

8/3/25

Sermon Title: Proclamation of judgment against Egypt

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 46:1–28

(Jeremiah 46:1) This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations:

(Jeremiah 46:2) Concerning Egypt: This is the message against the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah:

(Jeremiah 46:3) “Prepare your shields, both large and small, and march out for battle!

(Jeremiah 46:4) Harness the horses, mount the steeds! Take your positions with helmets on! Polish your spears, put on your armor!

(Jeremiah 46:5) What do I see? They are terrified, they are retreating, their warriors are defeated. They flee in haste without looking back, and there is terror on every side,” declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 46:6) “The swift cannot flee nor the strong escape. In the north by the River Euphrates they stumble and fall.

(Jeremiah 46:7) “Who is this that rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters?

(Jeremiah 46:8) Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters. She says, ‘I will rise and cover the earth; I will destroy cities and their people.’

(Jeremiah 46:9) Charge, you horses! Drive furiously, you charioteers! March on, you warriors—men of Cush and Put who carry shields, men of Lydia who draw the bow.

(Jeremiah 46:10) But that day belongs to the Lord, the LORD Almighty— a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour till it is satisfied, till it has quenched its thirst with blood. For the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will offer sacrifice in the land of the north by the River Euphrates.

(Jeremiah 46:11) “Go up to Gilead and get balm, Virgin Daughter Egypt. But you try many medicines in vain; there is no healing for you.

(Jeremiah 46:12) The nations will hear of your shame; your cries will fill the earth. One warrior will stumble over another; both will fall down together.”

(Jeremiah 46:13) This is the message the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to attack Egypt:

(Jeremiah 46:14) “Announce this in Egypt, and proclaim it in Migdol; proclaim it also in Memphis and Tahpanhes: ‘Take your positions and get ready, for the sword devours those around you.’

(Jeremiah 46:15) Why will your warriors be laid low? They cannot stand, for the LORD will push them down.

(Jeremiah 46:16) They will stumble repeatedly; they will fall over each other. They will say, ‘Get up, let us go back to our own people and our native lands, away from the sword of the oppressor.’

(Jeremiah 46:17) There they will exclaim, ‘Pharaoh king of Egypt is only a loud noise; he has missed his opportunity.’

(Jeremiah 46:18) “As surely as I live,” declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty, “one will come who is like Tabor among the mountains, like Carmel by the sea.

(Jeremiah 46:19) Pack your belongings for exile, you who live in Egypt, for Memphis will be laid waste and lie in ruins without inhabitant.

(Jeremiah 46:20) “Egypt is a beautiful heifer, but a gadfly is coming against her from the north.

(Jeremiah 46:21) The mercenaries in her ranks are like fattened calves. They too will turn and flee together they will not stand their ground, for the day of disaster is coming upon them, the time for them to be punished.

(Jeremiah 46:22) Egypt will hiss like a fleeing serpent as the enemy advances in force; they will come against her with axes, like men who cut down trees.

(Jeremiah 46:23) They will chop down her forest,” declares the LORD, “dense though it be. They are more numerous than locusts, they cannot be counted.

(Jeremiah 46:24) Daughter Egypt will be put to shame, given into the hands of the people of the north.”

(Jeremiah 46:25) The LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “I am about to bring punishment on Amon god of Thebes, on Pharaoh, on Egypt and her gods and her kings, and on those who rely on Pharaoh.

(Jeremiah 46:26) I will give them into the hands of those who want to kill them—Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Later, however, Egypt will be inhabited as in times past,” declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 46:27) “Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel. I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid.

(Jeremiah 46:28) Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant, for I am with you,” declares the LORD. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.”

Chapters 46 through 51 of this book record God's oracles concerning foreign nations.

These are words of judgment against ten Gentile nations.

Beginning with Egypt, God pronounces judgment on Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam, and finally Babylon—ten nations in total. This does not mean that God will judge only these ten nations.

God will judge the whole earth.

However, these ten nations are specifically mentioned because they are neighboring nations closely connected to Israel.

These prophecies of judgment against the nations reveal that God is the true Sovereign over all creation and history.

When God called Jeremiah, He said, “See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant” (1:10).

Just as He said, God now speaks judgment on these nations through Jeremiah.

(Jeremiah 46:1) This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations:

This chapter contains God’s message of judgment against Egypt.

It was given shortly after Pharaoh Necho of Egypt was defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon at the Battle of Carchemish in 605 BC.

(Jeremiah 46:2) Concerning Egypt: This is the message against the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah:

God first refers to the situation at the time of Egypt’s defeat in the Battle of Carchemish.

(Jeremiah 46:3) “Prepare your shields, both large and small, and march out for battle!

(Jeremiah 46:4) Harness the horses, mount the steeds! Take your positions with helmets on! Polish your spears, put on your armor!

(Jeremiah 46:5) What do I see? They are terrified, they are retreating, their warriors are defeated. They flee in haste without looking back, and there is terror on every side,” declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 46:6) “The swift cannot flee nor the strong escape. In the north by the River Euphrates they stumble and fall.

