**Jeremiah 47-49**

A Message About the Philistines

**47**This is the word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza:

**2**This is what the Lord says:

“See how the waters are rising in the north;  
    they will become an overflowing torrent.  
They will overflow the land and everything in it,  
    the towns and those who live in them.  
The people will cry out; all who dwell in the land will wail  
**3**at the sound of the hooves of galloping steeds,  
    at the noise of enemy chariots and the rumble of their wheels.  
Parents will not turn to help their children; their hands will hang limp.  
**4**For the day has come to destroy all the Philistines  
and to remove all survivors who could help Tyre and Sidon.  
The Lord is about to destroy the Philistines,  
    the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor.   
**5**Gaza will shave her head in mourning; Ashkelon will be silenced.  
You remnant on the plain, how long will you cut yourselves?

**6**“‘Alas, sword of the Lord, how long till you rest?  
Return to your sheath; cease and be still.’  
**7**But how can it rest when the Lord has commanded it,  
when he has ordered it to attack Ashkelon and the coast?”

A Message About Moab

**48**Concerning Moab:

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says:

“Woe to Nebo, for it will be ruined.  
    Kiriathaim will be disgraced and captured;  
    the stronghold will be disgraced and shattered.  
**2**Moab will be praised no more; in Heshbon people will plot her downfall:  
    ‘Come, let us put an end to that nation.’  
You, the people of Madmen, will also be silenced;  
    the sword will pursue you.  
**3**Cries of anguish arise from Horonaim,  
    cries of great havoc and destruction.  
**4**Moab will be broken; her little ones will cry out.   
**5**They go up the hill to Luhith, weeping bitterly as they go;  
on the road down to Horonaim anguished cries over the destruction are heard.  
**6**Flee! Run for your lives; become like a bush in the desert.  
**7**Since you trust in your deeds and riches,  
    you too will be taken captive,  
and Chemosh will go into exile,  
    together with his priests and officials.  
**8**The destroyer will come against every town,  
    and not a town will escape.  
The valley will be ruined and the plateau destroyed,  
    because the Lord has spoken.  
**9**Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste;  
her towns will become desolate, with no one to live in them.

**10**“A curse on anyone who is lax in doing the Lord’s work!  
    A curse on anyone who keeps their sword from bloodshed!

**11**“Moab has been at rest from youth,  
    like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another -   
    she has not gone into exile.  
So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged.  
**12**But days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when I will send men who pour from pitchers,  
    and they will pour her out;  
they will empty her pitchers and smash her jars.  
**13**Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh,  
    as Israel was ashamed when they trusted in Bethel.

**14**“How can you say, ‘We are warriors, men valiant in battle’?  
**15**Moab will be destroyed and her towns invaded;  
    her finest young men will go down in the slaughter,”  
    declares the King, whose name is the Lord Almighty.  
**16**“The fall of Moab is at hand;  
    her calamity will come quickly.  
**17**Mourn for her, all who live around her,  
    all who know her fame;  
say, ‘How broken is the mighty scepter,  
    how broken the glorious staff!’

**18**“Come down from your glory  
    and sit on the parched ground,  
    you inhabitants of Daughter Dibon,  
for the one who destroys Moab  
    will come up against you  
    and ruin your fortified cities.  
**19**Stand by the road and watch,  
    you who live in Aroer.  
Ask the man fleeing and the woman escaping,  
    ask them, ‘What has happened?’  
**20**Moab is disgraced, for she is shattered.  
    Wail and cry out!  
Announce by the Arnon that Moab is destroyed.  
**21**Judgment has come to the plateau—  
    to Holon, Jahzah and Mephaath,  
**22**    to Dibon, Nebo and Beth Diblathaim,  
**23**    to Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul and Beth Meon,  
**24**    to Kerioth and Bozrah -   
    to all the towns of Moab, far and near.  
**25**Moab’s horn is cut off; her arm is broken,” declares the Lord.

