**BCM Bible Study - November 30/December 1 [Jer 46-52]**

**God of the Nations**

**Introduction**: *The book of Jeremiah comes to a conclusion with a series of prophetic judgments about the inevitable destruction to the nations that surround Israel and Judah. The prophecies occurred in 609-594 B.C. which is about 23 years before the actual fall of Jerusalem, making it the first time that Jeremiah exercises his original calling of “prophet to the nations” that we saw back in chapter one.*

*The last two chapters recount the fall of Jerusalem and chapter 52 ends with a “cliff hanger” of hope from around the time of the fall of Jerusalem in about 586 B.C.*

[timeline source - <http://biblehub.com/timeline/jeremiah/1.htm>]

“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men.” – Benjamin Franklin

**Sovereignty over the Nations:** Earlier in the book of Jeremiah [however, not chronologically], we saw God declare his sovereignty over the nations: **Read Jeremiah 27:1-11**

* Given what we know and what we’ve read so far, why do you think it might be comforting for the Judeans to hear that the Lord is sovereign over foreign nations?
* If God was sovereign over foreign nations in the past, he is obviously still sovereign and working through them. What implications does that have for living today?

*The nations included in the judgments are: Egypt, the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar and Hazor, Elam, and Babylon. At any one time, all of these nations have been enemies of Israel & Judah, God’s holy and chosen people.*

**Judgment for Moab: A Case Study. Read Jeremiah 48:1-9**

* What is God’s major indictment on Moab in v. 7?

*Moab was a nation that faced little external opposition from other nations, and when it did face opposition, they easily survived resulting in pride and complacency which is a common theme among the other nations that are judged in this section as well. [ESV study bible + Encountering the OT]*

* What specific attitudes and actions characterize a complacent person in the field of academics? What about the Christian life?
* How do you think we can become complacent in our walk with Christ?
* “The Christian life is not avoiding negative qualities as much as it is pursuing positive qualities.” – Tim Challies. If complacency is a negative quality, what would be the opposite quality we ought to pursue? How would we do that?

**Read Jeremiah 48:45-47**

* What does God say will ultimately happen to the Moabites?
* Why do *you* *think* that God will ultimately preserve a remnant of the Moabites?
	+ Perhaps so that their descendants might ultimately know the saving power of Jesus once Gentiles are grafted in. “This statement most likely refers to a time when Moabites will take refuge in the Messiah” – ESV Study Bible

*Reflecting on God judging the nations as a whole:*

* As a Judean, if you knew that your people were destined to exile and destruction by the city of Babylon, how would it have made you feel if you knew that your enemies (including the nation that would overthrow your government) would be punished?
* How does this encourage you today as you think about God’s sovereignty over the nations, your life and the events around you?

**The Judgment of Babylon. Read Jeremiah 51:1-10**

*“Jeremiah devoted 121 verses to the future of nine nations and 44 verses to the defeat and destruction of Jerusalem. When we count the number of verses in Jeremiah 50 and 51, however, he devoted 110 verses to the fall of Babylon. It is an important subject indeed!” – Warren Wiersbe*

* What is the future for Babylon as described in v.1-5?
* What is God’s message to the people of God in the midst of this passage?
* How does this passage and eventual outcome for Babylon impact how you think about the exile of the Judeans and the destruction of Jerusalem?
* Where are you struggling to believe that God has a bigger plan in the midst of your pain or pruning?

**Davidic Line Preserved. Read Jeremiah 52:31-34 [easy to omit if you don’t have time]**

* What is significant about this section? Why is it important that the line of David be preserved?
* Why do you think this section is ordered last in the book of Jeremiah?

“God’s promises cannot fail, and God promised David a permanent kingdom from which the Messiah would come.” – ESV Study Bible

**Conclusion:**

Take some time as a group to reflect on Jeremiah. It might be neat to ask people to just go in a circle or break up into small groups and share something they learned, or something that meant a great deal to them about the book of Jeremiah this semester. Some questions to help guide you in this time:

* What have you learned about God’s character during our study of Jeremiah?
* How have you been stretched or challenged through the reading of Jeremiah?
* How have you seen the Gospel in the book of Jeremiah? How have you seen the NT and OT overlap and has it changed your concept of how the OT and NT relate to one another?
* What themes did you see throughout Jeremiah?

**Resources**:

The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – Warren Wiersbe

Encountering the Old Testament – Bill T. Arnold & Bryan E. Beyer

ESV Study Bible

Jeremiah by Matthew Harmon

TimChallies.com