspect of Babylon the Great includes many material things and many things related to the international trade and commerce upon the earth....At the end time, the political situation of the world will not be communistic, for international trade, not merely national commerce, will be thriving.

In the Old Testament, in Jeremiah, Babylon came to destroy Jerusalem and to make her a ruin, a desolation. At the end of the Bible, in Revelation, there are Babylon the Great and the New Jerusalem. Eventually, Babylon the Great will be destroyed, removed from the earth, and cast into the lake of fire.

Application for the serving ones

The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the things of God. Roman Catholic Church is a mixing of the Bible and the degraded elements such as idols and

fornication. You must not bring the opinions, pride, ambition, seniority, predominance of men over women, selfishness, shameless, or giving glory to yourself to the service of the church. This mixing is the Babylon that God condemns. You must not tolerate Babylon's principle by saying in your heart, "I think it's okay because I'm just a human."

As **Jer.11:20** said, "But, O Jehovah of hosts, who judges righteously, / Who tests the inward parts and the heart," God is looking at your heart. That is because the heart is the soil where the seeds of the Word of God grow. The Lord revealed 4 kinds of hearts in Matthew 13. **1** The heart by the road that was hardened by the worldly traffic, **2** A rocky heart with hidden sins and personal desires, **3** A heart, a land of thorns covered with anxiety and the deception of wealth, **4** It is the heart of good earth that provides every corner of the land and accepts the Word. When serving the church, the Lord explores and tests the hardness, hidden sins and desires, anxieties and love for money that come from the worldly traffic in your heart. That is because you come out of the of mixing Babylon on the negative side and bear a lot of fruits on the positive side with a heart of good earth.

A testimony of a brother: I will testify of the experience in the period that the number of the saints in the church was about to reach 70 people in Kobe. Every year around September, I have a sense of crisis about the situation of "increasing but not so much," and I am forced to come forward to the Lord and pray, "Lord, I can't tolerate this situation. enlighten each part of my heart. What is the problem in me and hindering the growth of the church? Expose my hidden sins, shortcomings and weaknesses." Then the Lord enlightened the insensitivity to the movement of the Holy Spirit in my heart, inflexibility, anxiety etc. I confessed and dealt with the enlightened sins one by one. And I was filled with the Holy Spirit and joy. In fellowship with the Lord, He has given us the faith that He will be able to increase the remaining fruit. After that, I fellowshiped the burden with my wife and practiced the gospel and nourishing. Each year, the Lord added some remaining fruit during the last three months. **John. 15:2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit. In summary, **1** Personally fellowship with the Lord with a sense of urgency for the increase, **2** Confess sins, shortcomings, and weaknesses enlightened in the fellowship, **3** Filled with the Holy Spirit and gaining confidence in the faith of increase, **4** Share the burden with others, go out and bear fruit.

There are both blessings and failures in this testimony. The above 4 experiences are blessings. However, the re-evaluation in September was too late (this means I was in self-satisfaction) and insufficient ability to involve others are experiences of failure.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, the principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit. I am afraid to bring things of my own into the service of the church. Enlighten each part of my heart and expose my hidden sins, shortcomings, and weaknesses. I turn to the Lord and give every corner of the land with a good heart to accept the Word. And let me gain confidence in faith in the fellowship with the Lord and work with the saints to move forward with one accord to achieve

the goals of the Vital Group.”