

Jeremiah 25

Charles Feinberg says "not only is chapter 25 important historically, geographically, and prophetically, it is also remarkable for the abundance of its ideas, the variety of its figures, and the diversity of its style in treating the same theme of sin, repentance, and judgment. It is without parallel in world literature." Yes, indeed, this is an amazing passage!

- 1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon;**
2 The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,
3 From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened.
4 And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.

For 10 years the people refused to listen to Jeremiah and the other prophets God sent.

- 5 They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever:**
6 And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

The prophets message was two-fold:

1. Turn from your evil ways.
2. Don't follow after false gods.

If the people obeyed:

1. They would continue to live in the land.
2. God would not be angry with them.

How does a nation know what is evil and what is not evil?

- 7 Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.**
8 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,
9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.
10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

The nation refused to listen to God with the result being God's judgment. God will use Babylon to judge Israel and all joy will be removed, daily life will cease, and work will stop.

- 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**

This was the prophecy that Daniel (chapter 9) was reading (also Jeremiah 29:10) in Babylonian captivity.

- 1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;
- 2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

The inhabitants of Israel went into captivity in 3 stages - 605 B.C.; 597 B.C.; and 586 B.C. Daniel went to Babylon in the first captivity of 605 B.C. The first year of the reign of Darius was 538 B.C.

Daniel understood from the **books**. The other book was 2 Chronicles 36:16-21

- 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.
- 17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.
- 18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.
- 19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.
- 20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:
- 21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Leviticus 25:1-4

- 1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying,
- 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD.
- 3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;
- 4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

Leviticus 26:27, 32-35

- 27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;
- 32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.
- 33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.
- 34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.
- 35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

- 12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.**
- 13 And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.**
- 14 For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.**

Babylon will reap the judgment of God for their wickedness.

Jeremiah 50:9-11

- 9 For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.
- 10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD.
- 11 Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls

The "book" in verse 13 could be a separate book (scroll) that Jeremiah had already written or that the prophecies of Jeremiah were recorded as he spoke.

The main point is that nations are not spared God's judgement when they are evil and sinful - **"I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands."**

- 15 **For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.**
- 16 **And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.**
- 17 **Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:**

God is sending a "cup of wrath" to the nations to drink (Jeremiah 46 - 51 details the nations judgement). The result: "**be moved**" נַעַשׂ ga`ash - agitate violently - and "**be mad**" הָלַל haw-lal' - act as though crazed. The nations will reel like a drunk and act crazily, no logic or sense.

2 Thessalonians 2:

- 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Thomas Ice comments:

"The context for when "they did not receive the love of the truth" in verse 10 clearly will be taking place during the Tribulation. The 2nd Thessalonians 2 passage is talking about the response of unbelievers during the Tribulation....Specific support that verses 8-12 encompass events that will transpire in the Tribulation begins in verse 8, which says, "And then that lawless one will be revealed . . ." In other words, "then" denotes a shift from the current Church Age into a future era: the Tribulation. Nothing in verses 8-12 takes any part of that passage out of the context of the Tribulation....Verse 10 is clearly related to its preceding context and speaks of something that will take place during the Tribulation."

When sin and evil permeate a nation God will ultimately send judgment in the form of decisions that defy logic and the interests of the people followed by the "**sword**."

- 18 **To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day;**
- 19 **Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people;**
- 20 **And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod,**
- 21 **Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon,**
- 22 **And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea,**
- 23 **Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners,**
- 24 **And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert,**
- 25 **And all the kings of Zimri, and all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes,**
- 26 **And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.**

Numerous nations are mentioned to show that God's judgment spares no nation.

The following verses speak of the future seven year Tribulation period coming upon all the nations and inhabitants of the earth. The enormity of the judgment is repeated in passages of Scripture such as Isaiah 13 and Revelation 6 - 19.

- 27 **Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.**
- 28 **And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.**
- 29 **For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Nations can defy God and refuse to believe He will judge them, but judgement is certain. If God brought judgment on Jerusalem, "**the city which is called by my name**," how can any city escape judgment?

The judgment of God will eventually be upon "**all the inhabitants of the earth**." This is referring to the judgments of the Tribulation period.

30 Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.

When the sins of the nations reach their pinnacle, God will sound His anger from "his holy habitation." The world laughs at the thought of God judging a nation. Their foolishness, ignorance and arrogance will "blow up" in their faces one day.

31 A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.

Even in His judgment, God offers the people forgiveness. He pleads with people through His messengers.

32 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

33 And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

The scope of evil in the world will be unparalleled at any time in history. The dead will litter the entire earth.

Revelation 19:15-18

- 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
- 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
- 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
- 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

34 Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel.

35 And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape.

36 A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, shall be heard: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture.

The leaders and the people will have no place to flee. Judgment covers the entire earth.