Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

The Prophecy about Egypt’s Defeat at Carchemish

The Lord Predicts that Nebuchadnezzar Will Attack and Plunder Egypt

A Promise of Hope for Israel

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Text:

Jeremiah 46:1-28,

1. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah about the nations.
2. He spoke about Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt which was encamped along the Euphrates River at Carchemish. Now this was the army that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah.
3. “Fall into ranks with your shields ready! Prepare to march into battle!
4. Harness the horses to the chariots! Mount your horses! Put on your helmets and take your positions! Sharpen your spears! Put on your armor!
5. What do I see?” says the Lord. “The soldiers are terrified. They are retreating. They have been defeated. They are overcome with terror; they desert quickly without looking back.
6. But even the swiftest cannot get away. Even the strongest cannot escape. There in the north by the Euphrates River they stumble and fall in defeat.
7. “Who is this that rises like the Nile, like its streams turbulent at flood stage?
8. Egypt rises like the Nile, like its streams turbulent at flood stage. Egypt says, ‘I will arise and cover the earth. I will destroy cities and the people who inhabit them.’
9. Go ahead and charge into battle, you horsemen! Drive furiously, you charioteers! Let the soldiers march out into battle, those from Ethiopia and Libya who carry shields, and those from Lydia who are armed with the bow.
10. But that day belongs to the Lord God who rules over all. It is the day when he will pay back his enemies. His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied! It will drink their blood until it is full! For the Lord God who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice in the land of the north by the Euphrates River.
11. Go up to Gilead and get medicinal ointment, you dear poor people of Egypt. But it will prove useless no matter how much medicine you use; there will be no healing for you.
12. The nations will hear of your devastating defeat. Your cries of distress will echo throughout the earth. In the panic of their flight one soldier will trip over another and both of them will fall down defeated.”
13. The Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Nebuchadnezzar coming to attack the land of Egypt.
14. “Make an announcement throughout Egypt. Proclaim it in Migdol, Memphis, and Tahpanhes. ‘Take your positions and prepare to do battle. For the enemy army is destroying all the nations around you.’
15. Why will your soldiers be defeated? They will not stand because I, the Lord, will thrust them down.
16. I will make many stumble. They will fall over one another in their hurry to flee. They will say, ‘Get up! Let’s
go back to our own people. Let’s go back to our homelands because the enemy is coming to destroy us.’

17. There at home they will say, ‘Pharaoh king of Egypt is just a big noise! He has let the most opportune moment pass by.’

18. I the King, whose name is the Lord who rules over all, swear this: I swear as surely as I live that a conqueror is coming. He will be as imposing as Mount Tabor is among the mountains, as Mount Carmel is against the backdrop of the sea.

19. Pack your bags for exile, you inhabitants of poor dear Egypt. For Memphis will be laid waste. It will lie in ruins and be uninhabited.

20. Egypt is like a beautiful young cow. But northern armies will attack her like swarms of stinging flies.

21. Even her mercenaries will prove to be like pampered, well-fed calves. For they too will turn and run away. They will not stand their ground when the time for them to be destroyed comes, the time for them to be punished.

22. Egypt will run away, hissing like a snake, as the enemy comes marching up in force. They will come against her with axes as if they were woodsmen chopping down trees.

23. The population of Egypt is like a vast, impenetrable forest. But I, the Lord, affirm that the enemy will cut them down. For those who chop them down will be more numerous than locusts. They will be too numerous to count.

24. Poor dear Egypt will be put to shame. She will be handed over to the people from the north.”

25. The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will punish Amon, the god of Thebes. I will punish Egypt, its
gods, and its kings. I will punish Pharaoh and all who trust in him.
26. I will hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar and his troops, who want to kill them. But later on, people will live in Egypt again as they did in former times. I, the Lord, affirm it!”
27. “You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid; do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I will rescue you and your descendants from the faraway lands where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They will be secure and no one will terrify them.
28. I, the Lord, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servant, for I am with you. Though I completely destroy all the nations where I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will indeed discipline you but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” (NET)

Introduction:

I. Jeremiah 46:1-2 and 25-26 are written in prose while the remainder of the chapter is written as poetry.

II. This chapter is evident proof that the events addressed in the book of Jeremiah are not arranged in chronological order.

III. Jeremiah 46:1-51:64 contains prophecies made against foreign nations. (See Hamilton.)

A. Smith wrote, “The Book of Jeremiah concludes with a collection of oracles concerning foreign nations from various periods of the prophet’s ministry.”
B. Jeremiah 46:1-51:64, Smith observed, contains material similar to that in Jeremiah 25.

1. Jeremiah 25:1-38, In the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king of Judah, the LORD spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah. (That was the same as the first year that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.) So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the people who were living in Jerusalem. “For the last twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon was ruling in Judah until now, the LORD has been speaking to me. I told you over and over again what he said. But you would not listen. Over and over again the LORD has sent his servants the prophets to you. But you have not listened or paid attention. He said through them, ‘Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and stop doing the evil things you are doing. If you do, I will allow you to continue to live here in the land that I gave to you and your ancestors as a lasting possession. Do not pay allegiance to other gods and worship and serve them. Do not make me angry by the things that you do. Then I will not cause you any harm.’

