

1/19/25

**Sermon Title:** The Cup of God's Wrath Poured Out on All Nations

**Preacher:** Pastor Kim Soon-bae

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 25:15-38

*(Jeremiah 25:15) This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.*

*(Jeremiah 25:16) When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them."*

*(Jeremiah 25:17) So I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it:*

*(Jeremiah 25:18) Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, its kings and officials, to make them a ruin and an object of horror and scorn, a curse—as they are today;*

*(Jeremiah 25:19) Pharaoh king of Egypt, his attendants, his officials, and all his people,*

*(Jeremiah 25:20) and all the foreign people there; all the kings of Uz; all the kings of the Philistines (those of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the people left at Ashdod);*

*(Jeremiah 25:21) Edom, Moab, and Ammon;*

*(Jeremiah 25:22) all the kings of Tyre and Sidon; the kings of the coastlands across the sea;*

*(Jeremiah 25:23) Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who are in distant places;*

*(Jeremiah 25:24) all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the foreign people who live in the wilderness;*

*(Jeremiah 25:25) all the kings of Zimri, Elam, and Media;*

*(Jeremiah 25:26) and all the kings of the north, near and far, one after the other—all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. And after all of them, the king of Sheshak will drink it too.*

*(Jeremiah 25:27) "Then tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of*

*Israel, says: Drink, get drunk and vomit, and fall to rise no more because of the sword I will send among you.'*

*(Jeremiah 25:28) But if they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink, tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: You must drink it!*

*(Jeremiah 25:29) See, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears my Name, and will you indeed go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I am calling down a sword on all who live on the earth,' declares the Lord Almighty.*

*(Jeremiah 25:30) "Now prophesy all these words against them and say to them:*

*'The Lord will roar from on high;*

*he will thunder from his holy dwelling*

*and roar mightily against his land.*

*He will shout like those who tread the grapes,*

*shout against all who live on the earth.*

*(Jeremiah 25:31) The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth,*

*for the Lord will bring charges against the nations;*

*he will bring judgment on all mankind*

*and put the wicked to the sword,"*

*declares the Lord.*

*(Jeremiah 25:32) This is what the Lord Almighty says:*

*"Look! Disaster is spreading*

*from nation to nation;*

*a mighty storm is rising*

*from the ends of the earth."*

*(Jeremiah 25:33) At that time those slain by the Lord will be everywhere—from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned or gathered up or buried but will be like dung lying on the ground.*

*(Jeremiah 25:34) Weep and wail, you shepherds;*

*roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock.*

*For your time to be slaughtered has come;  
you will fall like the best of the rams.*

*(Jeremiah 25:35) The shepherds will have nowhere to flee,  
the leaders of the flock no place to escape.*

*(Jeremiah 25:36) Hear the cry of the shepherds,  
the wailing of the leaders of the flock,  
for the Lord is destroying their pasture.*

*(Jeremiah 25:37) The peaceful meadows will be laid waste  
because of the fierce anger of the Lord.*

*(Jeremiah 25:38) Like a lion he will leave his lair,  
and their land will become desolate  
because of the sword of the oppressor  
and because of the Lord's fierce anger.*

God is the King of kings, the ruler over all nations and kings of the earth, and the sovereign Lord of history.

He determines and governs the destiny of all peoples and nations.

Therefore, any nation or people that defies God's will cannot escape His judgments.

God declares judgment not only upon Judah but also upon the nations, including Babylon, which He used as an instrument to judge disobedient Judah.

Each will be judged according to their sins.

God gives Jeremiah a new mission: to take the cup of His wrath and deliver it to all the nations and peoples He commands, making them drink from it.

Jeremiah, who had previously delivered God's message solely to the people of Judah, now sees his mission expanded beyond Jerusalem and Judah to encompass all nations and peoples.

From the very beginning of Jeremiah's prophetic calling, God had entrusted him with a global mission.

***Jeremiah 1:10:***

*"See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."*

Now, this monumental task is being set before him.

God commands Jeremiah to take the cup from His hand and deliver it, not only to Judah but to all nations, and to make them drink from it.

The cup that the nations must drink is the cup of God's wrath—a cup of destruction.

***Jeremiah 25:15-17:***

*"This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: 'Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.*

*When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them.*

*So I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it."*

Every nation that receives this cup of God's wrath will stagger, reel, and be driven to madness.

The names of the nations, peoples, and tribes destined to drink from the cup of wrath are listed, signifying those who will face God's judgment.

