

## OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS<sup>1</sup>

### Ammon

- A. Prophecies foretold - Ezekiel 25.1-7; Jeremiah 49.1-6; Amos 1.13-15
  - 1. The capital, Rabbah, would be destroyed.
  - 2. The Ammonites would be carried into captivity.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  - 1. Historic records are vague, but it would seem most likely that Ammon suffered a fate similar to that of Judah when Ammon violated its suzerainty covenant with Babylon.
  - 2. Ammon had made the covenant with Babylon to gain protection against the Arabs, and the Arabs now occupy the territory that belonged to Ammon.

### Arabia

- A. Prophecies foretold - Isaiah 21.13-17; Jeremiah 49.28-33
  - 1. Within a year, according to the years of a hireling, the nations of Arabia would fall.
  - 2. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will conquer the nations of Arabia so that Hazor will remain desolate and uninhabited.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled - unknown, lack of evidence

### Assyria

- A. Prophecies foretold - Isaiah 14.24-27; Nahum; Jonah
  - 1. Despite the power of the Assyrian nation, the city of Nineveh would fall just as No-Amon of Egypt fell to Assyria.
  - 2. Nineveh would be destroyed utterly, and Assyria would be subdued.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  - 1. Nineveh was destroyed completely by a Medo-Babylonian alliance in 612 BC. After the battle of Carchemish in 605 BC, Assyria ceased to be a major power.
  - 2. The destruction of Nineveh was so complete that the city's existence passed into mythology until archaeological excavations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Babylon

- A. Prophecies foretold - Isaiah 13.1–14.23; 21.1-10; 46.1–47.15; 48.14-22; Jeremiah 50.1–51.58; Daniel 2 & 7; Habakkuk 1–3
  - 1. Babylon served as the instrument of God's punishment of Israel by destroying Jerusalem and exiling the Jews.
  - 2. A great multitude will come against Babylon from a far country.

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<sup>1</sup>Source unknown; adapted from "Prophetic Literature" course handout, Instructor, Dr. Clyde M. Woods (Henderson, TN: Freed-Hardeman College, Spring 1976).

3. The Medes will destroy utterly Babylon and its inhabitants to the extent that it never will be rebuilt.
  4. Persia, identified with Elam, was to participate with Media in the destruction of Babylon.
  5. Isaiah named Cyrus as the one who would destroy Babylon and restore Israel.
  6. Babylon would be the first of four great kingdoms to precede the establishment of the Messianic kingdom.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
1. Babylon conquered Judah and kept the Jews in captivity 70 years.
  2. The city of Babylon was overthrown by the Medes under the rule of Cyrus in 539 BC.
  3. The fall of Babylon precipitated the founding of the Medo-Persian Empire, the second of four kingdoms to precede the Messiah.
  4. Under Cyrus, Darius, and their successors, the city of Babylon was laid waste, and it became deserted.

### Edom

- A. Prophecies foretold - Ezekiel 25.12-14; Isaiah 21.11-12; Jeremiah 49.7-22; Amos 1.11-12; Obadiah 1-14
1. Edom will be laid waste.
  2. Israel shall be the instrument of God's punishment on Edom.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
1. Edom suffered at the hands of Assyria and Babylon.
  2. The Edomites were conquered by the Nabateans in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
  3. The Jews subjugated the Edomites under John Hyrcanus in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.
  4. The Idumeans (i.e., Edomites) ceased to exist as a nation after the Roman invasion of Palestine in AD 70.

### Egypt

- A. Prophecies foretold - Ezekiel 29.1-32.32; Isaiah 19.1-20.6; Jeremiah 46.1-28
1. Egypt will be divided, and Egyptians will be stirred up against other Egyptians.
  2. Egypt shall be given over to a hard master, a fierce king.
  3. Assyria shall conquer Egypt and Ethiopia.
  4. Five cities in Egypt, including the city of the sun, shall speak Hebrew and respect the Lord.
  5. Pharaoh Necho and his armies will be delivered into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar at the battle of Carchemish.
  6. The land of Egypt shall be laid waste and the people shall be scattered among the nations in a captivity of 40 years.
  7. Nebuchadnezzar shall be the one to destroy Egypt and her allies, and the nation shall never exercise the power and influence it held in the past.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
1. A division occurred between Egypt and Ethiopia when the latter withdrew from Lower Egypt.

