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JEREMIAH 50:11-20,33-34

GOD'S JUSTICE



THIS WEEK'S focus

Babylon had rejoiced in crushing Judah and Jerusalem. Instead of being humble before God, Babylon was high on itself. Bad idea. Through Jeremiah, God promised to judge Babylon for rejoicing over Judah's difficulties and refusing to acknowledge the one true God. The Lord of Armies, the strong Redeemer of Israel, promised to get His people out of Babylon and bring His judgment into Babylon. God's people are still surrounded by enemies; the world is still filled with sin and brokenness. Inevitably, other people will mistreat us. So like Judah, we have to put our trust in the justice of God. He will protect and provide for us in difficult times—and one day, Christ will judge all evil and reign on earth with complete righteousness.



CENTRAL truth

God is the ultimate righteous judge.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 50:11-20,33-34

JEREMIAH 50:11-16

11 Because you rejoice, because you celebrate — you who plundered my inheritance — because you frolic like a young cow treading grain and neigh like stallions, **12** your mother will be utterly humiliated; she who bore you will be put to shame. Look! She will lag behind all the nations — an arid wilderness, a desert. **13** Because of the LORD's wrath, she will not be inhabited; she will become a desolation, every bit of her. Everyone who passes through Babylon will be appalled and scoff because of all her wounds. **14** Line up in battle formation around

Babylon, all you archers! Shoot at her! Do not spare an arrow, for she has sinned against the LORD. **15** Raise a war cry against her on every side! She has thrown up her hands in surrender; her defense towers have fallen; her walls are demolished. Since this is the LORD's vengeance, take your vengeance on her; as she has done, do the same to her. **16** Cut off the sower from Babylon as well as him who wields the sickle at harvest time. Because of the oppressor's sword, each will turn to his own people, each will flee to his own land.

JEREMIAH 50:17-20

17 Israel is a stray lamb, chased by lions. The first who devoured him was the king of Assyria; the last who crushed his bones was King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. **18** Therefore, this is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I am about to punish the king of Babylon and his land just as I punished the king of Assyria. **19** I will return Israel to his grazing

land, and he will feed on Carmel and Bashan; he will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and of Gilead. **20** In those days and at that time — this is the LORD's declaration — one will search for Israel's iniquity, but there will be none, and for Judah's sins, but they will not be found, for I will forgive those I leave as a remnant.

JEREMIAH 50:33-34

33 This is what the LORD of Armies says: Israelites and Judeans alike have been oppressed. All their captors hold them fast; they refuse to release them. **34** Their Redeemer is

strong; the LORD of Armies is his name. He will fervently champion their cause so that he might bring rest to the earth but turmoil to those who live in Babylon.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 50:34

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 50:11-16

DWELL

Babylon celebrated and enjoyed Judah's downfall, but the enemy nation had a force coming its way that was stronger than any military on earth: the vengeance of the Lord. Babylon partied while ripping Jerusalem's walls to the ground; soon, Babylon's walls and towers would be as demolished as Jerusalem's. The difference between Jerusalem and Babylon is that Jerusalem would soon be rebuilt. Babylon, to this day, remains in ruins. When we trust in the Lord, we can trust that we will ultimately be delivered from our enemies.



How do you think this passage would have encouraged God's people in Babylon?



What does this passage teach us about God's commitment to bring justice to His people?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 50:34 in a journal each day this week and read it aloud 2–3 times. If you'd like, you can decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse.

PRAY

Thank the Father that He is a defender of His people. Ask Him to lead you into His plans and deliver you from all your spiritual foes.

day 2

JEREMIAH 50:17-20

DWELL

We live in a sinful world and we're impacted by its brokenness. Our own sin causes brokenness in our lives, and we're surrounded by spiritual enemies who seek to devour us like lions devouring prey. But we are the sheep of the Lord's pasture! Our Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ. Like was the case with Judah, sin may describe our past. However, it doesn't define our present in Christ, and it won't deter our future in His plans. In Christ, we are forgiven. No enemy stands a chance against our Shepherd and Defender.



What are some of the things God committed to do for Israel and Judah in these verses?



How can you use God's promises to bring joy, hope, or comfort to people you know who are struggling with difficulties?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 50:34 on a note card and post it somewhere you'll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2–3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

In a prayer, declare your trust that your sins are forgiven and that you're a new creation in Christ. Ask God's Spirit to remind you today that you are completely accepted as God's child because of Jesus.

day 3

JEREMIAH 50:33-34

DWELL

It was true that Judah couldn't match the strength of its oppressor. But it was also true that the people had a Redeemer with a power their oppressor couldn't possibly comprehend. Their oppressor had armies that filled the Near Eastern sands; their Redeemer had armies that could fill the planet's skies. Soon, the people of Judah would boldly strut back into the land of promise. Their relationship with God would be restored, and they would leave their troubles behind in Babylon.



What are some spiritual enemies that can become "oppressors" in our lives?



What are some spiritual enemies that tend to hold you back from fully serving God? How can you fight against them?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 50:34 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Ask the Father to deliver you this week from your enemies and all the things that get in your way of following Him. Ask His Holy Spirit to guide you out of temptation and into God's plans for you.

day 4

MARK 4:35-41

DWELL

When the disciples woke Jesus up, He didn't deny that they were in the middle of a storm, and He didn't pretend like everything was fine. He acknowledged the storm—and then He told the sea to be silent. Jesus didn't deny the storm: He settled it. Safely, they all arrived at the exact place Jesus said they would. Life is full of storms, but faith doesn't deny present difficulties. Faith declares God's power to bring us through them. In Jeremiah 50:33-34, God declared Israel and Judah's present storm, and God declared His plan to bring them through it. Whatever storm we face, God will bring us through.

↑ What does this passage teach us about God's power in our difficulties?

↪ How could you pray through a difficult situation you or someone you know is dealing with?

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 50:34 for them.

PRAY

Thank the Father that He will never lead us into destruction. Ask His Holy Spirit to remind you to pray for His peace and wisdom whenever you encounter difficult situations.

day 5

PSALM 34:4-10

DWELL

If David knew one thing, it was difficulties. Yet, God saved him from all his troubles. David didn't deny the difficulties around him or the fears within him. Instead, he took it all to the Lord, and he declared the Lord's power to protect him and provide for his every need. God already perfectly knows what's happening around and within each of us. It doesn't help us to act like everything's great when it's not. Like David, we need to tell God what's going on, and, we need to tell God that we trust Him. When we ask for guidance, we can trust that He will give us wisdom and comfort.

↻ What are some of the things David says the Lord does for us?

↻ What are difficulties around you or fears within you that you need to tell God about?

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 50:34 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

Take a few moments to share with God about every difficulty or fear you're facing. Thank Him that He will deliver you and take care of you. Ask Him to remind you to come to Him in prayer in every situation.