**26**“Make her drunk, for she has defied the Lord.  
Let Moab wallow in her vomit;  
    let her be an object of ridicule.  
**27**Was not Israel the object of your ridicule?  
    Was she caught among thieves,  
that you shake your head in scorn  
    whenever you speak of her?  
**28**Abandon your towns and dwell among the rocks,  
    you who live in Moab.  
Be like a dove that makes its nest  
    at the mouth of a cave.

**29**“We have heard of Moab’s pride -   
    how great is her arrogance! -   
of her insolence, her pride, her conceit  
    and the haughtiness of her heart.  
**30**I know her insolence but it is futile,”  
declares the Lord, “and her boasts accomplish nothing.  
**31**Therefore I wail over Moab, for all Moab I cry out,  
    I moan for the people of Kir Hareseth.  
**32**I weep for you, as Jazer weeps, you vines of Sibmah.  
Your branches spread as far as the sea; they reached as far as Jazer.  
The destroyer has fallen on your ripened fruit and grapes.  
**33**Joy and gladness are gone from the orchards and fields of Moab.  
I have stopped the flow of wine from the presses;  
    no one treads them with shouts of joy.  
Although there are shouts, they are not shouts of joy.

**34**“The sound of their cry rises from Heshbon to Elealeh and Jahaz,  
from Zoar as far as Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah,  
    for even the waters of Nimrim are dried up.  
**35**In Moab I will put an end to those who make offerings on the high places  
    and burn incense to their gods,” declares the Lord.  
**36**“So my heart laments for Moab like the music of a pipe;  
    it laments like a pipe for the people of Kir Hareseth.  
    The wealth they acquired is gone.  
**37**Every head is shaved and every beard cut off;  
every hand is slashed and every waist is covered with sackcloth.  
**38**On all the roofs in Moab and in the public squares  
there is nothing but mourning, for I have broken Moab  
    like a jar that no one wants,” declares the Lord.  
**39**“How shattered she is! How they wail!  
    How Moab turns her back in shame!  
Moab has become an object of ridicule,  
    an object of horror to all those around her.”

**40**This is what the Lord says:

“Look! An eagle is swooping down,  
    spreading its wings over Moab.  
**41**Kerioth will be captured  
    and the strongholds taken.  
In that day the hearts of Moab’s warriors  
    will be like the heart of a woman in labor.  
**42**Moab will be destroyed as a nation  
    because she defied the Lord.  
**43**Terror and pit and snare await you,  
    you people of Moab,” declares the Lord.  
**44**“Whoever flees from the terror will fall into a pit, whoever climbs out of the pit  
    will be caught in a snare; for I will bring on Moab the year of her punishment,” declares the Lord.

**45**“In the shadow of Heshbon  
    the fugitives stand helpless,  
for a fire has gone out from Heshbon,  
    a blaze from the midst of Sihon;  
it burns the foreheads of Moab,  
    the skulls of the noisy boasters.  
**46**Woe to you, Moab!  
    The people of Chemosh are destroyed;  
your sons are taken into exile  
    and your daughters into captivity.

**47**“Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab  
    in days to come,” declares the Lord.

Here ends the judgment on Moab.

A Message About Ammon

**49**Concerning the Ammonites:

This is what the Lord says:

“Has Israel no sons? Has Israel no heir?  
Why then has Molek taken possession of Gad?  
    Why do his people live in its towns?  
**2**But the days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when I will sound the battle cry  
    against Rabbah of the Ammonites;  
it will become a mound of ruins,  
    and its surrounding villages will be set on fire.  
Then Israel will drive out those who drove her out,”  
says the Lord.  
**3**“Wail, Heshbon, for Ai is destroyed!  
    Cry out, you inhabitants of Rabbah!  
Put on sackcloth and mourn;  
    rush here and there inside the walls,  
for Molek will go into exile,  
    together with his priests and officials.  
**4**Why do you boast of your valleys,  
    boast of your valleys so fruitful?  
Unfaithful Daughter Ammon,  
    you trust in your riches and say, ‘Who will attack me?’  
**5**I will bring terror on you from all those around you,”  
declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.  
“Every one of you will be driven away,  
    and no one will gather the fugitives.