So, now the LORD says, ‘You have not listened to me. But you have made me angry by the things that you have done. Thus you have brought harm on yourselves.’ Therefore, the LORD who rules over-all says, ‘You have not listened to what I said. So I, the LORD, affirm that I will send for all
the peoples of the north and my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and all the nations that surround it. I will utterly destroy this land, its inhabitants, and all the nations that surround it and make them everlasting ruins. I will make them objects of horror and hissing scorn. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in these lands. I will put an end to the sound of people grinding meal. I will put an end to lamps shining in their houses. This whole area will become a desolate wasteland. These nations will be subject to the king of Babylon for seventy years.’ “But when the seventy years are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their sins. I will make the land of Babylon an everlasting ruin. I, the LORD, affirm it! I will bring on that land everything that I said I would. I will bring on it everything that is written in this book. I will bring on it everything that Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations. For many nations and great kings will make slaves of the king of Babylon and his nation too. I will repay them for all they have done!”’ So the LORD, the God of Israel, spoke to me in a vision. “Take this cup from my hand. It is filled with the wine of my wrath. Take it and make the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they have drunk it, they will stagger to and fro and act insane, for I will send wars sweeping through them.” So I took the cup from the LORD’s hand. I made all the nations to whom he sent me drink the wine
of his wrath. I made Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its officials drink it. I did it so Judah would become a ruin. I did it so Judah, its kings, and its officials would become an object of horror and of hissing scorn, an example used in curses. Such is already becoming the case! I made all of these other people drink it: Pharaoh, king of Egypt; his attendants, his officials, his people, the foreigners living in Egypt; all the kings of the land of Uz; all the kings of the land of the Philistines, the people of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, the people who had been left alive from Ashdod; all the people of Edom, Moab, Ammon; all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon; all the kings of the coastlands along the sea; the people of Dedan, Tema, Buz, all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples; all the kings of Arabia who live in the desert; all the kings of Zimri; all the kings of Elam; all the kings of Media; all the kings of the north, whether near or far from one another; and all the other kingdoms which are on the face of the earth. After all of them have drunk the wine of the LORD’s wrath, the king of Babylon must drink it. Then the LORD said to me, ‘Tell them that the LORD God of Israel who rules overall says, ‘Drink this cup until you get drunk and vomit. Drink until you fall down and can’t get up, for I will send wars sweeping through you.’ If they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink it, tell them that the LORD who rules overall says ‘You most certainly must drink it! For take note, I am already beginning to bring disaster on
the city that I call my own. So how can you possibly avoid being punished? You will not go unpunished! I am proclaiming war against all who live on the earth. I, the L ORD who rules over all, affirm it! ‘Then, Jeremiah, make the following prophecy against them: ‘Like a lion about to attack, the L ORD will roar from the heights of heaven; from his holy dwelling on high he will roar loudly. He will roar mightily against his land. He will shout in triumph like those stomping juice from the grapes against all those who live on the earth. The sounds of battle will resound to the ends of the earth. For the L ORD will bring charges against the nations. He will pass judgment on all humankind and will hand the wicked over to be killed in war.’ The L ORD so affirms it! The L ORD who rules overall says, ‘Disaster will soon come on one nation after another. A mighty storm of military destruction is rising up from the distant parts of the earth.’ Those who have been killed by the L ORD at that time will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned over, gathered up, or buried. Their dead bodies will lie scattered over the ground like manure. Wail and cry out in anguish, you rulers! Roll in the dust, you who shepherd flocks of people! The time for you to be slaughtered has come. You will lie scattered and fallen like broken pieces of fine pottery. The leaders will not be able to run away and hide. The shepherds of the flocks will not be able to escape. Listen to the cries of anguish of the
leaders. Listen to the wails of the shepherds of the flocks. They are wailing because the LORD is about to destroy their lands. Their peaceful dwelling places will be laid waste by the fierce anger of the LORD. The LORD is like a lion who has left his lair. So their lands will certainly be laid waste by the warfare of the oppressive nation and by the fierce anger of the LORD.” (NET)

C. Smith wrote that Jeremiah 46:1-51:64 contains oracles in the following order against Philistia, Egypt (first), Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar Hazor, Elam and Egypt (second).

1. Smith further wrote that the first Egyptian oracle was composed just prior to the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. while the second Egyptian oracle was composed after Jeremiah was forced to emigrate to Egypt with the refugees from Judah.

D. Willis wrote that these oracles against the nations “...shows that the Lord is sovereign over all the nations of the region, not just Judah and Israel.”

