

Jeremiah 49:23-39 – 21 September 2014

Talked last time about the reasons for learning about the nations that surround Israel.

- 1) We learn from their sins how better to honor God.
 - a. We learn personally
 - b. King Hiram helping David
- 2) Old Testament stories about Israel and the events will fit together & make more sense.
 - a. Old Testament makes more sense
 - b. Shem, Ham and Japheth
- 3) End times prophecy will be a lot easier to understand.
 - a. Eschatology comes clear
 - b. Moab is told, “Let my outcast dwell with thee”.

Today we’re going to be enabled to understand 3 more of the nations surrounding Israel in chapter 49.

Chapter 49:23-27 – Syrians

- Not the Assyrians based in Ninevah

- Damascus could possibly be the world's oldest continuously occupied city.
 - 2300 ft above sea level at a great intersection.
- Abraham chased Lot's captors north of Damascus to rescue Lot.
- Abraham's greatest servant Eleazer was from Damascus.
- David subdued Damascus during his reign before they gained their independence back just after the time of Solomon.
- Naaman the Syrian came to the prophet Elisha.
- Damascus grew in importance under rule by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks and finally becoming a full Roman colony.
- Read vs 23-27
 - Given at this time, this is a prophecy of Babylon taking over these Syrian cities.
 - Ben-Hadad (vs 27) is a generic title.
 - Meaning: "Son of Hadad" (Their god)
 - It's like saying Caesar or Pharaoh.
- There are other prophecies against Damascus given:

- Amos 1:3-5 – Judgment for their treatment of the Israelites in the region of Gilead (Gad).
- Isa 17 – Seems to indicate that they will be a day when Damascus is totally wiped out.

Chapter 49:28-33 – Saudi Arabia

- Arabia - meaning
 - “the mingled people” or “a mongrel race”
 - Small groups of desert nomadic people.
 - Read Jer 25:24
- 3 of the 5 OT references refer to the “kings of Arabia”.
- Chief city was Kedar
 - He was a son of Ishmael
 - Their beautiful, nomadic tents were complimented in the Song of Solomon.
 - They protected their lambs, rams and goats with archery (Isa 21:17, 60:7, Eze 27:21)
- Other cities were Hazor and Dedan
- Read vs 28-33
 - It’s established that it is Babylon that does the invading.

- Kedar and Hazor are not even on the map today. Very difficult to tell where in the vast desert they may have been.
- Remember that the Nabataeans arise from this area during the Greek period around 500-300 BC and the tribes from Kedar and Hazor are never heard from again.
 - Whatever they did, it probably follows the pattern that they were not friendly or helpful to Israel in the trade dealings or warfare.

Chapter 49:34-39 – Iranians

- Elam was a son of Shem, Noah's son.
- SE of Babylonia.
- Isa 11 describes the Jews returning to their home land starting in 1948 from all over the world including coming from Elam.
- Generically the Elamites were the Persians as in Isa 21:2.

- Specifically the Elamites were a sub-culture of the Persians. (How the Scots are a sub-culture of the United Kingdom.)
- We know a lot about the Persian
 - The 3rd of the 4 world ruling empires.
 - Daniel and Isaiah prophecy of the Medes and the Persians together conquering the Babylonians.
 - Haman's plot to destroy the Jews during the Persian Kingdom.
 - Zerebbubel, Ezra and Nehemiah rebuild the Jewish Temple and Jerusalem during the Persian period.
- This territory was known as Persia until after WWI around 1921.
 - Iran is a Persian word that means "land of the Aryans".
 - Aryan means the noble one.
- The Bible tells us nothing negative about the Elamites...so why this judgment?
 - Either something happened during Bible days that the Bible is silent about or

- Elam turns against Israel at some later date.
- Elam is always referred to as being nice to Israel all thru history until.....
 - The 1979 Iranian Revolution that overthrew the Shah.
 - Why does this matter? Persia (Iran is in the list of nations that come against Israel the ‘The Battle of Gog’ written in Eze 38-39.

Conclusion:

- Prophecy coming clearer:
 - Have you ever seen a fuzzy picture come clear?
 - That’s how it is with nations today aligning in the Biblical way that they need to be for the last days.
 - How do nation today relate to Israel? (friend, neutral, enemy)
 - How are these nations aligned with or against Israel in the last days IAW the Bible?

- We've seen from the Bible (in the last few Sunday School lessons) that:
 - The people of Moab, and Ammon will live till the end and be favorable toward Israel.
 - The land of Moab, Ammon and Edom is where this will all happen which is where the modern Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is today.
 - And where Israel will flee to in the future!
 - Damascus will be totally wiped out.
 - Saudi Arabia seems to be almost totally neutral.
 - Iran for the first time turns against Israel and is a big part of the Russian led invasion of Israel in the last days.
- Next week, we'll discuss Babylon to close out this section.