



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

# BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

**JEREMIAH 34-52,  
LAMENTATIONS  
AND OBADIAH**

Week 3

## Curses!

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Jeremiah 48:1-28

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

Do you think curses have any power in them?  
Why or why not?

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**DIGGING**  
into the Word

1. The people of Moab were encouraged to imitate what (v. 6)?
  2. The people of Moab would be taken captive since they trusted in what two things (v. 7)?  
(a) their armies and chariots, (b) their deeds and riches, (c) their intelligence and cunning, (d) their men and women.
  3. Who was also going to go into exile with the people (v. 7)?
  4. What did God say to put on Moab (v. 9)?
  5. Moab ridiculed another nation during a time of suffering. What nation was that (v. 27)?
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**LIVING**  
out the Word

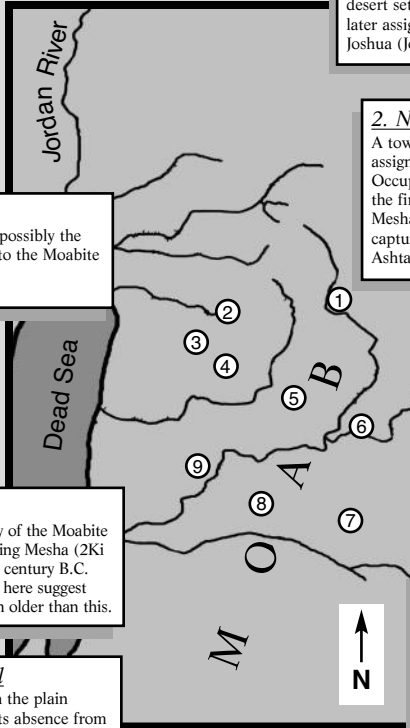
1. Do human beings have the power to curse another human being? Do you think that all authentic curses ultimately come from God?
  2. Have you ever been afraid of someone threatening to curse you?
  3. Do you think God wants us to be involved in cursing others (Ro 12:14, 17-21)?
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**WINDOW**  
on the Word

*A **desert bush** (v. 6) is lonely and isolated. That would picture the Moabites. "**Salt on Moab**" (v. 9). Enemies would place salt on the land to stop anything from growing. It was a sign of total devastation.*

## Cities of Moab

The cities described below were all in the territory of Moab. These cities were prophesied to fall in Jeremiah 48:21-24.



### 1. Bozrah (Bezer)

Mentioned in Jeremiah 48:24. It is probably identical with Bezer. This was a city of refuge located in the desert set apart by Moses. It was later assigned to the Reubenites by Joshua (Jos 20:8).

### 2. Nebo

A town of Moab originally assigned to the tribe of Reuben. Occupied by Bela, son of Beor the first king of Edom. King Mesha of Moab later captured it and dedicated it to Ashtar-Chemosh.

### 3. Kiriathaim

A city in the highlands of Moab originally assigned to the tribe of Reuben. The city is often identified with modern el-Qereiyt.

### 4. Beth-Meon (Baal-Meon)

Originally given to the tribe of Reuben. According to inscriptions on the Moabite Stone, King Mesha of Moab reports that he fortified it about 830 B.C.

### 5. Beth-Diblathaim

Also known as Almon-Diblathaim, a camping place for the Israelites during their wanderings after the Exodus (Nu 33:46).

### Mephaath

Exact location Unknown. An Amorite city given to Reuben and assigned to the Levites (Jos 21:37).

### Holon

Exact location unknown. Somewhere in plains or desert plateau country of Moab.

### 9 Keriath

A region of Moab, possibly the site of a sanctuary to the Moabite deity, Chemosh.

### 8. Dibon

Site of the discovery of the Moabite Stone, erected by King Mesha (2Ki 3:4-27) in the ninth century B.C. Artifacts uncovered here suggest that the city is much older than this.

### 7. Beth-Gamul

An unwalled city in the plain country of Moab. Its absence from the cities mentioned in Numbers suggest that it may be a city of later date.

### 6. Jahaz (Jahzah)

Conquered by Israel at the defeat of Sihon, king of the Amorites (Nu 21:33). King Mesha of Moab states on the Moabite Stone that the king of Israel lived here before Mesha drove him out.