1. Most of what is said regarding the nations is judgmental, but occasional promises of future blessings are included. (See Willis.)

a. Jeremiah 46:26, I will hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar and his troops, who want to kill them. But later on, people will live in
Egypt again as they did in former times. I, the LORD, affirm it!’” (NET)

b. Jeremiah 48:47, Yet in days to come I will reverse Moab’s ill fortune, says the LORD. The judgment against Moab ends here. (NET)

c. Jeremiah 49:6, 39, Yet in days to come I will reverse Ammon’s ill fortune.” says the LORD. “Yet in days to come I will reverse Elam’s ill fortune.” says the LORD. (NET)

2. In these oracles God shows his concern for all nations, but his preference for Israel is evident. (See Willis.)

a. Proverbs 3:12, For the LORD disciplines those he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights. (NET)

b. Hebrews 12:6, “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts.” (NET)

c. Jeremiah 46:27-28, “You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid; do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I will rescue you and your descendants from the faraway lands where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They will be secure and no one will terrify them. I, the LORD, tell
you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servant, for I am with you. Though I completely destroy all the nations where I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will indeed discipline you but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” (NET)

d. Jeremiah 48:27, For did not you people of Moab laugh at the people of Israel? Did you think that they were nothing but thieves, that you shook your head in contempt every time you talked about them? (NET)

e. Jeremiah 49:1, The LORD spoke about the Ammonites. “Do you think there are not any people of the nation of Israel remaining? Do you think there are not any of them remaining to re-inherit their land? Is that why you people who worship the god Milcom have taken possession of the territory of Gad and live in his cities? (NET)

f. Jeremiah 50:4-7, 17, 33-34, “When that time comes,” says the LORD, “the people of Israel and Judah will return to the land together. They will come back with tears of repentance as they seek the LORD their God. They will ask the way to Zion; they will turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the LORD in a lasting
covenant that will never be forgotten. “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have allowed them to go astray. They have wandered around in the mountains. They have roamed from one mountain and hill to another. They have forgotten their resting place. All who encountered them devoured them. Their enemies who did this said, ‘We are not liable for punishment! For those people have sinned against the LORD, their true pasture. They have sinned against the LORD in whom their ancestors trusted.’ “The people of Israel are like scattered sheep which lions have chased away. First the king of Assyria devoured them. Now last of all King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has gnawed their bones. The LORD who rules overall says, “The people of Israel are oppressed. So too are the people of Judah. All those who took them captive are holding them prisoners. They refuse to set them free. But the one who will rescue them is strong. He is known as the LORD who rules over all. He will strongly champion their cause. As a result he will bring peace and rest to the earth, but trouble and turmoil to the people who inhabit Babylonian. (NET)

g. Jeremiah 51:5, 34-35, “For Israel and Judah will not be forsaken by their God, the LORD who rules over all. For the land of Babylonia is full of guilt against the Holy
One of Israel. “King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon devoured me and drove my people out. Like a monster from the deep he swallowed me. He filled his belly with my riches. He made me an empty dish. He completely cleaned me out.” The person who lives in Zion says, “May Babylon pay for the violence done to me and to my relatives.” Jerusalem says, “May those living in Babylonia pay for the bloodshed of my people.” (NET)

3. The punishments against these foreign nations were initiated by the Lord who rules over all because of their sins. (See Willis.)

E. Coffman wrote that Jeremiah was contemporary with the final five Kings of Judah from Josiah to the fall of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar, King of the Babylonian (Neo-Chaldean) Empire, and four kings of Egypt: Psammetik I (664-609 B.C.), Pharoah-Necco II (609-594 B.C.), Psammetik II (694-588 B.C.), and Pharaoh-Hophra (558-568 B.C.)

Commentary:

**Prophecies Against Foreign Nations**

Jeremiah 46:1, The Lord spoke to Jeremiah about the nations. (NET)

I. Hamilton noted that a number of other prophets spoke divine oracles against foreign nations including Isaiah (13-23), Ezekiel (25-32) and Amos (1-2). (Also see Smith and Coffman.)
A. From the time Jeremiah was called to ministry, he was appointed “a prophet to the nations.” (See Smith.)

1. Jeremiah 1:5, 10, What do I see?” says the LORD. “The soldiers are terrified. They are retreating. They have been defeated. They are overcome with terror; they desert quickly without looking back. But that day belongs to the Lord God who rules over all. It is the day when he will pay back his enemies. His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied! It will drink their blood until it is full! For the Lord GOD who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice in the land of the north by the Euphrates River. (NET)

2. The nations addressed in this chapter were variously Israel’s enemies, neighbors or allies. (Clarke)

   a. God revealed these oracles to Jeremiah at different times. (Clarke)

3. The “nations” refers to other nations than Israel.

The Prophecy about Egypt’s Defeat at Carchemish

Oracle One
Jeremiah 46:2, He spoke about Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt which was encamped along the Euphrates River at Carchemish. Now this was the army that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. (NET)

I. He spoke about Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Necho King of Egypt which was encamped along the Euphrates River at Carchemish.

A. In 609 B.C., Pharaoh Necho marched north to help the last Assyrian king, Assur-uballit II, against the Babylonians. Enroute he was attacked by Josiah, king of Judah, who was mortally wounded in the battle. The Babylonians defeated the Egyptians. However, for a time, the Egyptians were dominant in the land of Judah.

