

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JEREMIAH 50:1-20

NOTE: Once again, Sunday's sermon covered a BIG chunk of text (chs.46-51), and that's probably a big ask for group discussion. So these notes don't correspond directly to the sermon. They focus on just one of Jeremiah's "Messages to the Nations" - his message to Babylon. And even then, these notes cover only the beginning of that message. But there's plenty in these verses to feed our souls ...

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Preparing for God's word ...

1. Recall a time you felt defeated. How did the Lord show you he still cared?

Read Jeremiah 50:1-20

Understanding God's word ...

2. Remember that Babylon had overrun Judah, destroyed Jerusalem, and taken a large part of the population into captivity and exile (39:1-10 gives a summary of those terrible events). Now, in Jer 51, what does God say will happen to Babylon (vv.1-3, 9-10, 14-16, 18)?
3. How will the people of Israel and Judah respond when God comes to their rescue (vv.4-5)? Why do you think they will do this?
4. How had Babylon been able to get the upper hand over God's people (vv.6-7)?
5. Why is God so angry with Babylon (vv.11-15)?
6. How will God vindicate His people (v.20)?

Applying the Word

7. What are some ways that you feel wrong is triumphing over right at the present time? Notice how the fall of historic Babylon becomes a symbol in the book of Revelation for the final overthrow of all who oppress God's people - see Rev 18:21 - 19:8. How does the promise of the final downfall of "Babylon" encourage us to keep going when we are weary of the struggle against evil?

Responding in Prayer

- Commit to the Lord any situations - personal, national or international - where you feel wrong is triumphing over right. Thank the Lord for the

assurance of His ultimate victory over all evil, and pray for grace to go on trusting and serving Him.

Eddie Larkman, December 2016