

• Song 98 and Prayer

• Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah’s Word Comes True in Every Detail”: (10 min.)**

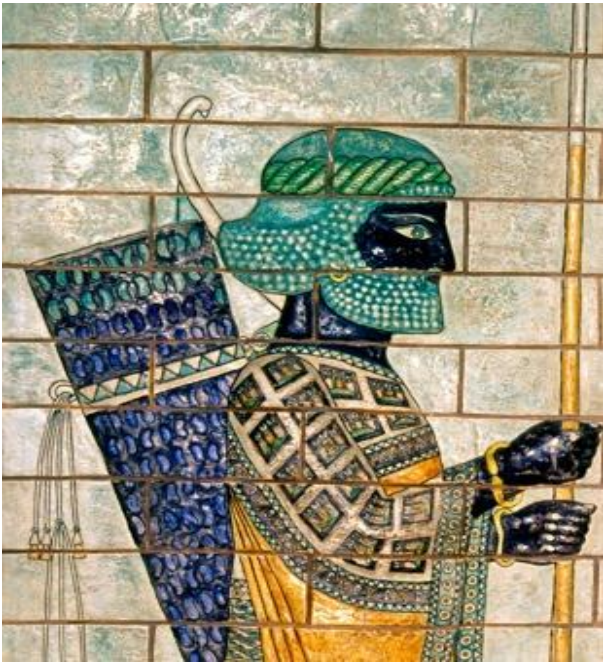
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JEREMIAH 51-52

Jehovah’s Word Comes True in Every Detail

Jehovah precisely foretold future events

“Polish the arrows”



51:11, 28

- The Medes and Persians were expert archers and used the bow as their principal weapon. They polished their arrows to make them penetrate deeper

“The warriors of Babylon have quit fighting”

51:30

- The Nabonidus Chronicle says: “The army of Cyrus entered Babylon without battle.” This likely means without a general conflict and agrees with the prophecy of Jeremiah



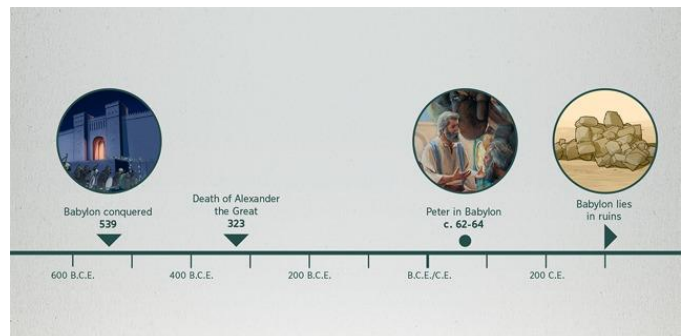
Photograph taken by courtesy of the British Museum

“B

abylon will become piles of stones [and] desolate forever”

51:37, 62

- Beginning in 539 B.C.E., Babylon’s glory began to fade. Alexander the Great intended to make Babylon his capital, but he died suddenly. At the start of the Christian era, a community of Jews still existed there, giving the apostle Peter reason to visit Babylon. But by the fourth century C.E., the city was in ruins, and it eventually passed out of existence



How should the fulfillment of Bible prophecy affect me?

What can I teach others about this prophecy?

Jer 51:11, 28—Jehovah foretold who would conquer Babylon (it-2 360 ¶2-3)

(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.

(Jeremiah 51:28) 28 Appoint against her the nations, The kings of Me'di-a, its governors and all its deputy rulers And all the lands they rule over.

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

With Persians defeat Babylon. In the eighth century B.C.E., the prophet Isaiah had foretold that Jehovah would arouse against Babylon “the Medes, who account silver itself as nothing and who, as respects gold, take no delight in it. And their bows will dash even young men to pieces.” (Isa 13:17-19; 21:2) The term “Medes” here may well include the Persians, even as the classical Greek historians commonly used the term to embrace both Medes and Persians. Their disdaining silver and gold evidently indicates that in Babylon’s case conquest was the prime motive with them rather than spoil, so that no bribe or offer of tribute would buy them off from their determined purpose. 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 Persian.—Da 5:31; 9:1; see DARIUS No. 1.

