

Jeremiah 51

Chapter 51 of 52 · 64 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Destruction of Babylon

- 1** Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind;
- 2** And will send unto Babylon fanners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about.
- 3** Against him that bendeth let the archer bend his bow, and against him that lifteth himself up in his brigandine: and spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host.
- 4** Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and they that are thrust through in her streets.
- 5** For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the LORD of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.
- 6** Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.
- 7** Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.
- 8** Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.
- 9** We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

10 The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

11 Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple.

12 Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

14 The LORD of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillers; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding.

16 When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

17 Every man is brutish by his knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

18 They are vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

19 The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts is his name.

20 Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

21 And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider;

22 With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid;

23 I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers.

24 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.

25 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

26 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.

27 Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers.

28 Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion.

29 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.

30 The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken.

31 One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end,

32 And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted.

33 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon is like a threshingfloor, it is time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come.

34 Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a dragon, he hath filled his belly with my delicacies, he hath cast me out.

35 The violence done to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say.

36 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry.

37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

38 They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.

39 In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD.

40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats.

41 How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!

42 The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.

43 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

44 And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD.

46 And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumour that shall be heard in the land; a rumour shall both come one year, and after that in another year shall come a rumour, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.

47 Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD.

49 As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.

50 Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.

51 We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house.

52 Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will do judgment upon her graven images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan.

53 Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the LORD.

54 A sound of a cry cometh from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans:

55 Because the LORD hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:

56 Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompences shall surely requite.

57 And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

58 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

Jeremiah's Command to Seraiah

59 The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince.

60 So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon.

61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;

62 Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.

63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Blood — דם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

God — אלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Holy — קָדוֹשׁ (Qadosh)

Holy, set apart

The Hebrew **qadosh** (קָדוֹשׁ) means holy or set apart—separated from common use for God's purposes. God is 'the Holy One of Israel,' utterly distinct from creation in moral perfection.

Iniquity — חַטָּאת (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (חַטָּאת) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Judgment — מִשְׁפָט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Kingdom — מְلָכָות (Malkhut)

Kingdom, reign, royal power

The Hebrew **malkhut** (מְלָכָות) denotes kingdom or royal rule—the realm and reign of a king. God's kingdom represents His sovereign rule over all creation.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהֹוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Righteous — צַדִּיק (Tzaddik)

Righteous one

The Hebrew **tzaddik** (צַדִּיק) describes one who is righteous, just, or lawful—conforming to God's standard. From the root **tzedek** (צִדְקָה), meaning righteousness or justice.

Spirit — רוח (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Word — דבר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דְּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Jeremiah 51:1 **References Lord:** Hosea 13:15

Jeremiah 51:2 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 15:7; Isaiah 41:16; Matthew 3:12

Jeremiah 51:3 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 46:4; 50:14; 50:21

Jeremiah 51:4 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 49:26; 50:30; 50:37; Isaiah 13:15; 14:19

Jeremiah 51:5

References God: Hosea 4:1; Zechariah 12:8. **Parallel theme:** Zechariah 12:6

Jeremiah 51:6 **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 50:8; Revelation 16:19. **References Lord:**

Jeremiah 50:15; 50:28; 50:31; 51:11; 51:45. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 25:14. **Sin:** Numbers 16:26; Isaiah 48:20

Jeremiah 51:7

Creation: Revelation 14:8; 17:2. **Parallel theme:** Daniel 2:32; Revelation 17:4; 18:3

Jeremiah 51:8 **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 50:2; Isaiah 21:9; Revelation 14:8; 18:2.

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 46:11; 48:20

Jeremiah 51:9 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 46:16; Ezra 9:6; Isaiah 13:14; Revelation 18:5.

References Babylon: Jeremiah 50:16

Jeremiah 51:10

References God: Jeremiah 50:28. **Righteousness:** Psalms 37:6. **References Lord:** Isaiah 40:2; 51:11. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 9:14

Jeremiah 51:11 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 46:4; 46:9. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 50:45. **Resurrection:** Jeremiah 50:9

Jeremiah 51:12

Parallel theme: Isaiah 13:2; Nahum 2:1. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 51:11; 51:29

Jeremiah 51:13

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 51:36; Genesis 6:13; Isaiah 45:3; Revelation 17:1; 17:15

Jeremiah 51:14 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 49:13; 50:15; Amos 6:8. **Parallel theme:** Joel 2:25

Jeremiah 51:15 **Creation:** Jeremiah 32:17; Acts 14:15; Romans 1:20; Revelation 4:11.