The cup of God's wrath begins with Judah and then extends to all nations and peoples.

As God's chosen people, Judah was meant to be a model of faithfulness to other nations.

However, they fell into the same sins as the surrounding nations, worshipping other gods and idols.

Because of this, they are the first to receive the cup of wrath.

*Jeremiah 25:18:*

*"Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, its kings and officials, to make them a ruin and an object of horror and scorn, a curse—as they are today."*

The statement "as they are today" indicates that judgment had already begun upon Jerusalem and Judah.

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign as king of Judah, which was also the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign in Babylon (605 BC), the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah.

By that time, Judah had already experienced an invasion by Nebuchadnezzar. Jerusalem's temple treasures of gold and silver, along with some of its people, were handed over to Babylon.

However, this was not the end of Judah's suffering.

The cup Judah was destined to drink would culminate in 587 BC, with the complete destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon.

Through three successive invasions and assaults by Babylon, Jerusalem and the cities of Judah were reduced to ruins.

The royal family and officials were either killed or taken captive to Babylon. Jerusalem became a pile of rubble, and the cities were left desolate.

The devastation was so severe that surrounding nations were shocked by Judah's downfall.

They mocked, cursed, and scorned the once-proud people, marveling at the extent of their ruin.

Now, the cup of God's wrath extends beyond Judah to Egypt, the most powerful nation of the time, and to all the surrounding nations and peoples.

Eventually, this cup will also be passed to Sheshach (Babylon).

Although the exact criteria by which God determined the order of judgment is unclear, the sequence separates "the destruction of all those nations" from Babylon's own destruction in terms of timing.

Historically, "all those nations" came under Babylon's dominion.

Later, Babylon itself was overthrown by the Medes and Persians, fulfilling the prophecy of its eventual judgment.

This distinction highlights God's sovereign control over the rise and fall of empires and His ultimate justice in executing judgment on all, including the instrument of His wrath.

After Judah, the cup of God's wrath is passed to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, his officials, leaders, entire people, and all the mixed peoples living among them, as well as to the surrounding nations and peoples.

***Jeremiah 25:19-25:***

*(19) Pharaoh, king of Egypt, his officials, his leaders, and his entire people.*

*(20) All the mixed peoples, all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines—Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnants of Ashdod.*

*(21) Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites.*

*(22) All the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the islands across the sea.*

*(23) Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all those who cut the corners of their hair.*

*(24) All the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed peoples who dwell in the wilderness.*

*(25) All the kings of Zimri, Elam, and Media.*

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, represents the nation of Egypt, while "all the mixed peoples" refers to foreign mercenary groups residing in Egypt.

The "land of Uz" partly refers to the southern region east of the Jordan River and partly to the northern Aramean area east of the Jordan.

The "land of the Philistines" indicates the coastal region west of the Judean highlands along the Mediterranean Sea.

Among the five major Philistine cities, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and Ashdod are mentioned, excluding Gath, which seems to have already been destroyed.

Unlike the other three cities, Ashdod is described as "the remnant of Ashdod," suggesting that it had previously suffered a major calamity and lost much of its population.

*Isaiah 20:1:*

*In the year that the commander, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it.*

Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon are located in the eastern region of the Jordan River, with Tyre and Sidon representing the famous Phoenician port cities.

The "islands across the sea" refer to the colonies established by Tyre and Sidon.

Dedan and Tema were oases located along the trade routes in the Arabian desert.

There is a theory that Buz was located in eastern Arabia, but this is not certain.

"All those who shave the corners of their hair" refers to a group in the Arabian desert who practiced shaving their heads as part of a cultural or ritualistic practice.

"The mixed peoples dwelling in the wilderness" refers to the nomadic tribes living in the Syrian-Arabian desert region.

The location of Zimri is unknown.

Elam was located east of Babylon, and Media was located to the north of Babylon.

Next, the cup of God's wrath is passed to **Sheshach** (Babylon).

*Jeremiah 25:26:*

*"All the kings of the north, near and far, and all the kingdoms of the world will drink from it. After them, the king of Sheshach will drink."*

**Sheshach** is a cryptic name for **Babylon**.

It is formed by reversing the order of the Hebrew alphabet letters in the word "Babylon."

It seems that Babylon was encoded in this way because, at the time this text was written, Babylon was already ruling over Judah.

The use of this coded name might have been a way to indirectly reference Babylon during a period of tension and impending judgment.

