

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-16 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Jeremiah 51:6) 6 Flee out of the midst of Babylon, And escape for your life. Do not perish because of her error. For it is the time for Jehovah's vengeance. He is paying her back for what she has done.

*** w08 6/15 pp. 8-9 Things From Which We Must Flee ***

"Flee Out of the Midst of Babylon"

8 The prophet Jeremiah foretold the destruction of Jerusalem that occurred in 607 B.C.E. He said that God's people would be carried into captivity but would be restored to their homeland after "seventy years." (Jer. 29:4, 10) For Jews captive in Babylon, Jeremiah had an important message; they were to stay uncontaminated by the false religion that was practiced in Babylon. Thus they would be ready to return to Jerusalem and restore pure worship when the set time arrived. This happened soon after the Medes and the Persians conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.E. Persian King Cyrus II issued a decree for the Jews to return and rebuild Jehovah's temple in Jerusalem.—Ezra 1:1-4.

9 Thousands of Jews seized this opportunity and returned. (Ezra 2:64-67) In doing so, they fulfilled Jeremiah's prophetic command that in their case involved fleeing in one sense, getting away to another location. (Read Jeremiah 51:6, 45, 50.) Circumstances did not permit all the Jews to make the long trip back to Jerusalem and Judah. Those remaining in Babylon, such as the aged prophet Daniel, could have God's blessing, provided they wholeheartedly supported pure worship centered in Jerusalem and remained separate from Babylonian false worship.

10 Today, billions of humans are involved in various forms of false religion that can be traced back to ancient Babylon. (Gen. 11:6-9) Collectively, those religions are designated as "Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth." (Rev. 17:5) False

religion has a long history of supporting the political rulers of this world. Among "the disgusting things" that she bears responsibility for are the many wars that have resulted in hundreds of millions being "slaughtered on the earth." (Rev. 18:24) Additional "disgusting things" include acts of pedophilia and other forms of sexual immorality committed by clergymen and tolerated by the church authorities. Is it any wonder that Jehovah God will soon rid this earth of false religion?—Rev. 18:8.

11 True Christians, who know this, have an obligation to warn members of Babylon the Great. One way they do so is by distributing Bibles and related literature published by "the faithful and discreet slave," whom Jesus appointed to provide spiritual "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24:45) When individuals show an interest in the Bible's message, arrangements are made to help them by means of a Bible study. Hopefully, they will see the need to "flee out of the midst of Babylon" before it is too late.—Rev. 18:4. Flee From Idolatry

(Jeremiah 51:11) 11 "Polish the arrows; take up the circular shields. Jehovah has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes, Because he intends to bring Babylon to ruin. For this is the vengeance of Jehovah, the vengeance for his temple.

*** it-2 p. 360 Medes, Media ***

The Medes, like the Persians, used the bow as a principal weapon. The wooden bows, though sometimes mounted with bronze or copper (compare Ps 18:34), likely 'dashed the young men of Babylon to pieces' by the hail of arrows, individually polished so as to penetrate even deeper.—Jer 51:11.

It may be noted that Jeremiah (51:11, 28) makes reference to "the kings of Media" as among those attacking Babylon, the plural perhaps indicating that even under Cyrus, a subordinate Median king or kings may have continued to exist, a situation by no means incompatible with ancient practice. (Compare also Jer 25:25.) Thus, too,

we find that when Babylon was captured by the combined forces of Medes, Persians, Elamites, and other neighboring tribes, it was a Mede named Darius who was “made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans,” evidently as an appointee of King Cyrus the

(Jeremiah 51:25) 25 “Here I am against you, O destructive mountain,” declares Jehovah, “You destroyer of the whole earth. I will stretch out my hand against you and roll you down from the crags And make you a burned-out mountain.”

*** it-2 p. 444 Mount, Mountain ***

Represent governments. In Biblical symbolism mountains can represent kingdoms or ruling governments. (Da 2:35, 44, 45; compare Isa 41:15; Re 17:9-11, 18.) Babylon, by her military conquests, brought other lands to ruin and is, therefore, called a “ruinous mountain.” (Jer 51:24, 25)

(Jeremiah 51:30) 30 The warriors of Babylon have quit fighting. They sit in their strongholds. Their strength has failed. They have become like women. Her homes have been set on fire. Her bars have been broken.

** jr chap. 13 p. 161 par. 15 “Jehovah Has Done What He Had in Mind” ***

15 Jeremiah also prophesied about the end of Egypt’s conqueror, Babylon itself. A century before it occurred, Jeremiah accurately predicted the sudden fall of Babylon. How? God’s prophet foretold that her protective waters would be “dried up,” and her mighty men would not fight. (Jer. 50:38; 51:30) These prophecies were fulfilled in detail when the Medes and the Persians diverted the Euphrates River, waded across its bed, and then entered the city, taking the Babylonians by surprise.

(Jeremiah 51:63, 64) 63 And when you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Eu-phra'tes. 64 Then say, ‘This is how Babylon will sink down and never rise again because of the calamity that I am bringing on her; and they will grow weary.’ . . .

*** re chap. 37 p. 269 par. 9 Mourning and Re-joicing at Babylon’s End ***

Jeremiah was inspired to write in a book “all the calamity that would come upon Babylon.” He gave the book to Seraiah and told him to travel to Babylon. There, following Jeremiah’s instructions, Seraiah read a declaration against the city: “O Jehovah, you yourself have spoken against this place, in order to cut it off so that there may come to be in it no inhabitant, either man or even domestic animal, but that she may become mere desolate wastes to time indefinite.” Seraiah then tied a stone to the book and threw it into the river Euphrates, saying: “This is how Babylon will sink down and never rise up because of the calamity that I am bringing in upon her.”—Jeremiah 51:59-64.

(Jeremiah 52:10, 11) 10 And the king of Babylon slaughtered Zed-e-ki'ah's sons before his eyes, and he also slaughtered all the princes of Judah there at Rib'lah. 11 Then the king of Babylon blinded Zed-e-ki'ah's eyes, bound him with copper fetters, brought him to Babylon, and kept him imprisoned until the day of his death.

*** jr chap. 13 p. 158 par. 10 “Jehovah Has Done What He Had in Mind” ***

What of the last king, Zedekiah? Jeremiah foretold that Zedekiah would be given into the hands of enemies, who would show no compassion. (Jer. 21:1-10) What occurred? Those enemies did capture him. They slaughtered his young sons before his eyes, blinded him, and took him to Babylon, where he died. (Jer. 52:8-11) Yes, all these prophecies came true.