***Jeremiah 25:15-38 For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me: “Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. 16And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.” 17Then I took the cup from the Lord’s hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the Lord had sent me: 18Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its princes, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a curse, as it is this day; 19Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people; 20all the mixed multitude, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (namely, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod); 21Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon; 22all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands which are across the sea; 23Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who are in the farthest corners; 24all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed multitude who dwell in the desert; 25all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes; 26all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Also the king of Sheshach shall drink after them. 27“Therefore you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.” ’ 28And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “You shall certainly drink! 29For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth,” says the Lord of hosts.’ 30“Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: ‘The Lord will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth. 31A noise will come to the ends of the earth - For the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,’ says the Lord.” 32Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth. 33And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground. 34“Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall fall like a precious vessel. 35And the shepherds will have no way to flee, Nor the leaders of the flock to escape. 36A voice of the cry of the shepherds, And a wailing of the leaders to the flock will be heard. For the Lord has plundered their pasture, 37And the peaceful dwellings are cut down Because of the fierce anger of the Lord. 38He has left His lair like the lion; For their land is desolate Because of the fierceness of the Oppressor, And because of His fierce anger.”***

We’re back with Jeremiah, as God provides a prophecy about the way that He will punish the nations that have persecuted Israel and He will return Israel to its land. God turns nations and leaders as by His command. He employs both nature and man as He accomplishes His will. Babylon, as well as other nations, treated God’s children wickedly. Now, they will bear the consequences of their wickedness. Wickedness will not go unpunished. He is long suffering, not unaware. Every person will stand before God – the only question is – with or without Jesus.

Verses 15-16 *For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me: “Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.”* The cup is often representative of ingredients God has mixed and distributes. Jesus asks James and John if they are able to drink of the cup which He will drink. He is asking – will you be resolved to undergo the same suffering God has placed in the cup for Jesus to drink? Jesus asks – If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me, as He prays in the garden the night He is betrayed. The cup is filled with God’s wrath, the sins of the whole world. In these verses, Jeremiah is the cup bearer. The cup is filled with God’s righteous fury. Jeremiah is to bear the cup to all the nations where God directs. The effect will be that they will drink, stagger as though drunk, but they will be drink with terror and confusion at the war and desolation that will come among them. They have considered themselves unconquerable, But God will prove them very wrong.

Verse 17 *Then I took the cup from the Lord’s hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the Lord had sent me.* In a vision, Jeremiah now sees himself executing God’s command, going to all nations. We recall that verse 13 last time spoke of Jeremiah publicly proclaiming all the words of God to the people. God makes it known what is to come when 70 years in complete.

Verses 18-21 *Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its princes, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a curse, as it is this day; 19Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people; 20all the mixed multitude, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (namely, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod); 21Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon.* We now get a list of the places God sent Jeremiah. Jerusalem and the cities of Judah first. Jeremiah also addresses Pharoah, king of Egypt. All the mixed multitude refers to the mix of the peoples that Egypt conquered, as well as the foreigners living within Egypt. This also refers to the nations on the coast of the Mediterranean and Red Seas. All the kings of the land of Uz, which we remember as the land where Job dwelt. The kings and leaders of the land of Philistia, which is the land of the Philistines. The remnant of Ashdod, which had been destroyed by Tartan, an Assyrian general, mentioned in Isaiah 20:1 and destroyed a second time by the king of Egypt, when the Egyptians besieged the city for longer than any other siege known to the ancient world – Heroditus wrote of this in his history of the ancient world. Finally, the people of Edom, Moab, and Ammon are included. The point here is that Jeremiah took this prophecy to everyone (made them drink) as God instructed in verse 17.

In verses 22-24, the listing continues *all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands which are across the sea; 23Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who are in the farthest corners; 24all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed multitude who dwell in the desert.* Tyrus, Zidon, the *isles, which are beyond the sea,* which is Cyprus. Dedan, Tema, Buz (recall Elihu in Job 32:2 was called a Buzite). All that are in the farthest corners, the peninsula of Arabia, and all the mingled race, or the various people, that dwell in the desert. Again, this is meant to show the all encompassing prophecy of God.

