

Jeremiah 51:1-64 **Destruction pronounced against Babylon**

Utter Destruction of Babylon

1 Thus says the Lord:

"Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, Against those who dwell in Leb Kamai, A destroying wind.

2 And I will send winnowers to Babylon, Who shall winnow her and empty her land. For in the day of doom They shall be against her all around.

3 Against her let the archer bend his bow, And lift himself up against her in his armor. Do not spare her young men; Utterly destroy all her army.

4 Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, And those thrust through in her streets.

5 For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah, By his God, the Lord of hosts, Though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel."

6 Flee from the midst of Babylon, And every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He shall recompense her.

7 Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged.

8 Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her! Take balm for her pain; Perhaps she may be healed.

9 We would have healed Babylon, But she is not healed. Forsake her, and let us go everyone to his own country; For her judgment reaches to heaven and is lifted up to the skies.

10 The Lord has revealed our righteousness. Come and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.

11 Make the arrows bright! Gather the shields! The Lord has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan is against Babylon to destroy it, Because it is the vengeance of the Lord, The vengeance for His temple.

12 Set up the standard on the walls of Babylon; Make the guard strong, Set up the watchmen, Prepare the ambushes. For the Lord has both devised and done What He spoke against the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, The measure of your covetousness.

14 The Lord of hosts has sworn by Himself: "Surely I will fill you with men, as with locusts, And they shall lift up a shout against you."

15 He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.

16 When He utters His voice — There is a multitude of waters in the heavens:" He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries."

17 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

18 They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.

19 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things; And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance. The Lord of hosts is His name.

20 "You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: For with you I will break the nation in pieces; With you I will destroy kingdoms;

21 With you I will break in pieces the horse and its rider; With you I will break in pieces the chariot and its rider;

22 With you also I will break in pieces man and woman; With you I will break in pieces old and young; With you I will break in pieces the young man and the maiden;

23 With you also I will break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; With you I will break in pieces the farmer and his yoke of oxen; And with you I will break in pieces governors and rulers.

24 "And I will repay Babylon And all the inhabitants of Chaldea For all the evil they have done In Zion in your sight," says the Lord.

25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth," says the Lord. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt mountain.

26 They shall not take from you a stone for a corner Nor a stone for a foundation, But you shall be desolate forever," says the Lord.

27 Set up a banner in the land, Blow the trumpet among the nations! Prepare the nations against her, Call the kingdoms together against her: Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz. Appoint a general against her; Cause the horses to come up like the bristling locusts.

28 Prepare against her the nations, With the kings of the Medes, Its governors and all its rulers, All the land of his dominion.

29 And the land will tremble and sorrow; For every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, To make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.

30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, They have remained in their strongholds; Their might has failed, They became like women; They have burned her dwelling places, The bars of her gate are broken.

31 One runner will run to meet another, And one messenger to meet another, To show the king of Babylon that his city is taken on all sides;

32 The passages are blocked, The reeds they have burned with fire, And the men of war are terrified.

33 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:

"The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor When it is time to thresh her; Yet a little while And the time of her harvest will come."

34 "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon Has devoured me, he has crushed me; He has made me an empty vessel, He has swallowed me up like a monster; He has filled his stomach with my delicacies, He has spit me out.

35 Let the violence done to me and my flesh be upon Babylon," The inhabitant of Zion will say; "And my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea!" Jerusalem will say.

36 Therefore thus says the Lord:

"Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry.

37 Babylon shall become a heap, A dwelling place for jackals, An astonishment and a hissing,
Without an inhabitant.

38 They shall roar together like lions, They shall growl like lions' whelps.

39 In their excitement I will prepare their feasts; I will make them drunk, That they may rejoice, And
sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the Lord.

40 "I will bring them down Like lambs to the slaughter, Like rams with male goats.

41 "Oh, how Sheshach is taken! Oh, how the praise of the whole earth is seized! How Babylon has
become desolate among the nations!

42 The sea has come up over Babylon; She is covered with the multitude of its waves.

43 Her cities are a desolation, A dry land and a wilderness, A land where no one dwells, Through
which no son of man passes.

44 I will punish Bel in Babylon, And I will bring out of his mouth what he has swallowed; And the
nations shall not stream to him anymore. Yes, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 "My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of
the Lord.

46 And lest your heart faint, And you fear for the rumor that will be heard in the land (A rumor will
come one year, And after that, in another year A rumor will come, And violence in the land, Ruler
against ruler),

47 Therefore behold, the days are coming That I will bring judgment on the carved images of
Babylon; Her whole land shall be ashamed, And all her slain shall fall in her midst.