B. In 605 B.C., the reference in this verse, Pharaoh-Necho again marched north and did battle with the Babylonians as an ally of the Assyrians at Carchemish where Necho was soundly defeated. The Babylonians became the dominant power in Palestine. (Bromiley)

1. 2 Kings 23:29-30, 34-35, During Josiah’s reign Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt marched toward the Euphrates River to help the king of Assyria. King Josiah marched out to fight him, but Necho killed him at Megiddo when he saw him. His servants transported his dead body from Megiddo in a chariot and brought it to Jerusalem, where they buried him in his tomb. The people of the land took Josiah’s son Jehoahaz,
poured olive oil on his head, and made him king in his father’s place. Pharaoh Necho made Josiah’s son Eliakim king in Josiah’s place, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. He took Jehoahaz to Egypt, where he died. Jehoiakim paid Pharaoh the required amount of silver and gold, but to meet Pharaoh’s demands Jehoiakim had to tax the land. He collected an assessed amount from each man among the people of the land in order to pay Pharaoh Necho. (NET)

C. Carchemish was located on the right bank of the upper Euphrates River about 63 miles northeast of Aleppo. (Bromiley)

D. The Euphrates is the largest river in southwest Asia which arises in the mountains of Armenia and flows in a southeasterly direction until it empties into the Persian Gulf. From the biblical standpoint, the Euphrates River marked the eastern limit of the Promised Land. (Bromiley)

E. Coffman wrote, “The battle fought at Carchemish about 605 B.C. was one of the decisive battles of history, for it spelled the end of Egyptian domination and heralded the arrival of Babylon as the new world power. It was fought at a strategic location several miles north of the Chebar’s junction with the Euphrates. The word ‘Carchemish’ means ‘Fort of Chemosh,’ the god of the Moabites.”

II. Now this was the army that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah.
A. Nebuchadnezzar was king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire from 605-562 B.C. He captured Jerusalem in 586 B.C., destroyed the Temple, and carried the people of Judah into captivity in Babylonia. He defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish and gained control over a wide area including Palestine. Earlier King Jehoiakim of Judah became Nebuchadnezzar’s vassal, but, when Jehoiakim rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar “came up against him” and soundly defeated Jehoiakim and regained control of Jerusalem. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

B. Jehoiakim was an evil king of Judah, a son of the good king Josiah. He reigned eleven years (609-598 BC.) in Jerusalem. He was first a vassal of the Egyptian Pharaoh and secondly of Nebuchadnezzar. He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, was captured and carried away into Babylonian captivity. Various encounters between sinful Jehoiakim and righteous Jeremiah are documented in the book of Jeremiah. (See Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary.)

C. “The oracle contained in verses 2-12 concerning Egypt dates to 605 B.C., the fourth year of Jehoiakim,” Hamilton wrote. Smith concurred.

**Jeremiah 46:3,** “Fall into ranks with your shields ready! Prepare to march into battle! (NET)

**I. Nahum 2:1,** The watchmen of Nineveh shout: “An enemy who will scatter you is marching out to attack you!” “Guard the rampart! Watch the road! Prepare yourselves for battle! Muster your mighty strength!” (NET)
II. Nahum 3:1-3, Woe to the city guilty of bloodshed! She is full of lies; she is filled with plunder; she has hoarded her spoil! Portrayal of the Destruction of Nineveh. The chariot drivers will crack their whips; the chariot wheels will shake the ground; the chariot horses will gallop; the war chariots will bolt forward! The charioteers will charge ahead; their swords will flash and their spears will glimmer! There will be many people slain; there will be piles of the dead, and countless casualties—so many that people will stumble over the corpses. (NET)

III. This was a call to battle! They were to make ready for the coming conflict.

A. The word “shields” includes both small shields (bucklers) and large shields which covered the whole body.

1. 2 Chronicles 9:15-16, King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; 600 measures of hammered gold were used for each shield. He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; 300 measures of gold were used for each of those shields. The king placed them in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest. (NET)

Jeremiah 46:4, Harness the horses to the chariots! Mount your horses! Put on your helmets and take your positions! Sharpen your spears! Put on your armor! (NET)

1. Harness the horses to the chariots! Mount your horses!

A. Make ready for battle.
B. The Egyptians were famous for their war-chariots. (The Pulpit Commentary)

1. Exodus 14:6, 9, Then he prepared his chariots and took his army with him. The Egyptians chased after them, and all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-Zephon. (NET)

2. 1 Kings 10:28-29, Solomon acquired his horses from Egypt and from Que; the king’s traders purchased them from Que. They paid 600 silver pieces for each chariot from Egypt and 150 silver pieces for each horse. They also sold chariots and horses to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Syria. (NET)

3. Isaiah 31:1, Those who go down to Egypt for help are as good as dead, those who rely on war horses, and trust in Egypt’s many chariots and in their many, many horsemen. But they do not rely on the Holy One of Israel and do not seek help from the LORD. (NET)

II. Put on your helmets and take your positions! Sharpen your spears. Put on your armor!

A. Make ready for battle!

B. “Brigandine,” here rendered “helmets,” means a member of a “brigade” or “troop” from which our word “brigadier” as
in brigadier general is derived. (See Coffman and The Pulpit Commentary.)