- (Isaiah 13:17-19) Here I am raising up against them the Medes, Who regard silver as nothing And who take no delight in gold. 18 Their bows will shatter young men; They will show no pity on the fruit of the womb Nor mercy to children. 19 And Babylon, the most glorious of kingdoms, The beauty and the pride of the Chal-de'ans, Will be like Sod'om and Go-mor'rah when God overthrew them.
- (Isaiah 21:2) A harsh vision has been told to me: The treacherous one is acting treacherously, And the destroyer is destroying. Go up, O E'lam! Lay siege, O Me'di-a! I will put an end to all the sighing she caused.
- (Psalm 18:34) He trains my hands for warfare; My arms can bend a bow of copper.
- (Jeremiah 51:11) “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.
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- (Jeremiah 51:28) Appoint against her the nations, The kings of Me'di-a, its governors and all its deputy rulers And all the lands they rule over.
- (Jeremiah 25:25) all the kings of Zim'ri, all the kings of E'lam, and all the kings of the Medes;
- (Daniel 5:31) And Da-ri'us the Mede received the kingdom; he was about 62 years old.
- (Daniel 9:1) In the first year of Da-ri'us the son of A-has-u-e'rus—a descendant of the Medes who had been made king over the kingdom of the Chal-de'ans—

Jer 51:30—Jehovah foretold that Babylon would not resist invasion (it-2 459 ¶4)

(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.

*** it-2 p. 459 Nabonidus ***

Interestingly, the Chronicle says concerning the night of Babylon's fall: "The army of Cyrus entered Babylon without battle." This likely means without a general conflict and agrees with the prophecy of Jeremiah that 'the mighty men of Babylon would cease to fight.'—Jer 51:30.

Jer 51:37, 62—Jehovah foretold Babylon's eventual desolation (it-1 237 ¶1)

(Jeremiah 51:37) 37 And Babylon will become piles of stones, A lair of jackals, An object of horror and something to whistle at, Without an inhabitant.

(Jeremiah 51:62) 62 Then say, 'O Jehovah, you have said against this place that it will be destroyed and left without an inhabitant, man or beast, and that she will become desolate forever.'

*** it-1 p. 237 Babylon ***

From that memorable date, 539 B.C.E., Babylon's glory began to fade as the city declined. Twice it revolted against the Persian emperor Darius I (Hystaspis), and on the second occasion it was dismantled. A partially restored city rebelled against Xerxes I and was plundered. Alexander the Great intended to make Babylon his capital, but he suddenly died in 323 B.C.E. Nicator conquered the city in 312 B.C.E. and transported much of its material to the banks of the Tigris for use in building his new capital of Seleucia. However, the city and a settlement of Jews remained in early Christian times, giving the apostle Peter reason to visit Babylon, as noted in his letter. (1Pe 5:13) Inscriptions found there show that Babylon's temple of Bel existed as late as 75 C.E. By the fourth century C.E. the city was in ruins, and eventually passed out of existence. It became nothing more than "piles of stones."—Jer 51:37.

- (1 Peter 5:13) She who is in Babylon, a chosen one like you, sends you her greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

- (Jeremiah 51:37) And Babylon will become piles of stones, A lair of jackals, An object of horror and something to whistle at, Without an inhabitant.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Jer 51:25—Why is Babylon described as a “destructive mountain”? (it-2 444 ¶9)

(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 pp. 444-445 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) A psalm relating Jehovah’s activities against warring men depicts him as being “enveloped with light, more majestic than the mountains of prey.” (Ps 76:4) “The mountains of prey” may represent aggressive kingdoms. (Compare Na 2:11-13.) Regarding Jehovah, David said: “You have made my mountain to stand in strength,” probably meaning that Jehovah had exalted David’s kingdom and firmly established it. (Ps 30:7; compare 2Sa 5:12.) The fact that mountains may represent kingdoms aids one in understanding the significance of what is described at Revelation 8:8 as “something like a great mountain burning with fire.” Its resemblance to a burning mountain would suggest that it is associated with a form of rulership having a destructive nature like fire.

- (Daniel 2:35) At that time the iron, the clay, the copper, the silver, and the gold were, all together, crushed and became like the chaff from the summer threshing floor, and the wind carried them away so

that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a large mountain, and it filled the whole earth.

- (Daniel 2:44, 45) “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. And this kingdom will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it alone will stand forever, 45 just as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the copper, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The Grand God has made known to the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.”
- (Isaiah 41:15) “Look! I have made you a threshing sledge, A new threshing instrument with double-edged teeth. You will tread down the mountains and crush them And make the hills like chaff.
- (Revelation 17:9-11) “This calls for a mind that has wisdom: The seven heads mean seven mountains, where the woman sits on top. 10 And there are seven kings: Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet arrived; but when he does arrive, he must remain a short while. 11 And the wild beast that was but is not, it is also an eighth king, but it springs from the seven, and it goes off into destruction.
- (Revelation 17:18) And the woman whom you saw means the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth.”
- (Jeremiah 51:24, 25) And I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chal-de'a For all the evil that they have committed in Zion before your eyes,” declares Jehovah. 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.”

