

8/17/25

Sermon Title: Proclamation of judgment against the Philistines

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 47:1-7

(Jeremiah 47:1) This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza:

(Jeremiah 47:2) 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

(Jeremiah 47:3) 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.

(Jeremiah 47:4) 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.

(Jeremiah 47:5) Gaza will shave her head in mourning;  
Ashkelon will be silenced.

You remnant on the plain,  
how long will you cut yourselves?

(Jeremiah 47:6) “Alas, sword of the LORD,  
how long till you rest?

Return to your sheath;

cease and be still.'

(Jeremiah 47:7) But how can it rest

when the LORD has commanded it,

when he has ordered it

to attack Ashkelon and the coast?"

Chapters 46 through 51 are God's oracles against the foreign nations delivered through the prophet Jeremiah.

God declares judgment upon the foreign nations that had long oppressed Israel. The first target is Egypt, and the next is Philistia.

This chapter contains the prophecy of judgment against Philistia, given before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, attacked Gaza.

(Jeremiah 47:1) This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza:

God declares that He will judge the Philistines, who had been like a thorn in Israel's side.

He will bring Babylon down from the north to strike the whole land of Philistia.

(Jeremiah 47:2) 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

(Jeremiah 47:3) 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.

The overflowing waters from the north that sweep away everything symbolize the Babylonian army overwhelming the cities and inhabitants of Philistia.

Just as the might of the Egyptian army, marching north to aid Assyria, was compared to the flooding of the Nile, so too the invading army against Philistia is likened to a torrent of rushing streams.

The people of Philistia, overawed by the enemy's might, are left desolate and in despair.

The enemy invading Egypt and the one annihilating Philistia are both said to come from the north—referring to Babylon, situated to the north of both Egypt and Philistia.

Although Philistia suffered an attack from Egypt in 609 BC, it did not ultimately fall into Pharaoh's hands, for God had determined to deliver Philistia into the hands of the Babylonian army coming from the north.

Even before Egypt's assault, Philistia was already destined, according to God's prophecy, to be completely conquered by Babylon descending from the north. In 604 BC, on his way to attack Egypt, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon subjugated Philistia.

In 609 BC, Assyria, whose survival was imperiled by Babylon, appealed for help to Pharaoh Necho of Egypt.

Responding to Assyria's plea, Pharaoh Necho launched a military expedition.

During this campaign, at Megiddo, he killed King Josiah of Judah, who had pursued a pro-Babylonian policy and joined the battle on Babylon's side, defeated the Judean army, and then attacked and subdued Gaza of Philistia.

However, the situation was completely reversed in 605 BC at the Battle of Carchemish.

There, Babylon dealt Egypt a crushing defeat, and in 604 BC, after Nebuchadnezzar succeeded his father to the throne, he once again marched against Egypt, utterly destroying Philistia in the process.

These historical events once again demonstrate that it is the Lord God who rules and governs this world.

On the day of judgment against Philistia, God will cut off every ally of Philistia that remains in Tyre and Sidon.

(Jeremiah 47:4) 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.

(Jeremiah 47:5) Gaza will shave her head in mourning;  
Ashkelon will be silenced.  
You remnant on the plain,  
how long will you cut yourselves?

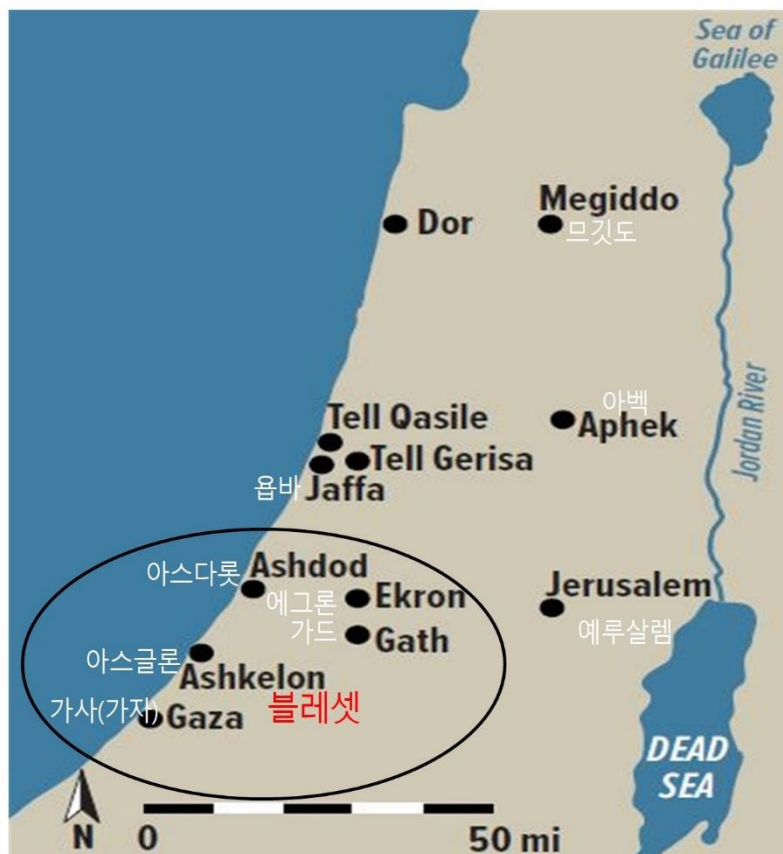
Sidon and Tyre were allies of the Philistines, forming a united front against Babylon, which sought to advance into the Mediterranean.