## Moab's Mourning After

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Jeremiah 48:29-47

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

Have you ever lost something so dear that you mourned its passing?

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

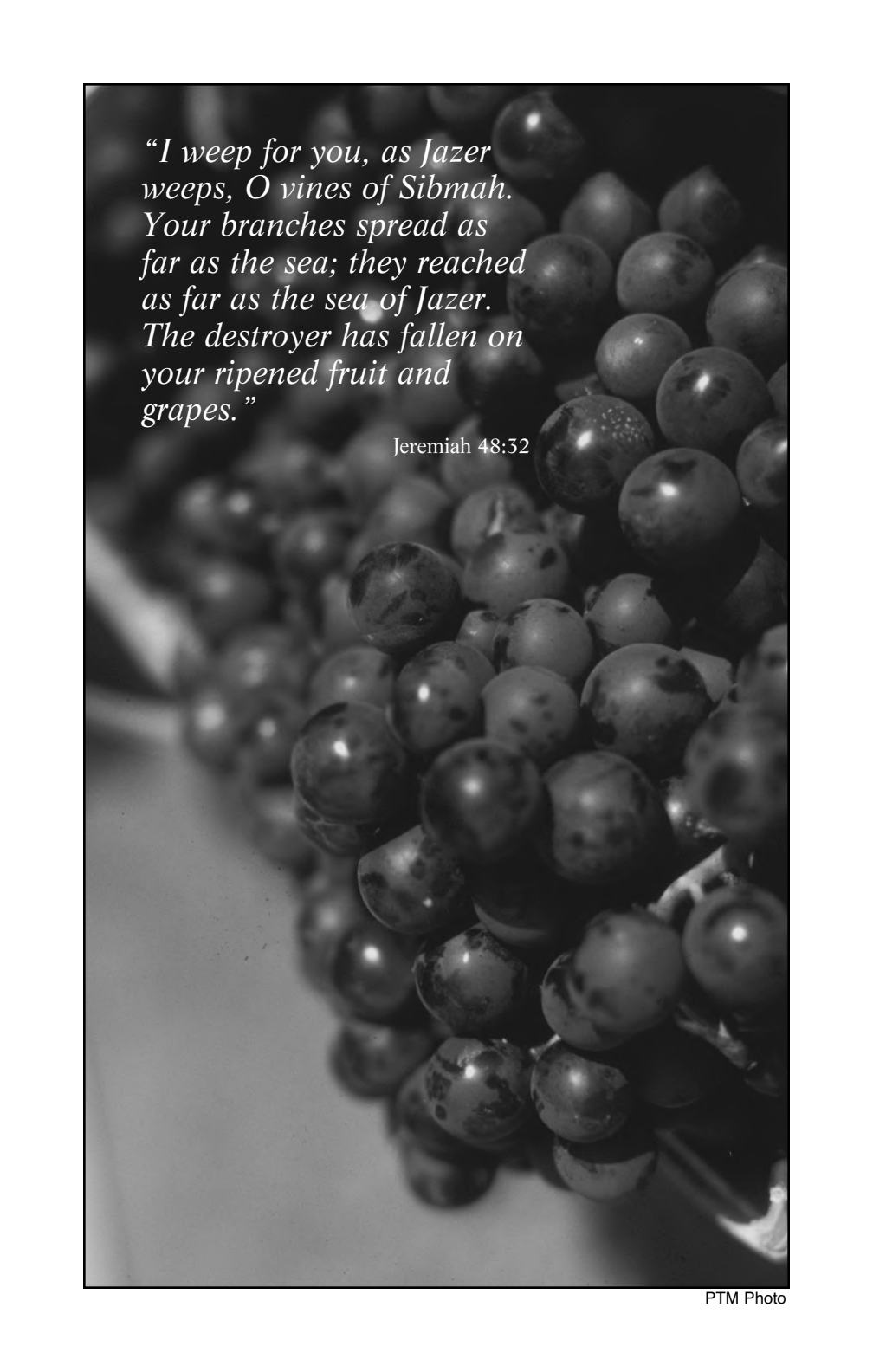
1. What was Moab famous for (vs. 29-30)?
2. When God finished breaking the pride of Moab, what would it resemble (v. 38)?
3. Such awful terror would strike Moab's military men that their heart would be like (v. 41): (a) the heart of a man in battle, (b) the heart of a woman in labor, (c) the heart of a lion in the jungle, (d) the heart of a deer in the forest.
4. God gave the reason that Moab would be destroyed. What was that reason (v. 42)?

