

8/31/25

Sermon Title: Proclamation of judgment against Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, and Elam

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 49:1–39

A Message About Ammon

(Jeremiah 49:1) 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?

(Jeremiah 49:2) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:3) “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.

(Jeremiah 49:4) 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?’

(Jeremiah 49:5) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:6) “Yet afterward, I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites,” declares the LORD.

A Message About Edom

(Jeremiah 49:7) 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?

(Jeremiah 49:8) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:9) 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?

(Jeremiah 49:10) 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,

(Jeremiah 49:11) ‘Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive. Your widows too can depend on me.’”

(Jeremiah 49:12) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:13) 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.”

(Jeremiah 49:14) 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!”

(Jeremiah 49:15) “Now I will make you small among the nations, despised by mankind.

(Jeremiah 49:16) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:17) “Edom will become an object of horror; all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds.

(Jeremiah 49:18) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:19) “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?”

(Jeremiah 49:20) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:21) At the sound of their fall the earth will tremble; their cry will resound to the Red Sea.

(Jeremiah 49:22) 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

(Jeremiah 49:23) Concerning Damascus:

“Hamath and Arpad are dismayed, for they have heard bad news. They are disheartened, troubled like the restless sea.

(Jeremiah 49:24) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:25) Why has the city of renown not been abandoned, the town in which I delight?

(Jeremiah 49:26) Surely, her young men will fall in the streets all her soldiers will be silenced in that day,” declares the LORD Almighty.

(Jeremiah 49:27) “I will set fire to the walls of Damascus; it will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad.” A Message About Kedar and Hazor

(Jeremiah 49:28) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:29) 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!’

(Jeremiah 49:30) “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.

(Jeremiah 49:31) “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.

(Jeremiah 49:32) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:33) “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

(Jeremiah 49:34) This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah:

(Jeremiah 49:35) This is what the LORD Almighty says: “See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might.

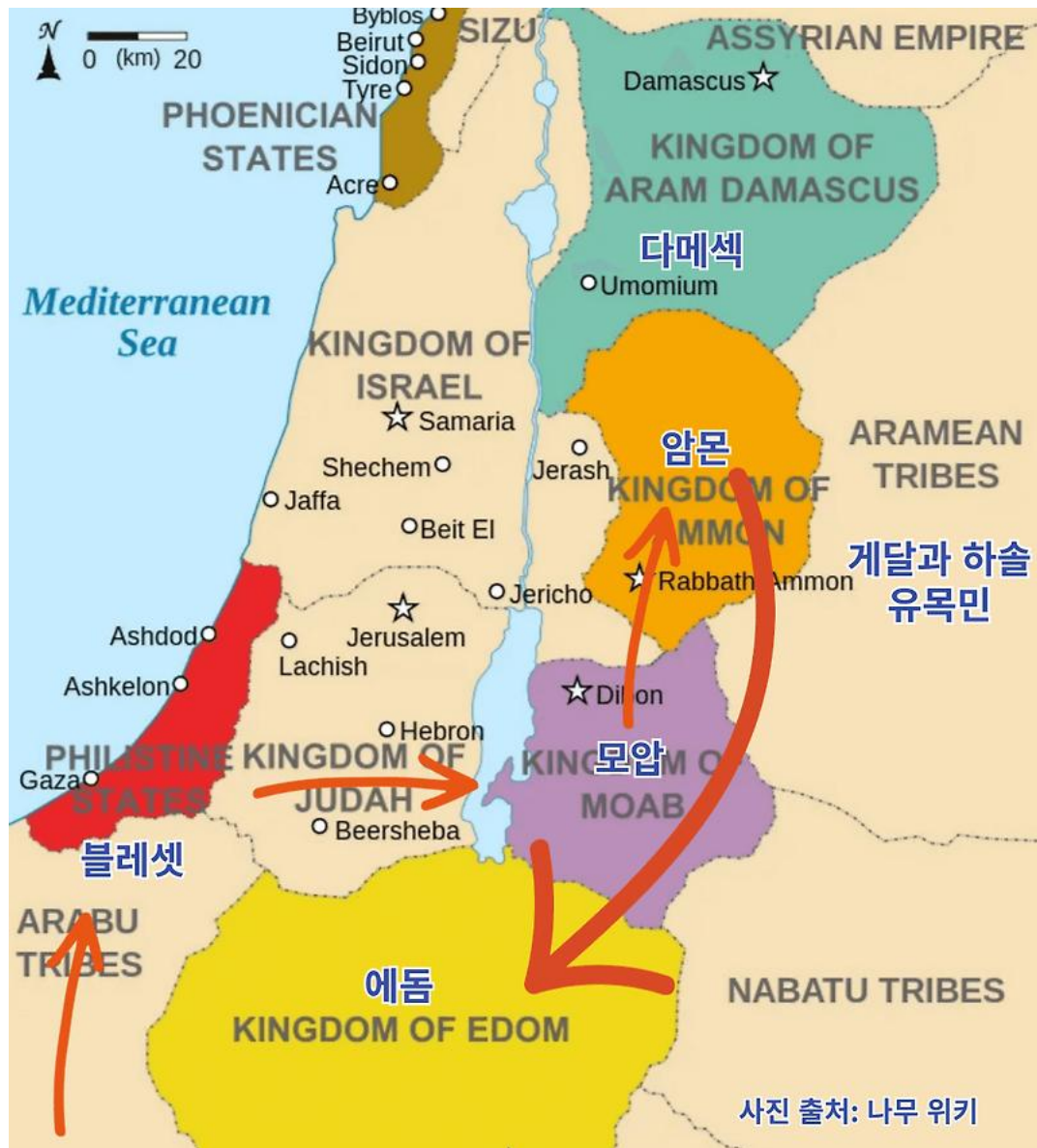
(Jeremiah 49:36) I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven; I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam’s exiles do not go.