Verses 25-26 A*ll the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes; 26all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Also the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.* The list concludes with the land of Zimri, Elam (which is Persia later), and Mede. Of course, we know that the Medes and the Persians will later band together and conquer Babylon, returning Israel to it’s land by the hand of King Cyrus. The kings of the north far and near represents Syria, Hyrcania, and Bactria (all lying north of Judah and conquered by the Babylonians. And all the kingdoms of the world, understood to be the known world at that time. Sheshach, another name for Babylon, shall in the end become as desolate as all of these countries, drinking the cup of God’s wrath. We know that Babylon was indeed the last to be conquered by the Medes/Persians and it was brought to great desolation in the end.

Verses 27-29 *Therefore you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.”28And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “You shall certainly drink! 29For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth,” says the Lord of hosts.* Drink – God is telling, not asking. The Hebrew is an imperative statement. Drink the cup of calamity. Fall and rise no more indicates the calamity will be final. If they refuse the cup, calamity, judgement, and ruin will still come upon them. God’s punishment begins in His Temple among His people. Will other nations go unpunished? If Judah is punished for the idolatry of the nations, surely the nations by which the idols and wickedness have come will be punished as well. God will call for the sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth because they have all held a hand in the wicked vile corruption of Jerusalem and disrespect of God.

Verses 30-33 *Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: The Lord will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth. 31A noise will come to the ends of the earth - For the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,’ says the Lord.” 32Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth. 33And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.* God will manifest his anger from heaven. He will roar on high. This roar will pronounce and execute terrible judgement upon His Temple. He will shout or utter His voice, ordering His armies. The report of the judgement and calamities will reach every corner of the earth. For the Lord has a controversy – The world has sinned and fallen short. God will now take His controversy up with all flesh and address it through fire, sword, famine, and pestilence. Behold that God’s wrath will visit every nation. The whirlwind, the Chaldean army, will sweep like a whirlwind across all these nations, being used by God to bring His judgement. The slain will fall without mercy and they shall not be lamented, nor gathered, nor buried. The multitude will simply be too great and the fight too fierce. They will lie as refuse littering the ground.

Verses 34-35 *Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall fall like a precious vessel. 35And the shepherds will have no way to flee, Nor the leaders of the flock to escape.*

Wail shepherds, which again is an imperative command, looking toward the future. The shepherds are the kings, princes, and leaders. Mourn in ashes as they are conquered and can do nothing to stop the coming calamity. Leaders of the flock, or the greatest and richest of the men of the nation. All will howl or cry and wallow in ashes. They will experience deep sorrow and terror as the armies sweep in. God has fixed the days of your slaughter and dispersion. No one will change the decree. You shall fall like a precious vessel (like a precious glass or crystal vase) and be utterly destroyed. The shepherds will have no way to flee. The enemy will be so numerous, so cruel, and so vast that there will be no way to avoid falling into their hands.

Verses 36-38 *36A voice of the cry of the shepherds, And a wailing of the leaders to the flock will be heard. For the Lord has plundered their pasture, 37And the peaceful dwellings are cut down Because of the fierce anger of the Lord. 38He has left His lair like the lion; For their land is desolate Because of the fierceness of the Oppressor, And because of His fierce anger.”*

The voice of the kings, princes, and wealthy will cry out as the land that was once flowing with milk and honey, given to the children of Israel, is plundered and overrun. God, using the Chaldeans, has done this. The leaders will cry in fright as though pursued by a lion. Nothing will escape. The places that used to lie in peace will not be safe and will not escape. All will be exposed to the judgement and calamity. When God is the Pursuer, we know that there is no escape and there is no where to hide, except to hide ourselves in Him through Jesus Christ.

So we leave Jeremiah tonight, as he has finished a vision and prophecy about not only Judah, but also all the nations around Judah, and finally the downfall of Babylon itself. God is punishing the idolatry of nations and the disobedience to His word. None escape. Revelation 1:7 says - *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.* Matthew 12:36-37 says *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.****37****For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.* Our God is long suffering, but not unaware. Every person will stand before God on day to give account – the only question on that day will be – is it with or without Jesus?