48 Then the heavens and the earth and all that is in them Shall sing joyously over Babylon; For the
plunderers shall come to her from the north," says the Lord.

49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, So at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall.

50 You who have escaped the sword, Get away! Do not stand still! Remember the Lord afar off, And
let Jerusalem come to your mind.

51 We are ashamed because we have heard reproach. Shame has covered our faces, For strangers
have come into the sanctuaries of the Lord's house.

52 "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will bring judgment on her
carved images, And throughout all her land the wounded shall groan.

53 Though Babylon were to mount up to heaven, And though she were to fortify the height of her
strength, Yet from Me plunderers would come to her," says the Lord.

54 The sound of a cry comes from Babylon, And great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans,
55 Because the Lord is plundering Babylon And silencing her loud voice, Though her waves roar
like great waters, And the noise of their voice is uttered,

56 Because the plunderer comes against her, against Babylon, And her mighty men are taken. Every
one of their bows is broken; For the Lord is the God of recompense, He will surely repay.

57 "And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty
men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the King, Whose name is the
Lord of hosts.

58 Thus says the Lord of hosts:

"The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, And her high gates shall be burned with fire; The people will labor in vain, And the nations, because of the fire; And they shall be weary."

Jeremiah's Command to Seraiah

59 The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And Seraiah was the quartermaster.

60 So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come upon Babylon, all these words that are written against Babylon.

61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words, 62 then you shall say, 'O Lord, You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.'

63 Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates.

64 Then you shall say, 'Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.'"

Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Utter Destruction of Babylon

✧ Thus says Yahweh (the Lord)::

"Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, Against those who dwell in Leb Kamai, A destroying wind.

And I will send winnowers to Babylon, Who shall winnow her and empty her land. For in the day of doom They shall be against her all around.

Against her let the archer bend his bow, And lift himself up against her in his armor. Do not spare her young men; Utterly destroy all her army.

Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, And those thrust through in her streets.

For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah, By Elohayv me-Yahweh Tsebaovt (his God, the Lord of hosts), Though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel." [Jeremiah 51:1-5]

✧ Destruction is coming on the appointed day of doom for Babylon.

✧ Though Yahweh used Babylon to punish sinful Israel and Judah, still they are not forsaken by their God.

✧ Their punishment was totally justified because their land was filled with sin against God.

✧ Flee from the midst of Babylon, And every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of la-Yahweh (the Lord's) vengeance; He shall recompense her. Babylon was a golden cup in Yahweh (the Lord's) hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged.

Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her! Take balm for her pain; Perhaps she may be healed. [Jeremiah 51:6-8]

✧ Yahweh is always faithful to call His people out of the path of destruction from His wrath so they will not be caught up in His judgment on the nation being judged.

✧ The time has come for Yahweh's wrath and judgment to bring His vengeance against the sinful nation.

✧ They will be recompensed for their sins against the Temple and people of the Lord.

✧ Babylon was a golden cup in the hand of Yahweh as He used them to punish His people.

