

Handout: Jeremiah Lesson 21

What Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations: “For these in their turn are to be enslaved to powerful nations and great kings, and I shall pay them back as their deeds and handiwork deserve.” For Yahweh, the God of Israel, said this to me, “Take this cup of the wine of wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it; they will drink and reel and lose their wits, because of the sword I am sending among them. I took the cup from Yahweh’s hand and made all the nations to whom Yahweh sent me drink it.
 Jeremiah 25:14-17; probably Jeremiah’s message to the ministers of nations and city states attending the Jerusalem Conference in 594 BC

The oracles in Chapters 46-51 are against nine nations: Egypt, Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus (Syria), Kedar-Hazor (Arab tribes), Elam, and Babylon. These oracles come in the middle of the book of Jeremiah in the Septuagint translation, after Chapter 25 which begins with a vision of Yahweh’s “cup of wrath.” The chapter ends with the prophecy: *The lion has left his lair and their country is a wasteland now, owing to the devastating fury, owing to his furious anger;* a reference to Yahweh’s “servant,” King Nebuchadnezzar (Jer 25:18).

Some of the oracles of judgment end in a promise of mercy and restoration:

- Egypt (46:26)
- Moab (48:47)
- Ammon (49:6)
- Elam (49:39)

Judah and Israel are included in 46:27-28; 50:19-20. However, no restoration is promised for Philistia, Edom, Damascus, Kedar-Hazor, or Babylon.

There are two spellings for Nebuchadnezzar: with an “n” or a “r.” In the oracles against the nations, the name is spelled with an “r.” The same two spellings are also found in the Babylonian Chronicles. In the Book of Jeremiah, the spelling of the name with an “n” is only found eight times in Jer 27:6, 8, 20, 28:3, 11, 14; 29:1, 3, while the spelling with an “r” is used in 21:2, 7; 22:5; 24:1; 25:1, 9; 29:21; 32:1, 28; 35:11; 37:1; 39:1, 11; 43:10; 44:30; 46:2, 13, 26; 49:28, 30; 50:17; 51:34; 52:4, 12, 28, 29, 30 for a total of 27 times.

The Symbolic Images of the Prophets: Drinking Wine

Image Groups	Part I Covenant relationship	Part II Rebellion	Part III Redemptive Judgment	Part IV Restoration Fulfilled
Drinking Wine Examples in Scripture	Joy of drinking good wine Isaiah 25:6-8; 62:8-9; 65:13; Jeremiah 31:12; 40:12	Becoming drunk Isaiah 5:11-12; 28:1; Jeremiah 8:13; 48:26; 51:7; Joel 1:5	Loss of wine; drinking the “cup of God’s wrath” Psalm 75:9; Isaiah 51:17-23; 63:2-3; Jeremiah 13:12-14; 25:15-31; 49:12; 51:6-7; 48:26; Ezekiel 23:31-34; Joel 4:13; Habakkuk 2:16	Rejoicing in the best “new wine” at the Master’s table Promise: Zechariah 9:15-16; Joel 4:18; Amos 9:13 Fulfilled: Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Revelation 19:7-9