**LIVING**  
out the Word

1. Take some time and try to remember three things you have lost and mourned.
2. What made losing those particular possessions so painful?
3. What perspective have you gained since losing your precious things? Do you think you are wiser now than you were before? Why or why not?

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

***"Moab will be destroyed"** (v. 42). The people of Moab were overrun by nomadic Arabians from the east.*



*“I weep for you, as Jazer  
weeps, O vines of Sibmah.  
Your branches spread as  
far as the sea; they reached  
as far as the sea of Jazer.  
The destroyer has fallen on  
your ripened fruit and  
grapes.”*

Jeremiah 48:32

## And Now, for You!

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Jeremiah 49:1-22

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

When we see others go through misfortune, it is easy to forget that we may go through similar circumstances some day. Has God ever allowed you to go through something you never thought you'd have to?

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

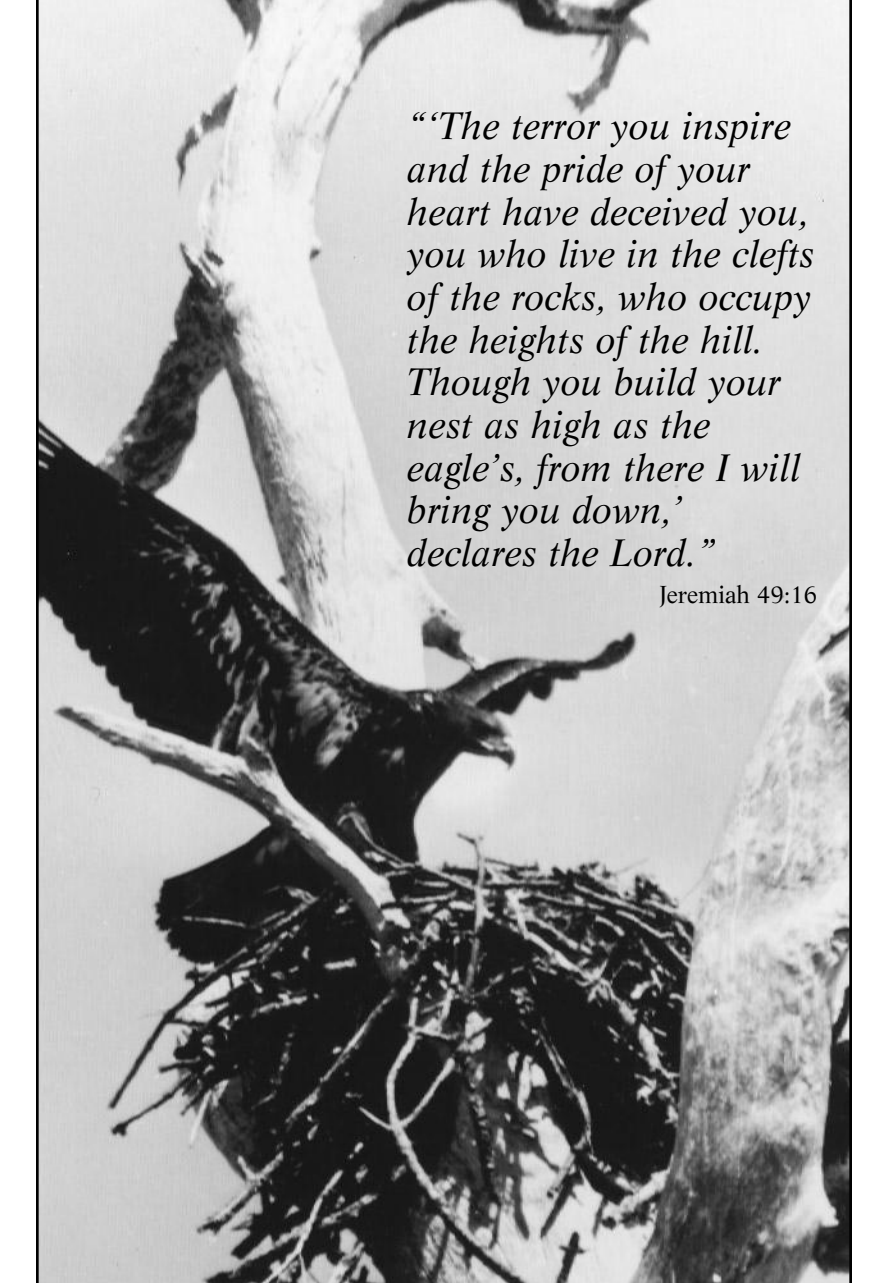
1. Who was Molech, and why did he take possession of Gad (v. 1)?
2. Where was Rabbah, and why was it important (v. 2)?
3. The Ammonites were a boastful people. What did they boast of (v. 4)? (a) their fruitful valleys and riches, (b) their armies, (c) their women, (d) their fortresses.
4. Edom was also famous for something. What did Jeremiah say would perish from them (v. 7)?
5. In spite of the coming judgment on Edom, whom did God say he would care for (v. 11)?

