

GOD JUDGES THE NATIONS

Jeremiah 46-51

Did God wind up the world, go off and leave it to wind down on its own?

Popular movement about 40 years ago: "God is dead."

That is, He makes no practical difference in their lives.

Christian "practical atheists"

Wake up—read a.m. paper—see what's happening.

What do you read about?

In midst of apparent turmoil, God is in control.

Do we respond by praising Him?

Do we respond, "Oh well, praise the Lord anyway?"

Guatemala => "Santa resignación" = fatalism.

Compare with positive attitude of praise because God is in control & His plan is perfect.

Jer. 2-45 God is in control over His people.

46-51 God is in control over the nations.

Principles of God's Judgment

His people—Faithfulness and holiness

Pagan nations—

1. Treatment of Israel Gen. 12:1-3

"I will bless those who bless you; those who curse you, I will curse"

2. Excessive moral degradation—flood, Sodom & Gomorrah, Niniveh

3. Distracting Israel from loyalty to the Lord—Egypt

Not for acting like pagans;

God doesn't expect pagans to act like Christians!

PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS 46-51

After demonstrating that God's in control of Judah (2-45),

he demonstrates that He is also in control of the nations of the world.

2nd major division describes judgment of God about to come on all the nations.

God has judged His people because of their lack of faithfulness and holiness.

Introduction 46:1

[Overview of passage by nation:

Place & Background Cause Result: immediate/ultimate]

Judgment against Egypt 46:2-28

Judgment against Philistia and the Coast 47

Judgment against Moab 48

Judgment against Ammon 49:1-6

Judgment against Edom 49:7-22

Judgment against Damascus 49:23-27

Judgment against Kedar and Hazor 49:28-33

Judgment against Elam 49:34-39

Judgment against Babylon 50-51

Babylon gets special treatment because of its attack against Judah.
 Babylon is God's instrument of judgment on His people.
 He uses them for His purposes.
 However, they do it arrogantly.
 They want to destroy His people.
 They don't submit to Him, nor show proper restraint (as per Saddam Hussein!)
 Therefore, God will judge them also.

DID GOD DO WHAT HE SAID?

RELATIONSHIP TO PAGAN NATIONS TODAY

God is in control

Same principles apply and same sovereign God at work.
 We can trust Him; He does all things well.

1 Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:6-7; Rom. 8:28

Do we really believe God is in control of history?

Do we really believe God is in control of *our* history?

Do we really believe God is in control of *our lives*?

Is He able to turn turmoil into triumph for you?

Does He still care what happens to His people? To you?

How do these warnings apply to kings, etc., today?

How do these warning relate to governments today?

Many see these warnings as warnings to government today.

God judges all people.

Unregenerate people cannot live a holy life.

How do these warnings relate to OUR country?

Do you see any relationship to contemporary events?

What is the message here for Israel?

What is the message for US?