2. Sethos usurped the throne in 718 BC, an action that produced internal strife.
3. Isaiah's prophecy of a hard master probably was fulfilled in the Assyrian conquest of Egypt, but the same could apply to Nebuchadnezzar.
4. Many Jews settled in Egypt after the fall of Jerusalem, and Alexandria became a center of Jewish scholarship.
5. Nebuchadnezzar soundly defeated Pharaoh Necho at the battle of Carchemish in 605 BC.
6. Nebuchadnezzar eventually invaded the Egyptian homeland and conquered the major cities of Memphis and Thebes.

### Elam

- A. Prophecy foretold - Jeremiah 49.34-39
  1. Elam will lose her active strength.
  2. Elam will lose her identity as a nation.
  3. The rulers of Elam will be destroyed, and the native leaders will cease to rule.
- B. Prophecy fulfilled
  1. The desolation that Jeremiah foresaw probably took place when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Elam and made it a Babylonian province in 596-595 BC.
  2. This conquest destroyed the last resemblance of Elamite independence, and it became a part of Persia when that empire succeeded the Babylonian Empire.

### Ethiopia - Isaiah 18.1-7; see also section on Egypt

### Greece

- A. Prophecies foretold - Daniel 2.31-44; 7.1-6, 14; 8.1-27; 11.2-4
  1. The Medo-Persian Empire will be conquered and succeeded by a Greek empire.
  2. The Greek empire will begin with a mighty king who will conquer Persia.
  3. The Greek empire will break into four parts which will not be ruled by the heirs of the mighty king of Greece.
  4. One of the kingdoms into which the Greek empire will divide eventually will raise itself up against the people of God.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  1. Twice Persian armies invaded Greece and were repulsed, under Darius and Xerxes, kings of Persia.
  2. Alexander built up a combined army of Greeks and Macedonians and conquered the Persian Empire by 323 BC.
  3. Alexander died at a very young age and left no heir, so his kingdom was divided between four generals—Macedonia (West), Persia (East), Syria (North), and Egypt (South).
  4. Antiochus Epiphanes was of the Seleucid dynasty which ruled Syria, and he oppressed the Jews in Palestine.

### Meshech

- A. Prophecy foretold - Ezekiel 38.1–39.20
  1. The prince of Meshech, Gog, will lead a vast multitude from the north against Israel in the latter days.
  2. The Lord will destroy utterly the armies of Meshech so that the weapons will supply seven months of firewood, and it will take seven months to bury the dead.
- B. Prophecy fulfilled - unknown

### Moab

- A. Prophecies foretold - Ezekiel 25.8-11; Isaiah 15.1–16.14; Jeremiah 48.1-47; Amos 2.1-3
  1. God will execute judgment on Moab.
  2. The major cities of Moab will be destroyed.
  3. The land of Moab will become desolate and bloody, and the people will flee to other places when their gods fail to respond to their prayers.
  4. Moabites seeking refuge in Judah will be repulsed.
  5. The punishment of Moab would occur within the space of three years.
  6. The rulers of Moab will be slain.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  1. Ezekiel and Jeremiah probably had reference to the destruction visited on Moab by Babylon in a manner similar to Ammon, the two nations being associated in a rebellion.
  2. No historical evidence can be found to explain the punishment to which Isaiah referred, but the similarity in language between Jeremiah and Isaiah may indicate the same fulfillment.
  3. The prophecy of Amos probably found fulfillment during the reigns of Uzziah and Jotham, kings of Judah.

### Persia

- A. Prophecies foretold - Daniel 2.31-44; 7.1-5, 17; 8.1-7, 20-21; 11.2-3
  1. In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar was told that his kingdom would be succeeded by a kingdom inferior to his.
  2. In a vision, Daniel saw the second empire—a devouring bear with one side higher than the other and three ribs in its mouth.
  3. The Medo-Persian Empire was pictured as a two-horned ram that would be destroyed by a king of Greece.
  4. Daniel said there will be four kings of Persia, the last being the richest who will be defeated by a might king of Greece.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  1. The Babylonian Empire was succeeded by the Medo-Persian Empire about 550 BC.
  2. As the bear in Daniel’s vision had one side higher than the other, even so Persia dominated the Medo-Persian alliance.
  3. As the bear had three ribs in its mouth, Persia conquered the three kingdoms of Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

4. The Medo-Persian Empire fell before the might of the forces of Alexander the Great, ruler of Greece and Macedon.
5. Of the four great kings of Persia, Xerxes was the last and richest, and he led a vast army against Greece, only to be defeated.
6. After Xerxes, Persia declined in power until it succumbed to Alexander in about 323 BC.