**6**“Yet afterward, I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites,”  
declares the Lord.

A Message About Edom

**7**Concerning Edom:

This is what the Lord Almighty says:

“Is there no longer wisdom in Teman?  
    Has counsel perished from the prudent?  
    Has their wisdom decayed?  
**8**Turn and flee, hide in deep caves, you who live in Dedan,  
for I will bring disaster on Esau at the time when I punish him.  
**9**If grape pickers came to you, would they not leave a few grapes?  
If thieves came during the night, would they not steal only as much as they wanted? **10**But I will strip Esau bare; I will uncover his hiding places, so that he cannot conceal himself. His armed men are destroyed, also his allies and neighbors, so there is no one to say, **11**‘Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive. Your widows too can depend on me.’”

**12**This is what the Lord says: “If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, why should you go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, but must drink it. **13**I swear by myself,” declares the Lord, “that Bozrah will become a ruin and a curse, an object of horror and reproach; and all its towns will be in ruins forever.”

**14**I have heard a message from the Lord;  
    an envoy was sent to the nations to say,  
“Assemble yourselves to attack it! Rise up for battle!”

**15**“Now I will make you small among the nations, despised by mankind.  
**16**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.  
**17**“Edom will become an object of horror;  
    all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds.  
**18**As Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown, along with their neighboring towns,” says the Lord, “so no one will live there; no people will dwell in it.

**19**“Like a lion coming up from Jordan’s thickets  
    to a rich pastureland, I will chase Edom from its land in an instant.  
    Who is the chosen one I will appoint for this?  
Who is like me and who can challenge me?  
    And what shepherd can stand against me?”

**20**Therefore, hear what the Lord has planned against Edom,  
    what he has purposed against those who live in Teman:  
The young of the flock will be dragged away;  
    their pasture will be appalled at their fate.  
**21**At the sound of their fall the earth will tremble;  
    their cry will resound to the Red Sea.   
**22**Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down, spreading its wings over Bozrah.  
In that day the hearts of Edom’s warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor.

A Message About Damascus

**23**Concerning Damascus:

“Hamath and Arpad are dismayed, for they have heard bad news.  
They are disheartened, troubled like the restless sea.  
**24**Damascus has become feeble, she has turned to flee  
    and panic has gripped her; anguish and pain have seized her,  
    pain like that of a woman in labor.  
**25**Why has the city of renown not been abandoned, the town in which I delight?  
**26**Surely, her young men will fall in the streets; all her soldiers will be silenced in that day,” declares the Lord Almighty. **27**“I will set fire to the walls of Damascus; it will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad.”

A Message About Kedar and Hazor

**28**Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked:

This is what the Lord says:

“Arise, and attack Kedar  
    and destroy the people of the East.  
**29**Their tents and their flocks will be taken;  
    their shelters will be carried off with all their goods and camels.  
People will shout to them, ‘Terror on every side!’

**30**“Flee quickly away! Stay in deep caves, you who live in Hazor,” declares the Lord. “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has plotted against you; he has devised a plan against you.

**31**“Arise and attack a nation at ease, which lives in confidence,”  
declares the Lord, “a nation that has neither gates nor bars;  
    its people live far from danger.  
**32**Their camels will become plunder, and their large herds will be spoils of war.  
I will scatter to the winds those who are in distant places  
    and will bring disaster on them from every side,” declares the Lord.  
**33**“Hazor will become a haunt of jackals, a desolate place forever.  
No one will live there; no people will dwell in it.”

A Message About Elam

**34**This is the word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah:

**35**This is what the Lord Almighty says:

“See, I will break the bow of Elam,  
    the mainstay of their might.  
**36**I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven;  
I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam’s exiles do not go. **37**I will shatter Elam before their foes, before those who want to kill them; I will bring disaster on them, even my fierce anger,” declares the Lord.  
“I will pursue them with the sword until I have made an end of them.  
**38**I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials,” declares the Lord.

**39**“Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come,” declares the Lord.