

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 330 – The Ammonites Through Latter Days Of Elam (Jeremiah 49:1-39)

1. Prior to God's plan to bring again [turn back] the captivity of the children of Ammon, what was God going to bring upon the Ammonites?

War, desolation, howling, lamenting, a humbling of their thoughts they couldn't be touched, fear, etc.: *"(1) Concerning the Ammonites, thus saith the Lord; Hath Israel no sons? hath he no heir? why then doth their king inherit Gad, and his people dwell in his cities? (2) Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the Lord. (3) Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled: cry, ye daughters of Rabbah, gird you with sackcloth; lament, and run to and fro by the hedges; for their king shall go into captivity, and his priests and his princes together. (4) Wherefore gloriest thou in the valleys, thy flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? that trusted in her treasures, saying, Who shall come unto me? (5) Behold, I will bring a fear upon thee, saith the Lord God of hosts, from all those that be about thee; and ye shall be driven out every man right forth; and none shall gather up him that wandereth. (6) And afterward I will bring again the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the Lord"* (**Jeremiah 49:1-6**).

- After the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, God had planned to punish many nations. This list included the children of Ammon (**Jeremiah 25:8-26**).
- The Ammonites were descendants of Lot (**Deuteronomy 2:19**) and were separated from Israel for a time (**Deuteronomy 23:3**).
- The Ammonites took advantage of the depressed state of Israel, and invaded their territories in the tribe of Gad. You see this in their past (**Amos 1:13**).
- "Hath Israel no heir" is God pointing out that He had not forsaken the children of Israel. Get out of their land (**Jeremiah 12:14-17**).
- War upon the Ammonites (**Ezekiel 25:1-7**).
- God comes back to, after captivity, bringing Israel back to their inheritance (**Isaiah 14:1-3**).
- God's judgment on the wicked is not intended to bring joy (**James 5:1**).
- Captivity for a reason (**Amos 1:13-15**).
- Their vain trusts in what they gloried in (**Psalms 52:1-7, Proverbs 11:4, Jeremiah 9:23, and Zephaniah 1:18**).
- God is certainly a source of fear, especially when He has to judge the wicked for their errors (**Psalms 76:7 and Hebrews 10:31**).
- Similar to Moab (**Jeremiah 48:47**) and Elam (**Jeremiah 49:39**), God planned to end their captivity and allow them to be restored to their land.

2. Did God desire to destroy all the people of Edom?

No and they weren't wise enough to realize it: *"(7) Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished? (8) Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O*

inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time that I will visit him. (9) If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleanings? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough. (10) But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not. (11) Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me. (12) For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment was not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and art thou he that shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink of it” (Jeremiah 49:7-12).

- The Edomites are descendants of Esau (**Genesis 25:30** and **Genesis 36:8**).
- There is some point to wise men being in Edom (**Obadiah 1:8**).
- Run (cf. **Jeremiah 48:6**) and hide (cf. **Matthew 24:15-18**).
- Edom was going to be made bare (**Obadiah 1:5-9**).
- God planned to preserve the fatherless and widows (**Psalms 68:5** and **Psalms 146:9**).
- Consider, how this applies to Christians today in looking after the true fatherless and widows (**James 1:21-27**).
- Herein is reference to the cup of the Lord’s judgment we have read about (**Jeremiah 25:15-17; 21**).

3. The Lord had sworn judgment, but the Edomites were deceived by whom?

They deceived themselves through their terribleness and pride: “(13) *For I have sworn by myself, saith the Lord, that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes. (14) I have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, saying, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle. (15) For, lo, I will make thee small among the heathen, and despised among men. (16) Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 49:13-16).*

- **Obadiah 1:1-3**; cf. **Proverbs 11:2**, **Proverbs 16:18**, **Proverbs 29:23**, **Isaiah 2:11-22**, **Isaiah 5:15-16**, **Matthew 23:12**, and **James 4:6**.