Parallel theme: Job 9:8; Psalms 104:2; Proverbs 3:19

Jeremiah 51:16 **Light:** Psalms 135:7. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 18:13; Jonah 1:4

Jeremiah 51:17 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 10:14; 50:2; Psalms 14:2

Jeremiah 51:19 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 73:26; 1 Peter 2:9. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 10:16; Psalms 33:12; Isaiah 47:4

Jeremiah 51:20

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 50:23; Isaiah 10:5; 10:15; 13:5; 37:26; Micah 4:13. **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 25:9; 25:11; Matthew 22:7

Jeremiah 51:21 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 15:1; Micah 5:10; Nahum 2:13; Haggai 2:22; Zechariah 10:5; 12:4; Revelation 19:18

Jeremiah 51:22 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 6:11; Deuteronomy 32:25; 1 Samuel 15:3; 2 Chronicles 36:17; Isaiah 13:18; Lamentations 2:11; Ezekiel 9:6

Jeremiah 51:24 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 50:15. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 18:24

Jeremiah 51:25 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 13:2; Zechariah 4:7; Revelation 8:8. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 50:31; 51:53; 51:58

Jeremiah 51:26 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 51:43

Jeremiah 51:27

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 50:2; 51:12; 51:14; Genesis 8:4; 10:3; 1 Chronicles 1:6; Isaiah 18:3. **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 25:14

Jeremiah 51:28 **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 51:11

Jeremiah 51:29 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 8:16; 51:43; Amos 8:8. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 10:10; 50:13; 50:45

Jeremiah 51:30 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 48:41; Psalms 76:5; Isaiah 19:16; Lamentations 2:9; Amos 1:5; Nahum 3:13

Jeremiah 51:31 **Kingdom:** 2 Chronicles 30:6

Jeremiah 51:33 **References God:** Isaiah 21:10. **Parallel theme:** Hosea 6:11; Joel 3:13. **References Lord:** Micah 4:13

Jeremiah 51:34

Kingdom: Jeremiah 50:17; Matthew 23:13. **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 51:44. **Parallel theme:** Job 20:15; Lamentations 2:16; Amos 8:4; Nahum 2:2. **Creation:** Ezekiel 36:3

Jeremiah 51:35 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 18:20. **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 50:29

Jeremiah 51:36 **References Lord:** Psalms 140:12; Isaiah 43:14; Romans 12:19. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 50:38; Deuteronomy 32:35; 32:43; Psalms 107:33; Proverbs 23:11; Isaiah 44:27; Revelation 16:12

Jeremiah 51:37 **References Babylon:** Revelation 18:2. **Sin:** Jeremiah 18:16; 25:9

Jeremiah 51:38 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:15

Jeremiah 51:39

References Lord: Jeremiah 25:27; 51:57. **Parallel theme:** Nahum 1:10; 3:11

Jeremiah 51:40 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 50:27

Jeremiah 51:41 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 25:26. **References Babylon:** Isaiah 13:19. **Resurrection:** Jeremiah 49:25

Jeremiah 51:42 **Parallel theme:** Daniel 9:26

Jeremiah 51:43 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:6; 51:29; Isaiah 13:20

Jeremiah 51:44 **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 50:2; 51:34; 51:58. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 2:2

Jeremiah 51:45

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 50:8; Numbers 16:26; Acts 2:40; Revelation 18:4. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 51:6; Isaiah 48:20; 2 Corinthians 6:17

Jeremiah 51:46 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 19:7; Isaiah 19:2

Jeremiah 51:47

References Babylon: Jeremiah 50:2; Isaiah 21:9. **Judgment:** Jeremiah 51:52

Jeremiah 51:48 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 50:3; Revelation 18:20. **Sin:** Isaiah 44:23; 48:20; 49:13

Jeremiah 51:49 **References Israel:** Jeremiah 50:29. **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 51:24

Jeremiah 51:50 **Word:** Jeremiah 44:28. **References Jerusalem:** Psalms 122:6; Isaiah 52:2.

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 31:21; 50:8; Revelation 18:4. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 51:6; 51:45; Isaiah 51:11

Jeremiah 51:51 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 79:4; Lamentations 1:10

Jeremiah 51:52 **Judgment:** Jeremiah 51:47. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 50:38

Jeremiah 51:53 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 49:16; 51:25. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 11:4

Jeremiah 51:54 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 50:22. **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 50:46

Jeremiah 51:55 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 25:10

Jeremiah 51:56 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 32:35; Psalms 46:9; 76:3; Isaiah 59:18; Habakkuk 2:8. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 51:6; 51:24; 51:48

Jeremiah 51:57

Kingdom: Jeremiah 46:18; 48:15. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 25:27; 51:39

Jeremiah 51:58

References Babylon: Jeremiah 51:9; 51:30; 51:44; 51:64. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 50:15; Psalms 127:1; Habakkuk 2:13

Jeremiah 51:59

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 32:12. **Word:** Jeremiah 36:4. **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 28:1; 45:1

Jeremiah 51:60 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 30:8. **Word:** Jeremiah 36:32

Jeremiah 51:62 **References** **Lord:** Jeremiah 50:13; Ezekiel 35:9. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 50:3

Jeremiah 51:63 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 18:21

Jeremiah 51:64 **References** **Babylon:** Jeremiah 51:58; Revelation 18:21. **Word:** Job 31:40.

Parallel theme: Psalms 72:20

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