

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Jeremiah Chapters 48-49

4/1/15

Bible Study Notes - Chapter 48

A Message About Moab - Verses 1-13

¹ Concerning Moab: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Woe to Nebo, for it will be ruined. Kiriathaim will be disgraced and captured; the stronghold will be disgraced and shattered. ² Moab will be praised no more; in Heshbon people will plot her downfall: 'Come, let us put an end to that nation.' You, the people of Madmen, will also be silenced; the sword will pursue you. ³ Cries of anguish arise from Horonaim, cries of great havoc and destruction. ⁴ Moab will be broken; her little ones will cry out. ⁵ They go up the hill to Luhith, weeping bitterly as they go; on the road down to Horonaim anguished cries over the destruction are heard. ⁶ Flee! Run for your lives; become like a bush in the desert. ⁷ Since you trust in your deeds and riches, you too will be taken captive, and Chemosh will go into exile, together with his priests and officials. ⁸ The destroyer will come against every town, and not a town will escape. The valley will be ruined and the plateau destroyed, because the LORD has spoken. ⁹ Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste; her towns will become desolate, with no one to live in them. ¹⁰ "A curse on anyone who is lax in doing the LORD's work! A curse on anyone who keeps their sword from bloodshed! ¹¹ "Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another—she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged. ¹² But days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will send men who pour from pitchers, and they will pour her out; they will empty her pitchers and smash her jars. ¹³ Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh, as Israel was ashamed when they trusted in Bethel.

48:1 The Moabites were descendants of Lot through an incestuous relationship with one of his daughters (Genesis 19:30-37). They led the Israelites into idolatry (Numbers 25:1-3) and joined the bands of raiders Nebuchadnezzar sent into Judah in 602 B.C. They were later conquered by Babylon and disappeared as a nation.

48:7 Chemosh was the main god of the nation of Moab (Numbers 21:29), and child sacrifice was an important part of his worship (2 Kings 3:26-27). God's judgment made it clear that human-made resources and gods are no match for the Lord Almighty.

48:13 After Israel divided into northern and southern kingdoms, the northern kingdom set up golden calf-idols in Bethel and Dan to keep people from going to worship in Jerusalem, capital of the southern kingdom (1 Kings 12:25-29).

Verses 14-47

¹⁴ "How can you say, 'We are warriors, men valiant in battle'? ¹⁵ Moab will be destroyed and her towns invaded; her finest young men will go down in the slaughter," declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty. ¹⁶ "The fall of Moab is at hand; her calamity will come quickly. ¹⁷ Mourn for her, all who live around her, all who know her fame; say, 'How

broken is the mighty scepter, how broken the glorious staff!"¹⁸ "Come down from your glory and sit on the parched ground, you inhabitants of Daughter Dibon, for the one who destroys Moab will come up against you and ruin your fortified cities."¹⁹ Stand by the road and watch, you who live in Aroer. Ask the man fleeing and the woman escaping, ask them, 'What has happened?'²⁰ Moab is disgraced, for she is shattered. Wail and cry out! Announce by the Arnon that Moab is destroyed.²¹ Judgment has come to the plateau—to Holon, Jahzah and Mephaath,²² to Dibon, Nebo and Beth Diblathaim,²³ to Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul and Beth Meon,²⁴ to Kerioth and Bozrah to all the towns of Moab, far and near.²⁵ Moab's horn is cut off; her arm is broken," declares the LORD.²⁶ "Make her drunk, for she has defied the LORD. Let Moab wallow in her vomit; let her be an object of ridicule."²⁷ Was not Israel the object of your ridicule? Was she caught among thieves, that you shake your head in scorn whenever you speak of her?²⁸ Abandon your towns and dwell among the rocks, you who live in Moab. Be like a dove that makes its nest at the mouth of a cave.²⁹ "We have heard of Moab's pride—how great is her arrogance!—of her insolence, her pride, her conceit and the haughtiness of her heart."³⁰ I know her insolence but it is futile," declares the LORD, "and her boasts accomplish nothing."³¹ Therefore I wail over Moab, for all Moab I cry out, I moan for the people of Kir Hareseth.³² I weep for you, as Jazer weeps, you vines of Sibmah. Your branches spread as far as the sea; they reached as far as Jazer. The destroyer has fallen on your ripened fruit and grapes.³³ Joy and gladness are gone from the orchards and fields of Moab. I have stopped the flow of wine from the presses; no one treads them with shouts of joy. Although there are shouts, they are not shouts of joy.³⁴ "The sound of their cry rises from Heshbon to Elealeh and Jahaz, from Zoar as far as Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah, for even the waters of Nimrim are dried up."³⁵ In Moab I will put an end to those who make offerings on the high places and burn incense to their gods," declares the LORD.³⁶ "So my heart laments for Moab like the music of a pipe; it laments like a pipe for the people of Kir Hareseth. The wealth they acquired is gone."³⁷ Every head is shaved and every beard cut off; every hand is slashed and every waist is covered with sackcloth.³⁸ On all the roofs in Moab and in the public squares there is nothing but mourning, for I have broken Moab like a jar that no one wants," declares the LORD.³⁹ "How shattered she is! How they wail! How Moab turns her back in shame! Moab has become an object of ridicule, an object of horror to all those around her."⁴⁰ This is what the LORD says: "Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moab."⁴¹ Kerioth will be captured and the strongholds taken. In that day the hearts of Moab's warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor.⁴² Moab will be destroyed as a nation because she defied the LORD.⁴³ Terror and pit and snare await you, you people of Moab," declares the LORD.⁴⁴ "Whoever flees from the terror will fall into a pit, whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare; for I will bring on Moab the year of her punishment," declares the LORD.⁴⁵ "In the shadow of Heshbon the fugitives stand helpless, for a fire has gone out from Heshbon, a blaze from the midst of Sihon; it burns the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of the noisy boasters."⁴⁶ Woe to you, Moab! The people of Chemosh are destroyed; your sons are taken into exile and your daughters into captivity.⁴⁷ "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in days to come," declares the LORD. Here ends the judgment on Moab.