**Jeremiah 46:5,** *What do I see?* says the **LORD.** *‘The soldiers are terrified. They are retreating. They have been defeated. They are overcome with terror; they desert quickly without looking back. (NET)*

I. What do I see? says the Lord.

A. Coffman wrote, *“These words are the dramatic introduction to a startling change in the scene from that of the arrogant, advancing army of Egypt, to that of a hopelessly beaten and routed army.”*

B. The Egyptians certainly did not expect this development and exclaimed, *“What do I see?” What in the world is happening, going on here? (See The Pulpit Commentary.)*

II. *“The soldiers are terrified. They are retreating. They have been defeated. They are overcome with terror,* they desert quickly without looking back.

A. *NET Footnote: Hebrew-Terror is all around.*

1. The soldiers were now panic struck, no longer eager for battle. (Clarke)

2. These commanders were beaten down while trying to rally the troops.

B. In view of the fact that the Egyptians had killed good King Josiah in battle, the men of Judah must have been very
happy about the fear now being experienced by the Egyptian soldiers. (See Willis.)

1. This prophetic oracle can clearly be dated before the battle of Carchemish. (Coffman)

C. However, Willis noted that Judah’s joy would be short lived because the Babylonians who defeated the Egyptians would soon destroy Jerusalem.

1. Jeremiah 6:25, Do not go out into the countryside. Do not travel on the roads. For the enemy is there with sword in hand. They are spreading terror everywhere.” (NET)

2. Jeremiah 20:4, For the LORD says, ‘I will make both you and your friends terrified of what will happen to you. You will see all of them die by the swords of their enemies. I will hand all the people of Judah over to the king of Babylon. He will carry some of them away into exile in Babylon and he will kill others of them with the sword. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 49:29, Their tents and their flocks will be taken away. Their tent curtains, equipment, and camels will be carried off. People will shout to them, ‘Terror is all around you!’” (NET)

Jeremiah 46:6, But even the swiftest cannot get away. Even the strongest cannot escape. There in the north by the Euphrates River they stumble and fall in defeat. (NET)
I. But even the swiftest cannot get away. Even the strongest cannot escape.

A. There was no escape from the Babylonian onslaught.

B. The Pulpit Commentary reads, “Nothing seems to have struck the Jews so much as the unparalleled swiftness of the Chaldean warriors.”

1. This was also in this verse true of the experience of the Egyptians when they encountered the Babylonians.

2. Habakkuk 1:6, 8, Look, I am about to empower the Babylonians, that ruthless and greedy nation. They sweep across the surface of the earth, seizing dwelling places that do not belong to them. Their horses are faster than leopards and more alert than wolves in the desert. Their horses gallop, their horses come a great distance; like a vulture they swoop down quickly to devour their prey. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 4:13, Look! The enemy is approaching like gathering clouds. The roar of his chariots is like that of a whirlwind. His horses move more swiftly than eagles.” I cry out, “We are doomed, for we will be destroyed!” (NET)

II. There in the north by the Euphrates River they stumble and fall in defeat.

A. At Carchemish the Egyptians were utterly destroyed, defeated.
B. Carchemish was “far to the north of Jerusalem.” (The Pulpit Commentary)

Jeremiah 46:7, “Who is this that rises like the Nile, like the streams turbulent at flood stage? (NET)

I. This references the annual flooding of the Nile on which the agriculture of the country depended.

II. Clarke explained that the march of the Egyptians toward Carchemish was like a huge flood overpowering everything before them.

A. Isaiah 19:8, The fishermen will mourn and lament, all those who cast a fishhook into the river, and those who spread out a net on the water’s surface will grieve. (NET)

B. Exodus 7:19, Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over Egypt’s waters—over their rivers, over their canals, over their ponds, and over all their reservoirs—so that it becomes blood.’ There will be blood everywhere in the land of Egypt, even in wooden and stone containers.” (NET)

C. In a similar reference, the Assyrian army is compared to the Euphrates River.

1. Isaiah 8:7-8, So look, the sovereign master is bringing up against them the turbulent and mighty waters of the Euphrates River—the king
of Assyria and all his majestic power. It will reach flood stage and overflow its banks. It will spill into Judah, flooding and engulfing, as it reaches to the necks of its victims. He will spread his wings out over your entire land, O Immanuel.” (NET)

Jeremiah 46:8, Egypt rises like the Nile, like its streams turbulent at flood stage. Egypt says, ‘I will arise and cover the earth. I will destroy cities and the people who inhabit them.’ (NET)

I. Egypt rises like the Nile, like its streams turbulent at flood stage.

   A. This was the attitude of the Egyptian army before the battle was joined.

      1. 1 Kings 20:11, The king of Israel replied, ‘Tell him the one who puts on his battle gear should not boast like one who is taking it off.” (NET)