**LIVING**  
out the Word

1. Do you have a friend or family member who is experiencing a difficult situation—perhaps of his or her own making?
2. What attitude or activity might have led to the consequences your friend or relative is experiencing?
3. Are there any attitudes or activities in your own life that you might want to reconsider?

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

***Gad** was the chief city of the Israelite tribe of the same name. Since Israel had been exiled, the Ammonites were living in Gad's cities. **Molech** (v. 1) was the national god of the Ammonites, the descendants of Lot who lived north of Moab. **Rabbah** (v. 2) was an important Ammonite city at the site of Amman, the present-day capitol of Jordan. The **Edomites** (v. 7) were descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob. There were always tensions between the Jews and the Edomites.*

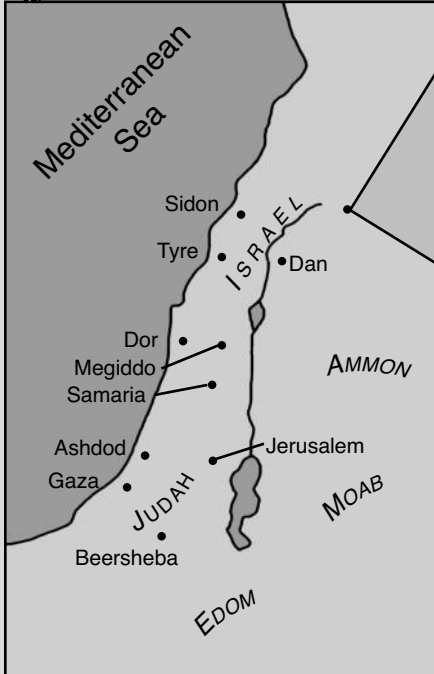


*“The terror you inspire  
and the pride of your  
heart have deceived you,  
you who live in the clefts  
of the rocks, who occupy  
the heights of the hill.  
Though you build your  
nest as high as the  
eagle’s, from there I will  
bring you down,’  
declares the Lord.”*

Jeremiah 49:16

## Damascus

• A major commercial center located at the intersection of the main international highways of the ancient Middle East, the Way of the Sea and the King's Highway.



### **Damascus**

The world's oldest, continuously inhabited city.

• Believed to be the world's oldest, continuously inhabited city.

• Known for its large emporium where merchants organized trade groups and bazaars.

• A center of Amorite culture in

patriarchal times, but eventually came under control of the Arameans (Syrians) who made it their capital.

• Brought under Israel's control by David (2Sa 8:6).

• Regained its independence at the end of Solomon's reign and became the capital of a resurgent Aramaean kingdom.

• Overrun by the Assyrians in 732 B.C.

• Hellenized during the second century B.C.

• Center of a large Jewish population by the first century A.D.