48:29 Moab was condemned for its pride. God cannot tolerate pride because pride is taking personal credit for what God has done or looking down on others. God does not condemn our taking satisfaction in what we do (Ecclesiastes 3:22), but he stands against overestimates of our own importance. Romans 12:3 teaches us to have an honest estimate of ourselves.

48:31 Kir Hareseth was a stronghold city in Moab. God's compassion reaches to all creation, even to his enemies.

Bible Study Notes - Chapter 49

The Prophecy concerning the Ammonites - Verses 1-6

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.

49:1 The Ammonites were descendants of Lot through an incestuous relationship with one of his daughters (as were the Moabites; see Genesis 19:30-38). They were condemned for stealing land from God's people and for worshipping the god Molek, to whom they sacrificed children.

The Prophecy concerning Edom - Verses 7-22

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 grape gatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleaning grapes? 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. **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. **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

Gomorrhah 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.

49:7 The Israelites descended from Jacob and the Edomites descended from his twin brother, Esau; both nations descended from their father, Isaac. There was constant conflict between these nations, and Edom rejoiced at the fall of Jerusalem (see the book of Obadiah). Teman, a town in the northern part of Edom, was known for its wisdom and was the hometown of Eliphaz, one of Job's friends (Job 2:11). But even the wisdom of Teman could not save Edom from God's wrath.

The Prophecy concerning Damascus - Verses 23-27

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.

49:8 Dedan was a flourishing city that supported caravan travel. God told its inhabitants to flee to the caves or they would also be destroyed. Teman and Dedan were at opposite ends of the country, so this shows the completeness of God's destruction of Edom. Bozrah (49:13) was a town in northern Edom.

49:16 The land of Edom contained a rock fortress known today as Petra, in southern Jordan. Edom thought it was invincible because of its location. Edom was destroyed because of its pride. Pride destroys individuals as well as nations. It makes us think we can take care of ourselves without God's help. Even serving God and others can lead us into pride. Take inventory of your life and service for God; ask God to point out and remove any pride you may be harboring.

49:23-26 Damascus was the capital of Aram (also known as Syria), north of Israel. This city was defeated by both Assyria and Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar attacked and defeated Damascus in 605 B.C. (Amos 1:4-5). It is difficult to attribute the defeat of the army to a particular event, but God utterly destroyed the nation of Aram.

The Prophecy concerning Kedar and Hazor - Verses 28-33

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. 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.

49:28-33 Kedar was a nomadic nation from the desert east of Israel and south of Aram (Syria). Kedar was also known as the "kingdoms of Hazor," not to be confused with the ancient city of Hazor in northern Galilee. In 599 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar completely destroyed them.

The Prophecy concerning Elam - Verses 34-39

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.

49:34 Elam lay east of Babylon and was attacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. Later Elam became the nucleus of the Persian Empire (Daniel 8:2) and the residence of Darius.

49:38 The throne represents God's judgment and sovereignty. God would preside over Elam's destruction. He is the King over all kings, including Elam's.