II. Egypt says, ‘I will arise and cover the earth. I will destroy cities and the people who inhabit them.’

   A. Egypt’s pharaoh was not the last person to dream of world domination.

      1. Remember a fellow named Adolph?

   B. Jeremiah 47:1-3, The Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about the Philistines before Pharaoh
attacked Gaza. ‘Look! Enemies are gathering in the north like water rising in a river. They will be like an overflowing stream. They will overwhelm the whole country and everything in it like a flood. They will overwhelm the cities and their inhabitants. People will cry out in alarm. Everyone living in the country will cry out in pain. Fathers will hear the hoof beats of the enemies’ horses, the clatter of their chariots and the rumbling of their wheels. They will not turn back to save their children because they will be paralyzed with fear. (NET)

Jeremiah 46:9, Go ahead and charge into battle, you horsemen! Drive furiously, you charioteers! Let the soldiers march out into battle, those from Ethiopia and Libya who carry shields, and those from Lydia who are armed with the bow. (NET)

I. Go ahead and charge into battle, you horsemen! Drive furiously, you charioteers!

A. Both the charioteers and the armed infantry were urged to charge into battle without delay.

1. This takes the tone of a pep rally.

2. Nahum 3:3, The charioteers will charge ahead; their swords will flash and their spears will glimmer! There will be many people slain; there will be piles of the dead, and countless casualties—so many that people will stumble over the corpses. (NET)
3. **Nahum 2:5**, The commander orders his officers; they stumble as they advance; they rush to the city wall and they set up the covered siege tower. (NET)

B. The Pulpit Commentary states the weapons used by the Egyptians included axes, swords, bows and arrows, and slings.

II. Let the soldiers march out into battle, those from Ethiopia and Libya who carry shields, and those from Lydia who are armed with the bow.

A. Ethiopia (Cush) was the ancient nation south of Egypt. Modern Ethiopia (Abyssinia), in the horn of East Africa, is hundreds of miles away from ancient Ethiopia. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

B. Libya was a country of northern Africa west of Egypt also called Phut, Put and Cyrene. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

C. Lydia (Ludim) was a large territory in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey) rich in natural resources. Its fertile land produced figs, grain, grapes, and olives. Lydians on occasion served as military mercenaries. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. **Genesis 10:6, 13**, The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, (NET)
2. **Ezekiel 30:5**, Ethiopia, Put, Lud, all the foreigners, Libya, and the people of the covenant land will die by the sword along with them. *(NET)*

3. **Ezekiel 27:10**, Men of Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army, men of war. They hung shield and helmet on you; they gave you your splendor. *(NET)*

D. These countries supplied mercenary troops for the Egyptians.

**Jeremiah 46:10**, But that day belongs to the Lord God who rules over all. It is the day when he will pay back his enemies. His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied! It will drink their blood until it is full! For the Lord God who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice in the land of the north by the Euphrates River. *(NET)*

I. But that day belongs to the Lord God who rules over all. It is the day when he will pay back his enemies.

A. The Lord had decreed the defeat of the Egyptians. (See Willis.)

1. The day Egypt fell to the Babylonians is here called the “day (that) belongs to the Lord” because God’s intervention produced the Babylonian victory.
2. Many days are called Days of the Lord. It can rightly be said all days are Days of the Lord, but some days stand out as special days of the Lord.

a. Revelation 1:10, I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day when I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, (NET)

b. Amos 5:18, 20, Woe to those who wish for the day of the LORD! Why do you want the LORD’s day of judgment to come? It will bring darkness, not light. Don’t you realize the LORD’s day of judgment will bring darkness, not light—gloomy blackness, not bright light? (NET)

c. Zephaniah 1:7, 14, Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the LORD’s day of judgment is almost here. The LORD has prepared a sacrificial meal; he has ritually purified his guests. The LORD’s great day of judgment is almost here; it is approaching very rapidly! There will be a bitter sound on the LORD’s day of judgment; at that time warriors will cry out in battle. (NET)

d. Joel 2:1, Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm signal on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land shake with fear, for the day of the LORD is about to come. Indeed, it is near! (NET)
e. Isaiah 2:12, Indeed, the LORD who commands armies has planned a day of judgment, for all the high and mighty, for all who are proud—they will be humiliated; (NET)

f. Isaiah 13:6, 9, Wail, for the LORD’s day of judgment is near; it comes with all the destructive power of the sovereign Judge. Look, the LORD’s day of judgment is coming; it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger, destroying the earthand annihilating its sinners. (NET)

II. His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied! It will drink their blood until it is full!

A. Jeremiah 2:30, “It did no good for me to punish your people. They did not respond to such correction. You slaughtered your prophets like a voracious lion.” (NET)

B. Coffman wrote, “The Egyptians had quite recently slain the good King Josiah, and their defeat was a vengeance against that disaster for Israel.”