Despite Egypt’s powerful military strength, its army was defeated by the Babylonian forces and fled.

The reason they were defeated and fled, even with such great strength, was because the Lord of Hosts, the Sovereign of history, intervened in the battle and struck them with fear.

In 605 BC, when Assyria faced destruction at the hands of Babylon, it sought help from Egypt.

In response, Pharaoh Necho of Egypt mobilized his army and sent them into battle.

However, the Egyptian army suffered a crushing defeat at Carchemish by the Euphrates River.

Because God had determined to hand Egypt over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, He summoned the Egyptian army to Carchemish, making victory impossible for them.

Though Egypt's involvement in the battle appeared to be Pharaoh Necho's own decision, it was, in fact, the unfolding of the Lord God's plan.

Pharaoh Necho had boasted of victory even before the battle, confident in his army's overwhelming strength.

But the outcome was a humiliating defeat.

(Jeremiah 46:7) "Who is this that rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters?

(Jeremiah 46:8) Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters. She says, 'I will rise and cover the earth; I will destroy cities and their people.'

(Jeremiah 46:9) Charge, you horses! Drive furiously, you charioteers! March on, you warriors—men of Cush and Put who carry shields, men of Lydia who draw the bow.

(Jeremiah 46:10) But that day belongs to the Lord, the LORD Almighty— a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour till it is satisfied, till it has quenched its thirst with blood. For the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will offer sacrifice in the land of the north by the River Euphrates.

(Jeremiah 46:11) “Go up to Gilead and get balm, Virgin Daughter Egypt. But you try many medicines in vain; there is no healing for you.

(Jeremiah 46:12) The nations will hear of your shame; your cries will fill the earth. One warrior will stumble over another; both will fall down together.”

Like the Nile overflowing and covering the surrounding land, the Egyptian army proudly marches out, spreading across the land.

Horses gallop, chariots charge, and warriors advance.

Alongside them come mercenaries—the Cushites and Putites with shields, and the Lydians who draw the bow.

To human eyes, their victory seems almost certain.

But before God's decree, all these things are worthless.

God declares that this day is one of vengeance—a day He has appointed to destroy the Egyptian army.

It is His retribution for the death of Josiah, the godly king of Judah who truly feared the Lord, whom Pharaoh Necho killed at Megiddo.

Through this crushing defeat, Egypt lost all influence in the Near East.

God also speaks of another future defeat for Egypt.

The disaster at Carchemish was only a prelude to Egypt's downfall.

This time, He declares that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will invade and conquer Egypt itself.

In 605 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar achieved a great victory at the Battle of Carchemish, he suddenly withdrew from the battlefield upon hearing of the death of his father, King Nabopolassar, to claim the throne.

After securing the kingship, he returned in 604 BC and invaded and conquered the Philistine territories under Egyptian control.

God proclaims the impending Babylonian invasion specifically in the cities of Migdol, Noph, and Tahpanhes.

(Jeremiah 46:13) This is the message the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to attack Egypt:

(Jeremiah 46:14) “Announce this in Egypt, and proclaim it in Migdol; proclaim it also in Memphis and Tahpanhes: ‘Take your positions and get ready, for the sword devours those around you.’

Migdol, Noph, and Tahpanhes were not only prominent cities in Egypt but also places where Jewish refugees resided.

Therefore, God’s proclamation of Babylon’s invasion in these cities served both to confirm the certainty of Egypt’s downfall and to awaken Judah to the folly of relying on Egypt.

The phrase “the sword has devoured those around you” refers to the neighboring nations—Phoenicia, Philistia, Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Judah—that had already been destroyed by Babylon.

It implies that Egypt too will inevitably fall.

The defeat of Egypt’s army, despite its great military strength, was because God had decreed it.

Since the Lord was with the Babylonian army, Egypt’s warriors collapsed helplessly.

Even the conscripted soldiers and allied forces, sensing imminent defeat, abandoned the front lines and fled back to their own people and homelands.

(Jeremiah 46:15) Why will your warriors be laid low? They cannot stand, for the LORD will push them down.

(Jeremiah 46:16) They will stumble repeatedly; they will fall over each other. They will say, ‘Get up, let us go back to our own people and our native lands, away from the sword of the oppressor.’

(Jeremiah 46:17) There they will exclaim, 'Pharaoh king of Egypt is only a loud noise; he has missed his opportunity.'

God speaks of Egypt's defeat through a metaphor.

He compares the Babylonian army to Mount Tabor and Mount Carmel.

(Jeremiah 46:18) "As surely as I live," declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty, "one will come who is like Tabor among the mountains, like Carmel by the sea.

(Jeremiah 46:19) Pack your belongings for exile, you who live in Egypt, for Memphis will be laid waste and lie in ruins without inhabitant.

Mount Tabor, standing at 550 meters above sea level in the Jezreel Valley, appears majestic because there are no taller mountains nearby.

Mount Carmel, located on the Mediterranean coast and rising to 518 meters, is lush with vegetation and boasts a splendid appearance.