There will be no exceptions and a thorough judgment will come upon those who did not acknowledge God, who served other gods, and who worshiped idols.

God proclaims that no one, from Jerusalem to all the inhabitants of the earth, can escape His cup. He declares their complete destruction.

***Jeremiah 25:27-29***

*"You are to say to them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Drink from this cup, and get drunk and vomit, and fall to rise no more because of the sword I will send among you.'"*

*"But if they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink, tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: You must drink it!'"*

*"See, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears my Name, and will you indeed go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I am calling down a sword on all who live on the earth, declares the Lord Almighty."*

God makes it clear that there will be no exception to His righteous judgment. Even if they refuse to take the cup, they will ultimately have no choice but to drink it.

The disaster that started with God's people, the people of Judah, will expand to all the inhabitants of the earth.

God is deeply angry about sin and will carry out a thorough judgment.

***Jeremiah 25:30-33:***

*"Therefore, prophesy all these words against them and say to them: 'The Lord will roar from on high; He will let His voice be heard from His holy dwelling and roar mightily against His land. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, shout against all who live on the earth.'"*



*"The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth, for the Lord will bring charges against the nations; He will bring judgment on all mankind and put the wicked to the sword," declares the Lord.*"

*"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Look! Disaster is spreading from nation to nation; a mighty storm is rising from the ends of the earth.'"*

*"At that time those slain by the Lord will be everywhere—from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned, gathered up, or buried, but will be like dung lying on the ground."*

This judgment that starts with Judah will extend to all the nations, with no one left unscathed.

"His holy dwelling" refers to the heavenly temple.

"His pasture" refers to Jerusalem, Zion.

God declares that He will contend with all the nations.

To contend means to dispute or argue in a court of law.

The God who called Israel to judge what is right and wrong will now call all the nations into court.

All flesh will be judged as wicked, and those nations found guilty will face the penalty of destruction.

Before the Judge, God, all nations are condemned to death.

On that day, the calamity God will bring will be truly tremendous, comprehensive, and destructive.

Despite the bodies of the dead scattered by the disaster, there will be no one to mourn for them, and no one to gather the corpses and bury them.

They will lie on the ground, becoming like manure.

God will trample the nations like a winepress, with the juice splashing onto His garments, staining them red.

The act of treading grapes in a winepress, which symbolizes joy and celebration, will take on a different meaning.

As the red juice, like dark bloodstains, splashes on the treacher's body, it will symbolize war and judgment.

Jeremiah calls on the kings of all the nations who are handed over to God's sword of judgment to mourn and wail, rolling in the ashes.

*Jeremiah 25:34-35:*

*"Wail, you shepherds, and cry; roll in the ashes, you leaders of the flock. For the days of slaughter and the time of your dispersions have come, and you will fall like a precious vessel."*

*"The shepherds will not be able to flee, and the leaders of the flock will not escape."*

The wailing and rolling in the ashes is an act of mourning for the dead.

The destruction of the nations ruled by the shepherds is certain, and the time of their slaughter and scattering has come.

They will have no other task but to mourn their death.

The destruction will be so thorough and irreversible that they will never regain their position as rulers, and they will vanish completely, like a precious vessel that has fallen and broken.

Jeremiah, who commanded the shepherds and leaders to cry out and wail, hears their cries and mourning.

This is because the judgment that desolates the pasture has begun.

*Jeremiah 25:36-38:*

*"The cry of the shepherds and the wailing of the leaders of the flock, for the Lord has laid waste their pasture."*

*"The peaceful folds will be laid waste because of the fierce anger of the Lord."*

*"He has left His lair like a lion, for their land will become desolate because of the fierce anger of the Lord and His burning wrath."*

The peaceful pastures, once calm, are now desolated before the heat of the Lord's wrath.

With the judgment having begun, there is no escape for the shepherds and the pastures from the fierce anger of the Lord.

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,  
Finally, God has drawn the sword of judgment against Judah and the nations.  
When judgment comes, it will be too late to regret.  
The end of those who disobey God's word is destruction.

Jeremiah, following God's command, took the cup and faithfully delivered it to Judah and the nations, making them drink it.  
Now, we have been entrusted with the mission to take the gospel to those nations, just as Jeremiah was entrusted with delivering the cup of God's wrath.  
Just as Jeremiah faithfully carried out his mission, may we also faithfully fulfill the mission entrusted to us.