C. Isaiah 34:6, The LORD’s sword is dripping with blood, it is covered with fat; it drips with the blood of young rams and goats and is covered with the fat of rams’ kidneys. For the LORD is holding a sacrifice in Bozrah, a bloody slaughter in the land of Edom. (NET)
1. God’s “sword” is a synonym for Divine vengeance. (The Pulpit Commentary)

a. Jeremiah 12:12, A destructive army will come marching over the hilltops in the desert. For the LORD will use them as his destructive weapon against everyone from one end of the land to the other. No one will be safe. (NET)

b. Jeremiah 47:6, How long will you cry out, ‘Oh, sword of the LORD, how long will it be before you stop killing? Go back into your sheath! Stay there and rest!’ (NET)

c. Deuteronomy 32:41-42, I will sharpen my lightning-like sword, and my hand will grasp hold of the weapon of judgment; I will execute vengeance on my foes, and repay those who hate me! I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword will devour flesh—the blood of the slaughtered and captured, the chief of the enemy’s leaders!’” (NET)

d. Judges 7:20, All three units blew their trumpets and broke their jars. They held the torches in their left hand and the trumpets in their right. Then they yelled, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” (NET)

e. Joshua 5:13, When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man
standing in front of him holding a drawn sword. Joshua approached him and asked him, “Are you on our side or allied with our enemies?” (NET)

f. Isaiah 27:1, At that time the LORD will punish with his destructive, great, and powerful sword Leviathan the fast-moving serpent, Leviathan the squirming serpent; he will kill the sea monster. (NET)

g. Isaiah 31:8, Assyria will fall by a sword, but not one human-made; a sword not made by humankind will destroy them. They will run away from this sword and their young men will be forced to do hard labor. (NET)

h. Isaiah 34:5-6, He says, “Indeed, my sword has slaughtered heavenly powers. Look, it now descends on Edom, on the people I will annihilate in judgment.” The LORD’s sword is dripping with blood, it is covered with fat; it drips with the blood of young rams and goats and is covered with the fat of rams’ kidneys. For the LORD is holding a sacrifice in Bozrah, a bloody slaughter in the land of Edom. (NET)

i. Isaiah 66:16, For the LORD judges all humanity with fire and his sword; the LORD will kill many. (NET)
Zechariah 13:7, “Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my associate,” says the LORD who rules over all. Strike the shepherd that the flock may be scattered; I will turn my hand against the insignificant ones. (NET)

III. For the Lord God who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice in the land of the north by the Euphrates River.

A. Zephaniah 1:7-9, Be silent before the Lord God, for the Lord’s day of judgment is almost here. The LORD has prepared a sacrificial meal; he has ritually purified his guests. “On the day of the LORD’s sacrificial meal, I will punish the princes and the king’s sons, and all who wear foreign styles of clothing. On that day I will punish all who leap over the threshold, who fill the house of their master with wealth taken by violence and deceit. (NET)

B. The Egyptians were destined to be sacrificial victims at Carchemish. “The Lord would provide himself a sacrifice of their entire army,” Coffman wrote.

C. God Almighty is personified as a mighty warrior with a sharp sword avenging himself of his enemies.

1. Isaiah 34:6, The LORD’s sword is dripping with blood, it is covered with fat; it drips with the blood of young rams and goats and is covered with the fat of rams’ kidneys. For the LORD is holding a sacrifice in Bozrah, a bloody slaughter in the land of Edom. (NET)
2. Ezekiel 39:17-20, “As for you, son of man, this is what the sovereign LORD says: Tell every kind of bird and every wild beast: ‘Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my slaughter which I am going to make for you, a great slaughter on the mountains of Israel! You will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the earth—the rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fattened animals of Bashan. You will eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, at my slaughter which I have made for you. You will fill up at my table with horses and charioteers, with warriors and all the soldiers,’ declares the sovereign LORD. (NET)

Jeremiah 46:11, Go up to Gilead and get medicinal ointment, you dear poor people of Egypt. But it will prove useless no matter how much medicine you use; there will be no healing for you. (NET)

I. Go up to Gilead and get medical ointment,* you dear poor people of Egypt.

A. *NET Footnote: Traditionally balm, the aromatic resin from a tree of uncertain identification believed to have medicinal value.

B. Gilead was a mountain region east of the Jordan River beginning near the south end of the Sea of Galilee and extending to the north end of the Dead Sea. North to south Gilead extended some sixty miles and twenty miles west to
east. The Balm of Gilead, an aromatic resin used for medical purposes, was a major product for which the area was widely known (Nelson New Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

1. Jeremiah 8:22, There is still medicinal ointment available in Gilead! There is still a physician there! Why then have my dear people not been restored to health? (NET)

2. Willis saw this as a taunt against Egypt as their wounded soldiers would need medical help.

3. Genesis 37:25, When they sat down to eat their food, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelite’s coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying spices, balm, and myrrh down to Egypt. (NET)

C. There was no cure for Egypt’s troubles! The reference to the medicine for which Gilead was known is sarcastic.

1. Jeremiah 30:13, There is no one to plead your cause. There are no remedies for your wounds. There is no healing for you. (NET)

II. But it will prove useless no matter how much medicine you use; there will be no healing for you.

A. There would be no help for the wounded and defeated Egyptians.

B. There was no cure for Egypt’s illnesses. They had a terminal disease.
Jeremiah 46:12, The nations will hear of your devastating defeat your cries of distress will echo throughout the earth. In the panic of their flight one soldier will trip over another and both of them will fall down defeated.” (NET)

I. The nations will hear of your devastating defeat. Your cries of distress will echo throughout the earth.

A. Even to this day the utter defeat of the Egyptian army at Carchemish by the Babylonians is well known by students of Old Testament history and so it will ever be.