- (Psalm 76:4) You shine brightly; You are more majestic than the mountains of prey.
- (Nahum 2:11-13) Where is the lair of lions, where the young lions feed, Where the lion goes out leading its cub, With no one to make them afraid? 12 The lion tore apart enough prey for his cubs And strangled for his lionesses. He kept his dens filled with prey, His lairs with torn animals. 13 “Look! I am against you,” declares Jehovah of armies, “I will burn up her war chariots in smoke, And the sword will devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, And the sound of your messengers will be heard no more.”
- (Psalm 30:7) O Jehovah, while I was in your favor, you made me as strong as a mountain. But when you hid your face, I became terrified.
- (2 Samuel 5:12) And David knew that Jehovah had firmly established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.
- (Revelation 8:8) The second angel blew his trumpet. And something like a great mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea. And a third of the sea became blood;

Jer 51:42—What is evidently meant by “the sea” that would “come up over” Babylon? (it-2 882 ¶3)

(Jeremiah 51:42) 42 The sea has come up over Babylon. By the multitude of its waves she has been covered.

*** it-2 p. 882 Sea ***

Overflowing armies. Jeremiah described the sound of the attackers of Babylon as being “like the sea that is boisterous.” (Jer 50:42) Hence, when he foretold that “the sea” would come up over Babylon, he evidently meant the flood of conquering troops under the Medes and Persians.—Jer 51:42; compare Da 9:26.

- (Jeremiah 50:42) Bow and javelin they wield. They are cruel and will show no mercy. Their sound is like the roaring sea, As they ride on their horses. Like one man, they line up in battle formation against you, O daughter of Babylon.
- (Jeremiah 51:42) The sea has come up over Babylon. By the multitude of its waves she has been covered.
- (Daniel 9:26) “And after the 62 weeks, Mes-si’ah will be cut off, with nothing for himself. “And the people of a leader who is coming will destroy the city and the holy place. And its end will be by the flood. And until the end there will be war; what is decided upon is desolations.

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

Bible Reading: Jer 51:1-11

(4 min. or less)

51 This is what Jehovah says:

"Here I am raising up a destructive wind
Against Babylon and the inhabitants of Leb-
ka'mai.

2 I will send winnowers to Babylon,
And they will winnow her and make her land
empty;

They will come against her on all sides in the
day of calamity.

3 Let the archer not bend his bow.
And let no one stand up in his coat of mail.
Show no compassion for her young men.
Devote all her army to destruction.

4 And they will fall slain in the land of the
Chal-de'ans,
Pierced through in her streets.

5 For Israel and Judah are not widowed from
their God, from Jehovah of armies.
But their land is full of guilt from the standpoint
of the Holy One of Israel.

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.

7 Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand
of Jehovah;
She made all the earth drunk.

From her wine the nations have drunk;
That is why the nations have gone mad.

8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and is broken.
Wail over her!

Get balsam for her pain; perhaps she may be
healed."

9 "We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not
be healed.

Leave her and let us go, each to his own land.
For her judgment has reached to the heavens;
It is as high as the clouds.

10 Jehovah has brought about justice for us.
Come, let us recount in Zion the work of
Jehovah our God."

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.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month's Presentations:**
(15 min.) Discussion based on "Sample
Presentations." Play each presentation
video, and then discuss the highlights.
Encourage publishers to show the
householder information on jw.org
under **BIBLE TEACHINGS > HELP FOR
THE FAMILY**.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 3

- **“How Strong Is Your Faith in Jehovah’s Promises?”: (15 min.) Questions and answers. Encourage all to discuss Bible prophecies with fellow believers from time to time with the goal of strengthening one another’s faith.—Ro 1:11, 12..**

(Romans 1:11, 12) 11 For I am longing to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to you for you to be made firm; 12 or, rather, that we may have an interchange of encouragement by one another’s faith, both yours and mine.

*** mwb17 June p. 2 How Strong Is Your Faith in Jehovah’s Promises? ***

How Strong Is Your Faith in Jehovah’s Promises?

