

# The WordSeekers : XtremeXplorationSundays Bible-Study Notes

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May 22, 2005

“Avoiding Arrogance”  
Or, “It’s Not About Me”

**FOCAL VERSES: Jeremiah 50: 11-13; 24-25; 29-32**

**Observation** ‘Satellite-Level’ Jeremiah Chapters: 46 - 51

Chapters 46 – 51 form a collection of prophecies against foreign Gentile nations. God is giving Jeremiah the words to say to these nations surrounding Judah. These words are written in poetry and not prose. Recall that in Jeremiah 1: 10 God called him to be a prophet “over nations and kingdoms.”

Nine groups are mentioned by Jeremiah as he describes how God’s judgment will befall these nations or groups of peoples.

#1: EGYPT: In chapter 46 the battle at Carchemish, on the Euphrates River, occurred in 605 B. C. as Babylon defeated Pharaoh [title of kings] Neco of Egypt. Thus, Babylon became the new world power and would remain so until defeated by Persia in 539 B. C.

#2: PHILISTIA: Neighbors of Judah, stood in defiance of Nebuchadnezzar as he swept south after the battle at Carchemish. **Modern day Palestinians are not related to these early Philistines, but the name is derived from it.**

#3: MOAB: East of the Dead Sea, the Moabites were descendants of Lot (Gen. 19:37) and therefore were actually related to the Israelites. There was constant hostility between the Moabites and the Israelites.

#4: AMMON: People north of Moab; east-upper Jordan area. Also descendants of Lot (Gen. 19:38). Recall that the Ammonite king, Baalis conspired with Ishmael (Jer. 40:14) to assassinate Gedaliah. **Now called, the Golan Heights.**

#5: EDOM: Descendants of Esau. Hostility with Israelites was a continuance of the problems between Jacob and Esau. Located in a rock fortress today known as, Petra in southern Jordan. **Modern Saudi Arabia.**

#6: DAMASCUS: **The capital city of Syria**, north of Israel. Caught up in the battles of the Babylonian armies.

#7: KEDAR & HAZOR: Nomadic tribes east of Palestine and south of Syria.

#8: ELAM: East of Babylon; **today known as Iran.** Attacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 597. B. C. Later Elam became the residence of King Darius and the centerpiece of the Persian empire.

#9: BABYLON: Modern Iraq. **City of Babylon located south of modern Baghdad.** Babylonian empire defeated in 529 B. C.

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### Interpretation:

What is pride? Webster's defines it in several ways:

1. an overly high opinion of oneself; exaggerated self-esteem; conceit.
2. the showing or demonstration of this behavior
3. self-respect

### 50: 11 - 13 Arrogance is Foolish

These verses tell of God's divine judgment against the empire of Babylon. Interesting to note is that God uses similar words describing the destruction of Babylon that he used against the Israelites concerning their destruction and the desolation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem.

Submission to Babylon by the Israelites is equated to submission to the Lord. Recall that Jeremiah kept telling the people of Israel to 'to submit to the king of Babylon.'

(Sidebar: The walls of the city of Babylon were 300 feet high and 80 feet thick. It was a city noted for its gardens. It was a beautiful and majestic city.)

King Nebuchadnezzar had some respect for the God of Israel but did not completely trust and obey Him. God used Babylon as His 'divine instrument' and now they would pay the price for their utter arrogant attitude.

### 50: 24 – 25 Arrogance is Futile

The king and leaders of Babylon were unsuspecting of their future destruction. God is supreme; not man. God's wrath and anger were executed by the Lord God of Hosts.

### 50: 29 - 32: Arrogance is Fatal:

Why was Babylon condemned? The bottom line: the nation had acted arrogantly toward the Lord and His power and authority.

Jeremiah prophesied that Babylon would 'stumble and fall,' and that 'no one would pick them up.' This denotes 'total destruction.'

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### Life Application: How to Avoid Being Arrogant (prideful)

#### PRIDE

Prov. 8:13 The fear of the LORD [is] to hate evil; **pride**, and **arrogance**, and the evil way, and the froward mouth [perverse speech], do I hate.

Prov. 11:2 [When] **pride** comes, then comes shame; but with the lowly [is] wisdom.

Prov. 13:10 Only by **pride** comes contention: but with the well advised [is] wisdom.

Prov. 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish [is] a rod of **pride**: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Prov. 16:18 **Pride** [goes] before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Prov. 29:23 A man's **pride** shall bring him low; but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

#### HUMILITY

Prov. 15:33 The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom; and before honor [is] **humility**.

Prov. 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor [is] **humility**.

Prov. 22:4 By **humility** [and] the fear of the LORD [are] riches, and honor, and life.

#### SUGGESTED ATTITUDES

1. Be 'others-centered;' not 'self-centered.'(John 15: 12, 13)
2. Be of the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:16)
3. Be about your Father's business. (Luke 2:49)
4. Be a bearer of good fruit. (Gal. 5: 22, 23)