Therefore, the Philistines might expect help from them, but such hope would prove to be in vain, for God would cut off all those who could have come to their aid.

Caphtor was the place of origin of the Philistines, and the phrase “the remnant of the island of Caphtor” ultimately refers to the Philistine people themselves.

The Philistines had five major cities: Ekron, Ashdod, Gath, Ashkelon, and Gaza. Among them, Gaza was located furthest south, making it the closest to Egypt. Situated on the Mediterranean coast, it served as a center for trade. Ashkelon was located about 20 km away from Gaza and was also a coastal city.

The phrase “has become silent” refers to the silence of death. Because the Philistines living in the coastal plain—including Gaza and Ashkelon—were destroyed, the cities are left to mourn.



On the day of judgment, Gaza will mourn in grief, shaving its head, and Ashkelon will be desolate, with not a person to be found—only silence will remain. Those who survive will cut their own bodies as an expression of mourning for the dead.

What remains in a life without God is nothing but the sorrow of death.

Jeremiah laments as though he were in the place of the Philistines.

(Jeremiah 47:6) “Alas, sword of the LORD,

how long till you rest?

Return to your sheath;

cease and be still.’

(Jeremiah 47:7) But how can it rest

when the LORD has commanded it,

when he has ordered it

to attack Ashkelon and the coast?”

The “sword of the Lord” refers to the Babylonian army, which God sent to judge the Philistines.

The Babylonian army, as the sword of the Lord, will not rest but will strike until the Philistines are completely destroyed.

The Philistines may hope that the Babylonian army will stop, but such hope is in vain.

Because the Babylonian army is the Lord’s sword, it will not cease until it has fully carried out the mission entrusted to it by the Lord God.

It will not stop until the judgment of the Philistines is complete.

God’s judgment is thorough and powerful.

The Philistines, who did not turn back even after hearing God’s warnings, will fall under the sword of His judgment, and no one will be able to help them.

But there is something here we must carefully notice.

Unlike Egypt, there is no mention of restoration for the Philistines after their judgment.

Salvation depends solely on God.

It is subject to His sovereignty, which does not submit to human reasoning.

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,

The Philistines, though small in strength, continually troubled their neighbor Israel.

Seeing this, God declared a thorough judgment on the Philistines for oppressing His people.

He would bring Babylon down from the north to utterly destroy them.

And that prophecy was fulfilled exactly.

On that day, the day of judgment, the Philistines were struck with such terror that all strength left them, and they could do nothing.

When the day of judgment comes, there is nothing we can do.

No amount of wealth, power, or fame will help us face that day.

Even a loving father will find he can do nothing to save his own children.

That day—the day of judgment that fell upon the Philistines—will soon come upon us as well.

It will be a day of terror beyond anything we can imagine.

On that day, all our wealth, power, and honor will prove utterly useless.

Before the sword of God, nothing can save us.

Only those who hear God's Word, repent, and receive Jesus Christ into their lives will find salvation in Him.

A life without God leaves nothing but the sorrow of death.

Time is short.

For some, this message may be the very last warning they will ever hear.

If you have not yet received Jesus Christ as your Savior, come to Him now.

Repent and remain in Christ.

Only Jesus Christ can save us from the coming judgment.