(Jeremiah 49:37) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:38) I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials,” declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 49:39) “Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come,” declares the LORD.

This is the oracle of the Lord concerning Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar and Hazor, and Elam.



First, God pronounces judgment on Ammon.

Ammon was a nation founded by the descendants of Lot.

Its ancestor was Ben-Ammi, the son born to Lot through his younger daughter.

It was located to the north, just above Moab, on the east side of the Jordan.

Originally, the tribe of Gad from northern Israel lived there, but around 733 BC, when they were forcibly deported by Assyria, Ammon seized the territory.

The people engaged in agriculture and worshiped Milcom.

From the beginning, Ammon maintained a hostile relationship with Israel.

When Israel came out of Egypt, they did not conquer their blood relatives Edom, Ammon, and Moab, but passed peacefully.

Yet, these nations sided with Israel's enemies and harassed them in times of trouble.

In 597 BC, when Babylon invaded Jerusalem, Ammon supported the Babylonian army.

Especially in 586 BC, after Babylon destroyed Judah and appointed Gedaliah as governor, Ammon supported Ishmael, a member of the royal family of Judah, in assassinating Governor Gedaliah.

God points out that Ammon occupied the land of His people, the tribe of Gad, and dwelt in its cities, and He declares judgment upon them.

(Jeremiah 49:1) 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?

(Jeremiah 49:2) 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.

Rabbah was the capital of Ammon, which is today's Amman, the capital of Jordan.

God declares that Heshbon and Ai will become desolate, and that Malcam, along with its priests and princes, will all go into captivity.

(Jeremiah 49:3) "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.

Heshbon was once under the rule of Sihon, king of the Amorites, and later came under the rule of Moab.

Malcam is the god worshiped by Ammon.

Molech, Moloch, Milcom, and Malcam all refer to the same deity.

The worship of Malcam is notorious for its practice of human sacrifice.

Ammon boasted of its geographically advantageous position, like a natural fortress, but before God's judgment such things are useless.

(Jeremiah 49:4) 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?'

(Jeremiah 49:5) 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 fugitive

The land of Ammon bordered the Arabian Desert to the east and had the Jabbok River as its northern boundary, making it a natural fortress.

Even so, they would be driven out, fleeing in haste.

Yet, just as with Egypt and Moab, God promised their future restoration.

(Jeremiah 49:6) "Yet afterward, I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites," declares the LORD.

"'Afterwards' refers to the time after the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

God's promise of restoration to the Gentile nations would have been difficult for the Israelites, who were bound by their sense of being the chosen people, to understand.

This is God's oracle concerning Edom.

Edom was the nation founded by the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob.

Thus, it was a brother nation to Israel.

Nevertheless, when Babylon invaded Judah in 589 B.C. and again in 587 B.C., Edom aided Babylon in attacking Judah.

God declared judgment upon Edom for this.

(Jeremiah 49:7) 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?

(Jeremiah 49:8) 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.

“Teman was located in the northern part of Edom.

Many wise men among the Edomites lived in Teman, and because of this they became proud.

However, their wisdom and understanding are useless before God’s judgment.

The inhabitants of Dedan were descendants of Dedan, the son born to Abraham and his concubine Keturah. Many of them were assimilated into the Edomites and lived among them.

They lived in the southern region of Edom and engaged in trade.

God declares that He will utterly destroy Edom.”

(Jeremiah 49:9) 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?

(Jeremiah 49:10) 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,

Yet even in the midst of that, He promises to save the orphans.

(Jeremiah 49:11) ‘Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive. Your widows too can depend on me.’”

God declares that if even His chosen people, Israel, could not escape His righteous judgment, how then could the foreign nation of Edom escape judgment for their sins? They too will surely face judgment and be destroyed.

(Jeremiah 49:12) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:13) 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.”

Bozrah was the capital of Edom during Jeremiah’s time, a fortified stronghold surrounded on three sides by steep rocky valleys, making it seemingly unshakable against any foreign invasion.

Nevertheless, before God’s judgment, it is useless.

Many nations will unite to strike them, and they will be destroyed.

(Jeremiah 49:14) 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!”

(Jeremiah 49:15) “Now I will make you small among the nations, despised by mankind.

We are reminded of the fact that God hated Esau but loved Jacob.

Though they lived in a natural fortress and became arrogant, the Lord declares that such things will not save them from His judgment.