### Philistia

- A. Prophecies foretold - Ezekiel 25.15-17; Isaiah 14.28-31; Jeremiah 47.1-7; Amos 1.6-8
  1. A great vengeance shall be visited on Philistia by a destroyer who will come from the north.
  2. The major cities will be conquered and the rest of Philistia shall perish.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  1. Nebuchadnezzar came from the north with his Babylonian armies and laid waste to Philistia not long after the fall of Jerusalem.
  2. The Scythians raided Philistia as they swept down through Palestine to the borders of Egypt.

### Rome

- A. Prophecies foretold - Daniel 2.31-44; 7.1-28
  1. The fourth kingdom pictured in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was represented by the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay, indicating that the kingdom would be strong as iron and later weakened by division.
  2. It will be in the days of this fourth kingdom that God will establish his eternal kingdom, overthrowing the former kingdom.
  3. The fourth kingdom will be different from all before it, and it would have ten kings, as depicted by ten horns.
  4. The fourth kingdom will be fierce and dreadful in its conquests.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  1. The fourth world empire from the Babylonian Empire was the Roman Empire.
  2. Rome established itself as the undisputed master of the world by the use of superior military might and tactics, brutally crushing all opposition to its goals.
  3. The Roman Empire established itself while under a republican form of government, the only one of the four world empires to do so.
  4. The Roman Empire went into decline as internal problems at the heart of its seat of power (i.e., in Rome) began to destroy the unity that had made Rome great.
  5. The empire finally divided into two separate parts, East and West, which were ruled independently by different emperors.
  6. It was during the Pax Romana (the peace of Rome) that Christ was born and the church (the eternal kingdom) was established.
  7. The rise of Christianity may have been a significant factor in the decline and eventual fall of Rome.

## Syria

- A. Prophecies foretold - Isaiah 17.1-14; Jeremiah 49.23-27; Amos 1.3-5
  - 1. There shall be fire, or famine, in the house of Hazael and in the palaces of Benhadad, the ruling houses of Syria.
  - 2. The cities of Syria shall be made desolate and isolated.
  - 3. Damascus, the capital of Syria, will be destroyed, and its people will be led captive to Kir, the land of their origin.
  - 4. Syria will be a scene of desolation and weakness.
  - 5. Some will come to respect their Maker, the Holy One of Israel.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  - 1. During Assyria's expansion during the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Syria was the object of several attacks and was forced into vassalage in 739 BC.
  - 2. Despite the weakened condition of Syria, Rezin revolted against Assyria and in turn was sieged by Assyrian armies.
  - 3. Assyria conquered numerous Syrian cities, including Damascus in 732 BC, and the Syrian captives were exiled to Kir.
  - 4. Syria continued to be dominated by the Middle Eastern Empire which succeeded Assyria.

## Tyre

- A. Prophecies foretold - Ezekiel 26.1–28.23; Isaiah 23.1-18; Amos 1.9-10
  - 1. Tyre will be destroyed by many nations.
  - 2. Nebuchadnezzar will be instrumental in God's punishment.
  - 3. Tyre will see a period of prosperity after 70 years.
  - 4. Tyre will see final destruction, never to be rebuilt, and become a place for the spreading of nets.
  - 5. Sidon also will fall as a result of the destruction of Tyre.
- B. Prophecies fulfilled
  - 1. Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, attacked Tyre.
  - 2. Nebuchadnezzar conquered Tyre after a siege of 13 years.
  - 3. Alexander the Great destroyed the city of Tyre by building a causeway of rubble to connect the island and the mainland.
  - 4. Romans, Turks, Christians, and Moslems each conquered the city in turn.
  - 5. The site of the city of Tyre mostly is covered by water today, a place for fishermen to spread their nets.