# The Making of a Ghost Town

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DAY 18

Jeremiah 49:23-39

Have you ever visited a ghost town? What caused the town to grow in the first place, and what caused everyone to abandon it?

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1. What words and images does Jeremiah use to describe the atmosphere in Damascus (vs. 23-34)?
  2. God asks a question of Damascus. What did he want to know (v. 25)?
  3. What was the danger for those who lived in Hazor, and what did God recommend they do (v. 30)?
  4. How long would Hazor remain a ghost town (v. 33)?
  5. God will occasionally use imagery to picture a real danger. What do you think is represented by the *four winds* that God would bring against Elam (v. 36)?
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1. Have you ever had a “ghost town” experience in your life, when the life you once knew was removed forever?
  2. What part of your life did you lose, and how do you think it has affected you?
  3. Has God given you a new life to replace the old one? God is rich in mercy and promises to bring back fulfillment and joy, even when we go through loss and suffering (Jer 29:11-12; Ge 50:15-20).
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**Damascus** (v. 23) was a city famed for its commerce and its location in a large oasis. **The four winds** (v. 6) picture Elam’s attackers who would come from all directions.

## OPENING

up to the Word

## DIGGING

into the Word

## LIVING

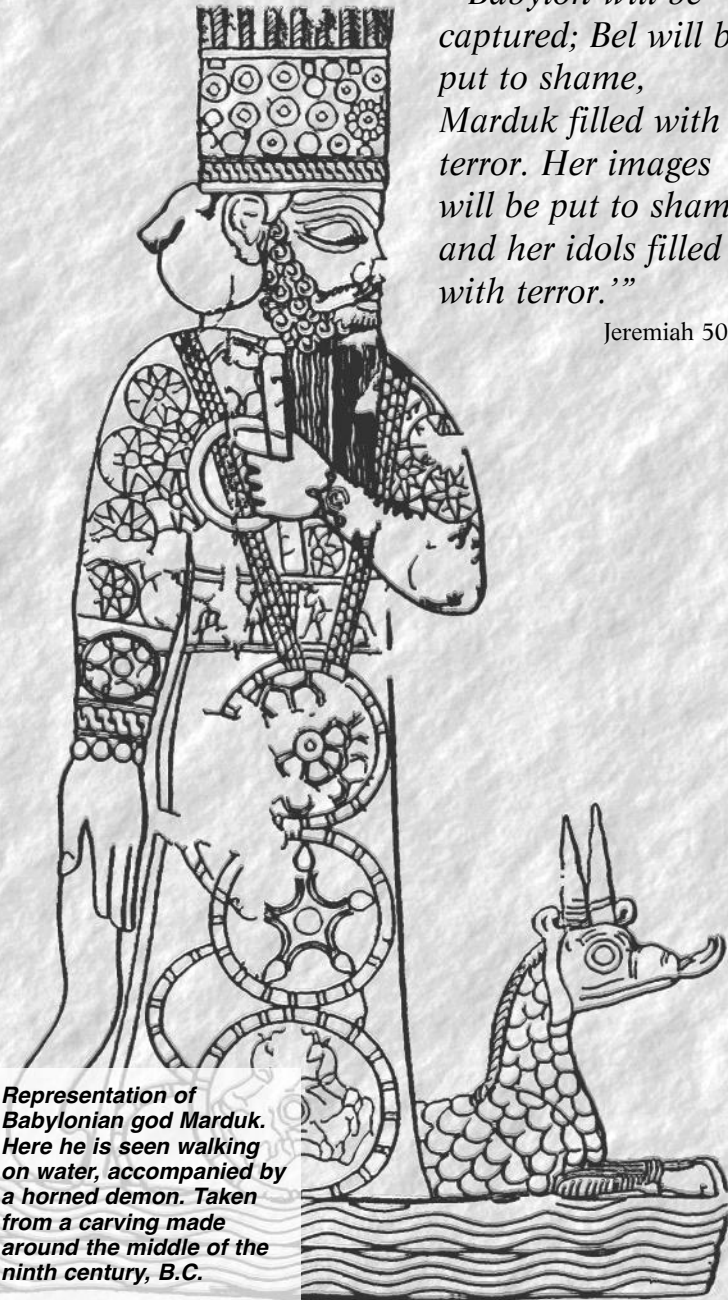
out the Word

## WINDOW

on the Word

*“Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.”*

Jeremiah 50:2



**Representation of Babylonian god Marduk. Here he is seen walking on water, accompanied by a horned demon. Taken from a carving made around the middle of the ninth century, B.C.**

# There's No Place Like Home

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Jeremiah 50:1-20

Have you ever been away from home for a long time? Did you become homesick?