Joshua and Solomon both confirmed that not one word of Jehovah’s promises had failed. (Jos 23:14; 1Ki 8:56) The testimony of these two reliable witnesses adds to the solid foundation on which we can build our faith.—2Co 13:1; Tit 1:2.

How did Jehovah fulfill his promises in the days of Joshua? Along with your family, watch the video drama ‘Not One Word Has Failed.’ Then consider the following questions: (1) How can you imitate Rahab’s acts of faith? (Heb 11:31; Jas 2:24-26) (2) How does the example of Achan prove that willful disobedience leads to disaster? (3) Even though the men of Gibeon were warriors, why did they deceive Joshua and make peace with Israel? (4) How did Jehovah’s word come true when five Amorite kings threatened Israel? (Jos 10:5-14) (5) How has Jehovah acted in your behalf as you put God’s Kingdom and his righteousness first in your life?—Mt 6:33.

As we reflect on all that Jehovah has done, is doing, and will do, our faith in his promises will grow stronger.—Ro 8:31, 32.

[Box on page 2]

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION:

Which Bible prophecies are you seeing fulfilled in our day?

Which Bible prophecies do you anticipate seeing fulfilled?

[Picture on page 2]

Do you have faith like that of Joshua?

- (Joshua 23:14) “Now look! I am about to die, and you well know with all your heart and with all your soul that not one word out of all the good promises that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has failed.
- (1 Kings 8:56) “Praised be Jehovah, who has given a resting-place to his people Israel, just as he promised. Not one word of all his good promise that he made through Moses his servant has failed.
- (2 Corinthians 13:1) This is the third time I am coming to you. “On the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter must be established.”
- (Titus 1:2) and is based on a hope of the everlasting life that God, who cannot lie, promised long ago;
- (Hebrews 11:31) By faith Ra’hab the prostitute did not perish with those who acted disobediently, because she received the spies in a peaceable way.
- (James 2:24-26) You see that a man is to be declared righteous by works and

not by faith alone. 25 In the same manner, was not Ra'hab the prostitute also declared righteous by works after she received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way? 26 Indeed, just as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

- (Joshua 10:5-14) At this the five kings of the Am'or-ites—the king of Jerusalem, the king of Heb'ron, the king of Jar'muth, the king of La'chish, and the king of Eg'lon—gathered together along with their armies, and they marched on and encamped against Gib'e-on to fight against it. 6 Then the men of Gib'e-on sent word to Joshua at the camp at Gil'gal: "Do not forsake your slaves. Come quickly! Rescue us and help us! All the kings of the Am'or-ites from the mountainous region have gathered against us." 7 So Joshua went up from Gil'gal with all the fighting men and the mighty warriors. 8 Jehovah then said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid of them, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you." 9 Joshua came against them by surprise after marching all night long from Gil'gal. 10 Jehovah threw them into confusion before Israel, and they inflicted a great slaughter on them at Gib'e-on, pursuing them by way of the ascent of Beth-ho'ron and striking them down as far as A-ze'kah and Mak-ke'dah. 11 While they were fleeing from Israel and were on the descent of Beth-ho'ron, Jehovah hurled great hailstones from the sky on them as far as A-ze'kah, and they perished. In fact, more died from the hail than from the sword of the Israelites. 12 It was then, on the day that Jehovah routed the Am'or-ites before the eyes of the Israelites, that Joshua said to Jehovah before Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gib'e-on, And moon, over the Valley of

Ai'ja-lon!" 13 So the sun stood still and the moon did not move until the nation could take vengeance on its enemies. Is it not written in the book of Ja'shar? The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to set for about a whole day. 14 There has never been a day like that one, either before it or after it, when Jehovah listened to the voice of a man, for Jehovah was fighting for Israel.

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- (Matthew 6:33) "Keep on, then, seeking first the Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you.
- (Romans 8:31, 32) What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who will be against us? 32 Since he did not even spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not also, along with him, kindly give us all other things?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) kr chap. 13 ¶24-32****Paragraph 24**

(Acts 5:29) In answer Peter and the other apostles said: "We must obey God as ruler rather than men.

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

Paragraph 27

(Acts 1:8) But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Ju-de'a and Sa-mar'i-a, and to the most distant part of the earth."

Paragraph 31

(Daniel 2:21) He changes times and seasons, Removes kings and sets up kings, Gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those with discernment.

Paragraph 32

(Isaiah 52:10) Jehovah has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; All the ends of the earth will see the acts of salvation of our God.

* Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

* Song 8 and Prayer