- ✧ By the influence of Babylon the nations were made drunk and became deranged.
- ✧ Yahweh called for lamentation over Babylon in hope she might be brought to repentance so she could be healed.
- ✧ We would have healed Babylon, But she is not healed. Forsake her, and let us go everyone to his own country; For her judgment reaches to heaven and is lifted up to the skies.
Yahweh (The Lord) has revealed our righteousness. Come and let us declare in Zion the work of Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God). [[Jeremiah 51:9-10](#)]
- ✧ Babylon could have been healed if she had taken to heart the testimony of the saints of Yahweh as they stood and openly demonstrated the reality of Yahweh to the kings of the land, as seen in Ezekiel, Daniel, and the stand taken by the ones cast into the fire and lion's den.
- ✧ Babylon was not healed because they did not turn fully to the God of Israel even though Nebuchadnezzar did acknowledge that there is no God but Yahweh. [[Daniel 1:10-21, 2:46-49, 3:26-30, 4:34-37, 5:10-12](#)]
- ✧ The Saints in Babylon called for a return to Zion to proclaim the works of Yahweh.
- ✧ Make the arrows bright! Gather the shields! Yahweh (The Lord) has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan is against Babylon to destroy it, Because it is the vengeance of Yahweh (the Lord), The vengeance for His temple.
Set up the standard on the walls of Babylon; Make the guard strong, Set up the watchmen, Prepare the ambushes. For Yahweh (the Lord) has both devised and done What He spoke against the inhabitants of Babylon. [[Jeremiah 51:11-12](#)]
- ✧ Yahweh is giving specific instructions to the kings of the Medes to come and destroy Babylon.
- ✧ Yahweh is doing what He planned against the inhabitants of Babylon.
- ✧ O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, The measure of your covetousness.
Yahweh Tsebaovt (The Lord of hosts) has sworn by Himself: "Surely I will fill you with men, as with locusts, And they shall lift up a shout against you." [[Jeremiah 51:13-14](#)]
- ✧ Yahweh pronounced the end to the covetousness of Babylon.
- ✧ The invading host will be numerous as a plague of locusts.
- ✧ Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.
They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.
The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things; And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance. Yahweh Tsebaovt (The Lord of hosts) is His name. [[Jeremiah 51:4, 19](#)]
- ✧ Because the people refused to follow the word of the Lord, Yahweh has given them over to a reprobate mind as Paul wrote to the Romans. [[Romans 1:18-32](#)]
- ✧ They do not see the folly of their idolatry by which they will perish.
- ✧ The God of Israel is not like the dumb idols, He is Maker of all things, and Israel is His inheritance. His name is Yahweh Tsebaovt.
- ✧ "You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: For with you I will break the nation in pieces; With you I will destroy kingdoms;
With you I will break in pieces the horse and its rider; With you I will break in pieces the chariot and its rider;
With you also I will break in pieces man and woman; With you I will break in pieces old and young; With you I will break in pieces the young man and the maiden;
With you also I will break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; With you I will break in pieces the farmer and his yoke of oxen; And with you I will break in pieces governors and

rulers.

"And I will repay Babylon And all the inhabitants of Chaldea For all the evil they have done In Zion in your sight," says Yahweh (the Lord):. [\[Jeremiah 51:20-24\]](#)

- ◇ Yahweh addressed the kings of the Medes indicating that He is using them to punish Babylon just as He had used Babylon to punish His people of Judah.
- ◇ The result will be total destruction of Babylon as Yahweh's recompense for all the evil they had done to Zion in the sight of the world.
- ☆ "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth," says Yahweh (the Lord):. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt mountain.
They shall not take from you a stone for a corner Nor a stone for a foundation, But you shall be desolate forever," says Yahweh (the Lord):. [\[Jeremiah 51:25-26\]](#)
- ◇ Yahweh declared His personal involvement in making Babylon totally desolate.
- ☆ Set up a banner in the land, Blow the trumpet among the nations! Prepare the nations against her, Call the kingdoms together against her: Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz. Appoint a general against her; Cause the horses to come up like the bristling locusts.
Prepare against her the nations, With the kings of the Medes, Its governors and all its rulers, All the land of his dominion.
And the land will tremble and sorrow; For **every purpose of Yahweh (the Lord): shall be performed against Babylon**, To make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.
The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, They have remained in their strongholds; Their might has failed, They became like women; They have burned her dwelling places, The bars of her gate are broken.
One runner will run to meet another, And one messenger to meet another, To show the king of Babylon that his city is taken on all sides;
The passages are blocked, The reeds they have burned with fire, And the men of war are terrified.

For thus says Yahweh Tsebaovt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel):

"The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor When it is time to thresh her; Yet a little while And the time of her harvest will come." [\[Jeremiah 51:27-33\]](#)

- ◇ Yahweh again calls for the northern nations to come with the kings of the Medes to utterly destroy Babylon until all Yahweh has purposed against Babylon has been fulfilled.
- ◇ Yahweh called His purpose against Babylon as the time of her harvest.
- ☆ "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon Has devoured me, he has crushed me; He has made me an empty vessel, He has swallowed me up like a monster; He has filled his stomach with my delicacies, He has spit me out.
Let the violence done to me and my flesh be upon Babylon," The inhabitant of Zion will say; "And my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea!" Jerusalem will say. [\[Jeremiah 51:34-35\]](#)
- ◇ Zion & Jerusalem testify against Babylon.
- ☆ Therefore thus says Yahweh (the Lord)::
"Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry.
Babylon shall become a heap, A dwelling place for jackals, An astonishment and a hissing, Without an inhabitant.
They shall roar together like lions, They shall growl like lions' whelps.
In their excitement I will prepare their feasts; I will make them drunk, That they may rejoice, And sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says Yahweh (the Lord):.