(Jeremiah 49:16) 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.

God declares that He will completely destroy Edom, just like Sodom, Gomorrah, and their neighboring towns.

(Jeremiah 49:18) 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.

God declares that Edom will be destroyed by Babylon according to His plan.

(Jeremiah 49:19) “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?”

(Jeremiah 49:20) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:21) At the sound of their fall the earth will tremble; their cry will resound to the Red Sea.

The distance from Edom to the Red Sea is over 200 km.

Therefore, the fact that the cry is heard as far as the Red Sea means that Edom’s destruction will cause a great shock and ripple effect in the international community.

God likens King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to an eagle

(Jeremiah 49:22) 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.

Edom was destroyed by Babylon around 600 BC, just as God had spoken.

However, unlike with the Philistines, God did not give Edom a promise of restoration.

This is God’s oracle concerning Damascus (which is the capital of Aram, present-day Syria).

Damascus was the capital of the Aramean kingdom, and here it represents the entire territory of Aram.

It was a center of transportation as well as a military and commercial stronghold.

Since the time of the united monarchy, Damascus had maintained a competitive relationship with Jerusalem and Samaria.

At times, it even allied with the northern kingdom of Israel to invade Judah, and when Babylon attacked Judah in 597 BC, Damascus joined Babylon in the assault.

God pronounces judgment on such Damascus.

(Jeremiah 49:23) Concerning Damascus:

“Hamath and Arpad are dismayed, for they have heard bad news. They are disheartened, troubled like the restless sea.

(Jeremiah 49:24) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:25) Why has the city of renown not been abandoned, the town in which I delight?

(Jeremiah 49:26) Surely, her young men will fall in the streets all her soldiers will be silenced in that day,” declares the LORD Almighty.

(Jeremiah 49:27) “I will set fire to the walls of Damascus; it will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad.” A Message About Kedar and Hazor

Hamath and Arpad were major cities of Aram, along with Damascus.

The phrase “the town in which I delight” is a satire describing cities that indulged in revelry and pleasure because of their vast territory and economic prosperity.

According to God’s prophecy, Damascus was destroyed by Babylon around 605 BC.

Like Philistia and Edom, Damascus was not given God’s promise of restoration.

This is God’s oracle concerning Kedar and Hazor (Arabia).

Kedar was a descendant of Ishmael who lived in the Arabian desert southeast of Damascus.

They raised sheep on a large scale and accumulated great wealth through trade with nearby port cities such as Tyre and Sidon.

They were also highly skilled in archery, and though a small tribe, they wielded great influence.

Little is known about Hazor.

God pronounces judgment upon Kedar and Hazor.

He would use King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to bring judgment upon Kedar and Hazor.

(Jeremiah 49:28) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:29) 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!'

Since they lived in the vast Arabian desert, they were confident that they could easily defend themselves against attacks from outside invaders.

However, because God had already determined to judge them, the people of Hazor would be invaded by Babylon, have everything plundered, and be driven into exile.

(Jeremiah 49:30) "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.

(Jeremiah 49:31) "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.

(Jeremiah 49:32) 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.

Hazor was destroyed in 598 BC by the invasion of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, just as God had prophesied.

(Jeremiah 49:33) “Hazor will become a haunt of jackals, a desolate place forever. No one will live there; no people will dwell in it.”

Kedar and Hazor also received no promise of restoration from God.

This is God’s oracle concerning Elam.

Elam was an ancient kingdom located in the mountainous region east of Babylon. However, around 640 BC, it was conquered by Assyria and reduced to a weak nation, and later it was incorporated into Media and Persia. Its capital was Susa.

God also pronounced judgment upon Elam.

(Jeremiah 49:34) This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah:

(Jeremiah 49:35) This is what the LORD Almighty says: “See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might.

(Jeremiah 49:36) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:37) 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.

(Jeremiah 49:38) I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials,” declares the LORD.

Elam had archers who were skilled with the bow.

Even so, before God’s judgment, they were of no avail.

“The four winds from the four quarters of heaven” signifies that judgment comes from God Himself.

“I will set my throne in Elam” indicates that the conqueror of Elam is God.

However, like Egypt, Moab, and Ammon, God promises restoration to Elam.

(Jeremiah 49:39) “Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come,” declares the LORD.

Beloved members of Church of God’s Dream,

God declares judgment upon the nations that sinned against Him, yet among them, He promises restoration in the last days to His chosen people.

The words concerning God’s judgment have been fulfilled through their destruction, and only the promise of restoration in the last days remains.

And now, that promise is being fulfilled.

Since the coming of Jesus Christ into this world, the salvation of the Gentiles—something once unimaginable—has been accomplished.

This work will proceed with even greater speed, for the return of Jesus Christ is drawing near.

Though we do not know exactly how many years remain, until the second coming of Christ we will witness an unprecedented revival.

Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, for in the end God intends to save all His chosen people.

This is an extraordinary opportunity given to us.

Do not let it slip away, but hold firmly to it.

May you believe in God's promise of restoration, remain in Jesus Christ, and receive salvation.