4. Was God’s judgment on the land of Edom going to be subtle?

No. The land would be desolate and such was noticeable to all passerby’s, likened to Sodom and Gomorrah: “(17) *Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. (18) As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it. (19) Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who*

will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me? (20) Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them. (21) The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea. (22) Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs” (Jeremiah 49:17-22).

- Desolation (**Ezekiel 25:13**) that cause others to hiss when passing by like happened to Judah (**Micah 6:16**).
- Likened to Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19:1-29**).
- There is none like God (**II Samuel 7:22** and **Psalms 86:8**). There is none that can appoint the time like God (**Isaiah 46:10-11**).
- Though they’d attempt to fight His counsel, they would fail (**Malachi 1:3-4**).
- The noise of the fall is put into great imagery (cf. **Ezekiel 26:15-18**).
- Judgment that brings pain likened to a woman in childbirth for an entire nation. Again, this is repeated imagery of God’s wrath upon people (**Isaiah 26:17**, **Jeremiah 4:31**, **Jeremiah 22:23**, etc.).

5. How did the people of Damascus respond to the hearing of evil tidings?

They became fainthearted and ultimately fell: “(23) Concerning Damascus. Hamath is confounded, and Arpad: for they have heard evil tidings: they are fainthearted; there is sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet. (24) Damascus is waxed feeble, and turneth herself to flee, and fear hath seized on her: anguish and sorrows have taken her, as a woman in travail. (25) How is the city of praise not left, the city of my joy! (26) Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the Lord of hosts. (27) And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Benhadad” (Jeremiah 49:23-27).

- Their hearts became faint when hearing of the judgment of God coming upon them. This is the normal reaction amongst thinking people when they know they are up against God (**Joshua 2:3-11**, **II Samuel 17:10**, **Jonah 1:12-16**, and **Jonah 3:1-10**).
- The consumption of the city of praise (**Isaiah 17:1-14**).

6. What surrounded the people of Kedar?

Fear was on every side as they were invaded: “(28) Concerning Kedar, and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the Lord; Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east. (29) Their tents and their flocks shall they take away: they shall take to themselves their curtains, and all their vessels, and their camels; and they shall cry unto them, Fear is on every side” (Jeremiah 49:28-29).

- Kedar was made up of descendants of Ishmael (**Genesis 25:13**).
- Again, we read the common theme of fear on these judged nations (**Psalms 9:20**).

7. Why did God advise the people of Hazor to arise and go far off?

They arrogantly had no defense system and were about to be invaded and left desolate: *“(30) Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. (31) Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone. (32) And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them that are in the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the Lord. (33) And Hazor shall be a dwelling for dragons, and a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor any son of man dwell in it” (Jeremiah 49:30-33).*

- For clarity, let’s remember that God is behind Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon (**Jeremiah 27:6**).
- The inhabitants of Hazor were wealthy and complacent (cf. **Revelation 3:14-22**).
- It is not good to be at ease (**Isaiah 32:9-11**, **Ezekiel 39:6**, **Nahum 1:1-12**, and **Zephaniah 2:8-15**).
- They were going to be spoiled and left desolate which is the end of those whom prosper though they are wicked (**Psalms 76:1-22**).

8. Prior to God’s plan to bring again [turn back] the captivity of Elam, what was He going to do to them?

Bring the winds of heaven against them, dismay them before their enemies, send the sword, destroy their king and princes, etc.: *“(34) The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, (35) Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might. (36) And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come. (37) For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon them, even my fierce anger, saith the Lord; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them: (38) And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the Lord. (39) But it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 49:34-39).*

- The descendants of Shem (**Genesis 10:22**), broken bow (**Psalms 46:9**).
- A powerful imagery regarding four winds of heaven (**Daniel 7:1-18** and **Revelation 7:1**).
- Consumption, destruction (**Isaiah 1:28** and **Ezekiel 32:24**).
- Yet, not entirely destroyed. Brought again (cf. **Ezekiel 16:53-55**).