"I will bring them down Like lambs to the slaughter, Like rams with male goats. [\[Jeremiah 51:36-40\]](#)

- ✧ The destruction of Babylon is the vengeance Yahweh is taking on her because of her actions against Zion and Jerusalem when Yahweh used her to punish His people for their sins against Him.
- ✧ Yahweh will bring down Babylon as He delivers them into the hand of the enemy.
- ✧ Yahweh will make Babylon drunk in their own pride so they will be rejoicing as the enemy comes in and they will fall into a perpetual sleep from which they will not awaken.
- ✧ Yahweh will bring them down like lambs for the slaughter.
- ☆ "Oh, how Sheshach is taken! Oh, how the praise of the whole earth is seized! How Babylon has become desolate among the nations!
The sea has come up over Babylon; She is covered with the multitude of its waves.
Her cities are a desolation, A dry land and a wilderness, A land where no one dwells,
Through which no son of man passes.
I will punish Bel in Babylon, And I will bring out of his mouth what he has swallowed; And the nations shall not stream to him anymore. Yes, the wall of Babylon shall fall. [\[Jeremiah 51:41-44\]](#)
- ✧ The fall of Babylon is Yahweh's judgment against her god Bel.
- ✧ Babylon will lose her world influence so the nations will no longer flow to her.
- ✧ Yahweh will deliver His people from her clutches.
- ☆ "My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of Yahweh (the Lord):.
And lest your heart faint, And you fear for the rumor that will be heard in the land (A rumor will come one year, And after that, in another year A rumor will come, And violence in the land, Ruler against ruler),
Therefore behold, the days are coming That I will bring judgment on the carved images of Babylon; Her whole land shall be ashamed, And all her slain shall fall in her midst.
Then the heavens and the earth and all that is in them Shall sing joyously over Babylon; For the plunderers shall come to her from the north," says Yahweh (the Lord):. [\[Jeremiah 51:45-48\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh called His people to come out of the path of destruction declared against Babylon lest they experience His wrath against her. [\[Revelation 18:4-5\]](#)
- ✧ This will be the day Yahweh judges the images of Babylon showing them to be powerless and the people who worshiped them will be ashamed.
- ✧ The Heavens and Earth will sing joyously as the nations from the north carry out Yahweh's will against Babylon.
- ☆ As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, So at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall.
You who have escaped the sword, Get away! Do not stand still! Remember Yahweh (the Lord): afar off, And let Jerusalem come to your mind.

We are ashamed because we have heard reproach. Shame has covered our faces, For strangers have come into the sanctuaries of Beit Yahweh (the Lord's house). [\[Jeremiah 51:49-51\]](#)

- ✧ The slain of Babylon and all the earth will be just like the slain of Jerusalem when Yahweh punished His people for their idolatry.
- ✧ Yahweh's people acknowledge their shame as stranger came into the sanctuaries of Beit Yahweh.
- ☆ "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says Yahweh (the Lord):, "That I will bring judgment on her carved images, And throughout all her land the wounded shall groan.

Though Babylon were to mount up to heaven, And though she were to fortify the height of her strength, Yet from Me plunderers would come to her," says Yahweh (the Lord):.

The sound of a cry comes from Babylon, And great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans,

Because Yahweh (the Lord): is plundering Babylon And silencing her loud voice, Though her waves roar like great waters, And the noise of their voice is uttered,

Because the plunderer comes against her, against Babylon, And her mighty men are taken. Every one of their bows is broken; For Yahweh (the Lord) is El (the God) of recompense, He will surely repay.

"And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the King, Whose name is Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts).

Thus says Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts):

"The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, And her high gates shall be burned with fire; The people will labor in vain, And the nations, because of the fire; And they shall be weary." [Jeremiah 51:52-58]

- ✧ The day appointed for Yahweh to judge the images of Babylon is coming just like the time when Yahweh judged the gods of Egypt. [Exodus 12:12]
- ✧ No matter how much Babylon attempts to fortify herself, Yahweh will bring plunderers against her.
- ✧ Thus Yahweh will silence the world wide influence of Babylon.
- ✧ Yahweh will bring recompense for all Babylon has done to His people.

Jeremiah's Command to Seraiah

- ✧ The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And Seraiah was the quartermaster.

So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come upon Babylon, all these words that are written against Babylon.

And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words, then you shall say, 'O Yahweh (Lord), You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.'

Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates.

Then you shall say, 'Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.'"

Thus far are the words of Jeremiah. [Jeremiah 51:59-64]

- ✧ All of this Jeremiah wrote in a book and sent it to Babylon by the hand of Seraiah the quartermaster when he went with Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon.
- ✧ The book was to be read to the captives in Babylon to show what Yahweh purposed against Babylon.
- ✧ The book was to be tied to a stone and cast into the Euphrates River as a sign of the coming fall of Babylon.