

## ***Second Baptist Church of Doylestown***

### ***Jeremiah Chapters 45-47***

***3/25/15***

#### ***Bible Study Notes - Chapter 45***

##### ***A Message to Baruch - Verses 1-5***

*<sup>1</sup>When Baruch son of Neriah wrote on a scroll the words Jeremiah the prophet dictated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, Jeremiah said this to Baruch: <sup>2</sup>"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch: <sup>3</sup>You said, 'Woe to me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest.' <sup>4</sup>But the LORD has told me to say to you, 'This is what the LORD says: I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted, throughout the earth. <sup>5</sup>Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the LORD, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.'"*

**45:1-5** The event relating to this chapter is recorded in 36:1-8. The chapter was written in 605-604 B.C. Baruch was the scribe who recorded Jeremiah's words on a scroll.

**45:5** Baruch had long been serving this unpopular prophet, writing his book of struggles and judgments, and now he was upset. God told Baruch to take his eyes off himself and whatever rewards he thought he deserved. If Baruch did this, God would protect him. It is easy to lose the joy of serving our God when we take our eyes off him. The more we look away from God's purposes toward our own sacrifices, the more frustrated we will become. As you serve God, beware of focusing on what you are giving up. When this happens, ask God's forgiveness; then redirect your attention to the incomparable privilege of serving God.

#### ***Bible Study Notes - Chapter 46***

##### ***A Message About Egypt***

*<sup>1</sup>This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations: <sup>2</sup>Concerning Egypt: This is the message against the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah: <sup>3</sup>"Prepare your shields, both large and small, and march out for battle! <sup>4</sup>Harness the horses, mount the steeds! Take your positions with helmets on! Polish your spears, put on your armor! <sup>5</sup>What do I see? They are terrified, they are retreating, their warriors are defeated. They flee in haste without looking back, and there is terror on every side," declares the LORD. <sup>6</sup>"The swift cannot flee nor the strong escape. In the north by the River Euphrates they stumble and fall. <sup>7</sup>"Who is this that rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters? <sup>8</sup>Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters. She says, 'I will rise and cover the earth; I will destroy cities and their people.' <sup>9</sup>Charge, you horses! Drive furiously, you charioteers! March on, you warriors—men of Cush and Put who carry shields, men of Lydia who draw the bow.*

**46:1-28** In this chapter, we gain several insights about God and his plan for this world. (1) Although God chose Israel for a special purpose, he loves all people and wants all to come to him. (2) God is holy and will not tolerate sin. (3) God's judgments are not based on prejudice and a desire for revenge, but on fairness and justice. (4) God does not delight in judgment, but in salvation. (5) God is impartial—he judges everyone by the same standard.

**46:2** At the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C., Babylon and Egypt, the two major world powers after Assyria's fall, clashed. The Babylonians entered Carchemish by surprise and defeated Egypt. This battle, which passed world leadership to Babylon, was Nebuchadnezzar's first great victory, establishing him as king of the Babylonian Empire. With Egypt's power declining, it was both poor strategy and disobedience to God for Judah to form an alliance with Egypt.

**46:9** The soldiers from Cush (Ethiopia) and Put (Libya) were from eastern and northern Africa. The men of Lydia may have been from Greece.

### **Verses 10-28**

<sup>10</sup> *But that day belongs to the Lord, the LORD Almighty—a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour till it is satisfied, till it has quenched its thirst with blood. For the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will offer sacrifice in the land of the north by the River Euphrates.*

<sup>11</sup> *"Go up to Gilead and get balm, Virgin Daughter Egypt. But you try many medicines in vain; there is no healing for you. <sup>12</sup> The nations will hear of your shame; your cries will fill the earth. One warrior will stumble over another; both will fall down together."*

<sup>13</sup> *This is the message the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to attack Egypt: <sup>14</sup> "Announce this in Egypt, and proclaim it in Migdol; proclaim it also in Memphis and Tahpanhes: 'Take your positions and get ready, for the sword devours those around you.'*

<sup>15</sup> *Why will your warriors be laid low? They cannot stand, for the LORD will push them down. <sup>16</sup> They will stumble repeatedly; they will fall over each other. They will say, 'Get up, let us go back to our own people and our native lands, away from the sword of the oppressor.'*

<sup>17</sup> *There they will exclaim, 'Pharaoh king of Egypt is only a loud noise; he has missed his opportunity.'*

<sup>18</sup> *"As surely as I live," declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty, "one will come who is like Tabor among the mountains, like Carmel by the sea. <sup>19</sup> Pack your belongings for exile, you who live in Egypt, for Memphis will be laid waste and lie in ruins without inhabitant. <sup>20</sup> "Egypt is a beautiful heifer, but a gadfly is coming against her from the north. <sup>21</sup> The mercenaries in her ranks are like fattened calves. They too will turn and flee together, they will not stand their ground, for the day of disaster is coming upon them, the time for them to be punished. <sup>22</sup> Egypt will hiss like a fleeing serpent as the enemy advances in force; they will come against her with axes, like men who cut down trees. <sup>23</sup> They will chop down her forest," declares the LORD, "dense though it be. They are more numerous than locusts, they cannot be counted. <sup>24</sup> Daughter Egypt will be put to shame, given into the hands of the people of the north."*

<sup>25</sup> *The LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to bring punishment on Amon god of Thebes, on Pharaoh, on Egypt and her gods and her kings, and on those who rely on Pharaoh. <sup>26</sup> I will give them into the hands of those who want to kill them—Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Later, however, Egypt will be inhabited as in times past," declares the LORD. <sup>27</sup> "Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel. I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant, for I am with you," declares the LORD. "Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished."*

**46:17** The Egyptian pharaoh was a "loud noise" who "missed his opportunity" because, although he had come to help Jerusalem, he beat a hasty retreat when the Babylonians turned on him. Jeremiah had prophesied that Pharaoh Hophra would be killed by his enemies (44:30). This was fulfilled nearly 20 years later when his co-regent Ahmose led a revolt. **46:28** God punished his people in order to bring them back to himself, and he punishes us to correct and purify us. No one welcomes punishment, but we should all welcome its results: correction and purity.

## ***Bible Study Notes - Chapter 47***

### ***A Message About the Philistines - Verses 1-7***

***<sup>1</sup>This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza: <sup>2</sup>This is what the LORD says: "See how the waters are rising in the north; they will become an overflowing torrent. They will overflow the land and everything in it, the towns and those who live in them. The people will cry out; all who dwell in the land will wail <sup>3</sup>at the sound of the hooves of galloping steeds, at the noise of enemy chariots and the rumble of their wheels. Parents will not turn to help their children; their hands will hang limp. <sup>4</sup>For the day has come to destroy all the Philistines and to remove all survivors who could help Tyre and Sidon. The LORD is about to destroy the Philistines, the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor. <sup>5</sup>Gaza will shave her head in mourning; Ashkelon will be silenced. You remnant on the plain, how long will you cut yourselves? <sup>6</sup>"Alas, sword of the LORD, how long till you rest? Return to your sheath; cease and be still.' <sup>7</sup>But how can it rest when the LORD has commanded it, when he has ordered it to attack Ashkelon and the coast?"***

**47:1** Located on the coastal plain next to Judah, Philistia had always been a thorn in Israel's side. The two nations battled constantly. Other prophets who spoke against Philistia include Isaiah (14:28-32), Ezekiel (25:15-17), Amos (1:6-8), and Zephaniah (2:4-7).