God says that the Babylonian army will strike Egypt with the same imposing presence as Mount Tabor and Mount Carmel.

He likens Egypt to a heifer and Babylon to a swarm of gadflies.

(Jeremiah 46:20) "Egypt is a beautiful heifer, but a gadfly is coming against her from the north.

The phrase "beautiful heifer" refers to Egypt's wealth and indulgent lifestyle.

It means that the Babylonian army, invading from the north, will attack Egypt, which is living in luxury and excess.

God likens the mercenaries fleeing in defeat before Babylon to fattened calves.

(Jeremiah 46:21) The mercenaries in her ranks are like fattened calves. They too will turn and flee together they will not stand their ground, for the day of disaster is coming upon them, the time for them to be punished.



This implies that even the mercenaries, having been corrupted by Egypt's indulgence and luxury, will be startled by Babylon's attack and flee.

The defeated Egyptians are likened to snakes that slither quietly in search of a hiding place.

(Jeremiah 46:22) Egypt will hiss like a fleeing serpent as the enemy advances in force; they will come against her with axes, like men who cut down trees.

Just as a snake, sensing danger, slithers away with a faint sound in search of shelter when woodcutters begin to chop down trees, so too will the Egyptians be reduced to a life of hiding in fear.

God compares the Babylonian army to a swarm of locusts and the Egyptian army to a thicket of brush.

(Jeremiah 46:23) They will chop down her forest," declares the LORD, "dense though it be. They are more numerous than locusts, they cannot be counted.

This means the Babylonian army will ruthlessly slaughter the Egyptian forces.

God once again declares that Egypt will be destroyed by Babylon.

The Lord God, the King of all the earth, has decided to hand Egypt over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

(Jeremiah 46:24) Daughter Egypt will be put to shame, given into the hands of the people of the north."

God emphasizes Egypt's coming destruction by Babylon in order to break the stubbornness of the Jews who had abandoned Him and trusted Egypt as their savior.

God declares that Egypt's gods, its king, and all who rely on them—including the people of Judah who ignored His warnings of judgment and went down to Egypt seeking a safe refuge, such as Johanan and his companions—will all be judged and destroyed.

(Jeremiah 46:25) The LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “I am about to bring punishment on Amon god of Thebes, on Pharaoh, on Egypt and her gods and her kings, and on those who rely on Pharaoh.

“Noph” was the capital of southern Egypt, and “Amon” was the chief deity of all Egypt.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will come down and conquer even the southern regions.

God makes it clear that He Himself is the one executing this judgment.

And He promises restoration in the future.

(Jeremiah 46:26) I will give them into the hands of those who want to kill them—Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Later, however, Egypt will be inhabited as in times past,” declares the LORD.

God is not only the God of Israel.

He is the God of all the earth.

When the Messiah comes, there will be those in Egypt who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and they will be restored.

Finally, God speaks of the restoration of the people of Israel as a word of comfort. This promise of Israel’s restoration shows that God governs all of world history with His chosen people at the center of His plan.

In other words, the fall of the surrounding great nations is a preparatory act for Israel’s restoration.

(Jeremiah 46:27) “Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel. I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid.

(Jeremiah 46:28) Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant, for I am with you,” declares the LORD. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among

which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.”

God refers to the people of Egypt as “they,” but to the people of Israel, He addresses them as “you.”

He promises, “Do not be afraid, for I am with you,” and assures them that He will bring them back from captivity.

This is a dual prophecy.

It foretells both a near historical event and a distant future fulfillment.

It is a promise to bring His people back from the land of captivity, and at the same time, a promise of complete salvation through Jesus Christ.

During the Babylonian exile, the people of Israel were comforted by this promise and looked forward to its fulfillment.

After seventy years, they would return, rebuild the temple, and begin a life of godliness once again.

That promise was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ, the Mediator of the New Covenant.

Beloved members of Church of God’s Dream,

The whole earth is under the sovereign rule of the Lord God.

Not only Judah, but also Egypt and all other Gentile nations are subject to His sovereignty.

And so is each of our individual lives.

God rules the world with sovereignty and justice.

Yet He has infinite affection for His chosen people.

Even when His people reject His word and go down to Egypt to live according to their own thoughts, He disciplines them—but He does not abandon or forsake them.

Instead, He promises restoration.

That restoration is not merely a return from exile in the past, but a promise of complete and eternal salvation.

The perfect promise of salvation that God gave to His people was fulfilled through Jesus Christ in the New Covenant, and we now live in the grace of that fulfillment. Therefore, no matter what happens in the world, there is no need to be afraid.

As the world rushes toward the end times, chaos unlike anything we have ever seen will come upon us.

The earth is shaking.

Earthquakes and tsunamis are sweeping through.

Fires are raging.

These are signs of God's judgment upon the whole world—including America, which has lived in pride and indulgence amidst abundance.

Do not rely on worldly powers or visible sources of security—obey God's Word alone!

Look only to God, who remembers us even in judgment and gives us the promise of restoration!

Repent and return to the Lord!

Then you will receive the perfect salvation He has promised.