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- 1.** When Babylon is captured, two of its principal gods, Bel and Marduk, would be put to shame and filled with terror. Who are they (v. 2)?
  - 2.** From what direction could Babylon expect its conquerors to come (v. 3)?
  - 3.** God says the people of Israel had gone astray. But who does God blame for leading them astray (v. 6)?
  - 4.** Who does God say was the first to conquer his people, and the last (v. 17)?
  - 5.** Something that Israel always had plenty of is prophesied to disappear someday. What is it that will be gone from Israel (v. 20)?
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- 1.** As you look back at your home life, was it a pleasant place to live, or an unpleasant place?
  - 2.** What made the home in which you grew up special in a good way?
  - 3.** What makes your home today special? How could it be better? How could you help to make it better for everyone?
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**Bel and Marduk** (v. 2) are both names for the main god of the Babylonians.

DAY 19

## **OPENING**

up to the Word

## **DIGGING**


into the Word

## **LIVING**

out the Word

## **WINDOW**

on the Word



*“Summon archers against Babylon, all those who draw the bow. Encamp all around her; let no one escape. Repay her for her deeds; do to her as she has done. For she has defied the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.”*

*Jeremiah 50:29*

# Paying the Price of Pride

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DAY 20

Jeremiah 50:21-46

Has your pride ever gotten you into trouble? Has it ever exacted a price from you?

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1. Where is the land of Merathaim (v. 21)?
  2. With what object does God compare the nation of Babylon (v. 23)? Why do you think God used this image?
  3. Babylon's judgment is a result of something she did to God (v. 29). What had she done that merited her horrible punishment?
  4. In verses 36-38, God lists different aspects of Babylonian life that he would affect. What six things are mentioned?
  5. Who will become the new residents of the mighty and proud city of Babylon (vs. 39-40)?
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1. As you look back over your life, what are you proud of? What circumstances have helped to humble you?
  2. Do you think all pride is sinful, or can there be times when pride is appropriate? When does pride become sinful?
  3. What is the most important lesson you learned when you've been humbled, and how do you think it made you spiritually stronger?
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**Merathaim** (v. 21) means "double rebellion," and signifies the sin of Babylon, which would lead to her downfall before God.

## OPENING

up to the Word

## DIGGING

into the Word

## LIVING

out the Word

## WINDOW

on the Word

## The End

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Jeremiah 51:1-14

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

All great nations and armies through history have one thing in common—they do not last forever. How many great nations or armies have been beaten or conquered during your lifetime?

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

1. The coming judgment on Babylon would not be an accident or a coincidence. What does Jeremiah reveal was the ultimate reason for the fall of Babylon (vs. 4-5)?
2. What are the Jews in Babylon urged to do (v. 6)?
3. How is Babylon described by God (v. 7)?
4. Who had God stirred up to be the tools of his vengeance upon Babylon (v. 11)?
5. For what specific act committed against the Lord did he hold the Babylonians responsible (v. 11)?

**LIVING**  
out the Word

1. Does it seem to you that some people constantly get away with sin? Can you think of things that people have done to you that were wrong—for which they never had to answer?
2. What do you think this passage teaches about God's actions toward all who sin against him? Does it bring you comfort to know God won't let evil go unpunished? As a Christ-follower, do you think our primary concern for others should be that they "get what's coming to them" or to be thankful that God will forgive them, as he has us?

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

The *Medes* (v. 11) had been Babylon's allies in destroying Nineveh in 612 B.C. They were the ancient Indo-European peoples of northwest Iran who were eventually assimilated into the Persian Empire. Soon they would join the Persians to defeat Babylon in 539 B.C.