

# **Navigating Uncertainty**

Lesson 12

Jeremiah 46-52

November 29, 2020

## **All Nations Give an Accounting to God**

### **Introduction**

The Israelites were confused at how God used the wicked nation of Babylon to bring justice on them, even if they deserved it. The Babylonians had a notorious reputation for their immorality and atrocious actions. So, the question became, why would God use such a wicked nation to accomplish His purpose against Israel?

In the chapter we're studying today, God told Jeremiah that Babylon would also have to face judgment for their actions. They were going to be held accountable, too. God is a righteous and perfect judge and will perfectly address evil at the end of all things.

For those of us who are Christians, we have no reason to fear this judgment. Christ's blood has washed us completely clean. Theologian Anthony Hoekema wrote, "the sins and shortcomings of believers will be revealed in the judgment as forgiven sins, whose guilt has been totally covered by the blood of Jesus Christ." Though we are still accountable to God for our actions, we are no longer under wrath.

***Memory verse: "For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD Almighty, though their land is full of guilt before the Holy One of Israel."—Jeremiah 51:5***

Pray and read Jeremiah 51:36-58. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## **What does the passage say?**

1. What will become a heap of ruins? (Jeremiah 51:37)
2. How is the fall of Babylon described? (Jeremiah 51:40-43)
3. What in Babylon is God punishing? (Jeremiah 51:44, 47)
4. Where will the attack come from on Babylon? (Jeremiah 51:48)
5. What is the reason for Babylon's fall? (Jeremiah 51:49)
6. What were the people of Israel feeling as a result of Babylon's conquest? (Jeremiah 51:51)
7. What will God do, even if Babylon fortifies itself? (Jeremiah 51:53)
8. For the LORD is a God of what? (Jeremiah 51:56)

## What does the passage mean?

1. These passages describe God's wrath against Babylon for their evil actions against Israel. Many view God's wrath as irrational or volatile, but it is neither. It is consistently measured and justly against those who have committed evil. How is wrath described in the Bible, and what is its purpose? Who is deserving of God's wrath? (Psalm 7:11; Isaiah 26:21; Ezekiel 25:17; Nahum 1:2-3; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:3)
2. For those who are followers of Jesus, what has happened to God's wrath upon us? (Romans 5:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; 1 John 4:10)
3. Why should we let God be the one to bring vengeance and wrath on evil, and not ourselves? (1 Samuel 2:2, 16:7; Psalm 86:8-10; Romans 12:19; James 1:19-20)

4. In what ways are we as Christians accountable to God? (Matthew 12:36; Mark 4:24-25; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

### **Applying the passage**

1. Sometimes Christians view their belief in Christ as a sort of “Get-out-of-jail-free” card. However, we are still clearly accountable for our actions, even if we are free from ultimate judgment. What are some changes you would like to make in your life to live in light of being accountable to God for your actions?