1. This “devastating defeat” could be referenced as their shame and disgrace.

II. In the panic of their flight one soldier will trip over another and both of them will fall down defeated.

A. The Egyptian troops were filled with terror and panic.

1. In total confusion and disarray, the Egyptian soldiers ran in all directions.

2. In the process, they ran over each and fell down

The Lord Predicts that Nebuchadnezzar Will Attack and Plunder Egypt

Oracle Two

Jeremiah 46:13, The LORD spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Nebuchadnezzar coming to attack the land of Egypt. (NET)
I. The second oracle concerning Egypt presented in verses 13-24 relates to the invasion of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar which is dated to 568 B.C.E. which, Hamilton concluded, probably took place after Jeremiah’s death and was chronologically the last of the national oracles in Chapters 46-52. (Also see Smith.)

A. Jeremiah 44:30, I, the LORD, promise that I will hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who are seeking to kill him. I will do that just as surely as I handed King Zedekiah of Judah over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his enemy who was seeking to kill him.’’ (NET)

II. Willis stated, “The scene shifts from the Battle of Carchemish to a subsequent confrontation between Babylon and Egypt, either the following year or some twenty or more years later.”

A. Jeremiah 37:4-8, (Now Jeremiah had not yet been put in prison. So he was still free to come and go among the people as he pleased. At that time the Babylonian forces had temporarily given up their siege against Jerusalem. They had had it under siege, but withdrew when they heard that the army of Pharaoh had set out from Egypt.) The LORD gave the prophet Jeremiah a message for them. He told him to tell them, “The LORD God of Israel says, ‘Give a message to the king of Judah who sent you to ask me to help him. Tell him, “The army of Pharaoh that was on its way to help you will go back home to Egypt. Then the Babylonian forces will return. They will attack the city and will capture it and burn it down. (NET)
B. Willis further explained referencing Holladay, McKane, Thompson, and Clements, “A central problem with the historical location of this prophecy is that the Babylonians never actually invaded and devastated Egypt.”

C. Jeremiah spoke of such a Babylonian attack on Egypt in other references.

1. Jeremiah 43:8-13, At Tahpanhes the LORD spoke to Jeremiah. “Take some large stones and bury them in the mortar of the clay pavement at the entrance of Pharaoh’s residence here in Tahpanhes. Do it while the people of Judah present there are watching. Then tell them, ‘The LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will bring my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will set his throne over these stones which I have buried. He will pitch his royal tent over them. He will come and attack Egypt. Those who are destined to die of disease will die of disease. Those who are destined to be carried off into exile will be carried off into exile. Those who are destined to die in war will die in war. He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt. He will burn their gods or carry them off as captives. He will pick Egypt clean like a shepherd picks the lice from his clothing. He will leave there unharmed. He will demolish the sacred pillars in the temple of the sun in Egypt and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.””” (NET)
2. Jeremiah 44:30, I, the LORD, promise that I will hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who are seeking to kill him. I will do that just as surely as I handed King Zedekiah of Judah over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his enemy who was seeking to kill him.” (NET)

3. Ezekiel 29:17-21, In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon made his army labor hard against Tyre. Every head was rubbed bald and every shoulder rubbed bare; yet he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the work he carried out against it. Therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am about to give the land of Egypt to King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon. He will carry off her wealth, capture her loot, and seize her plunder; it will be his army’s wages. I have given him the land of Egypt as his compensation for attacking Tyre, because they did it for me, declares the sovereign LORD. On that day I will make Israel powerful, and I will give you the right to be heard among them. Then they will know that I am the LORD.” (NET)

Jeremiah 46:14, “Make an announcement throughout Egypt. Proclaim it in Migdol, Memphis, and Tahpanhes. ‘Take your positions and prepare to do battle. For the enemy army is destroying all the nations around you.’ (NET)
I. “Make an announcement throughout Egypt. Proclaim it in Migdol, Memphis, and Tahpanhes.

A. Migdol (Magdolum) was a site in lower northeastern Egypt. After the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, some Israelites fled to Egypt and lived in Migdol. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

B. Memphis (Noph) was an ancient Egyptian royal city situated on the west bank of the Nile River about thirteen miles south of Cairo. Some of the refugees fleeing Judah settled there. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

C. Tahpanhes (Daphne) was a city on the eastern frontier of lower Egypt in the area of the Nile Delta. Tahpanhes became a place of refuge for Jews who fled their homeland after the assassination of Gedaliah, the governor of Judah placed in power by the Babylonians. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

D. The Pulpit Commentary states, “The cities of Egypt are called upon to prepare to meet the foe. But it is in vain; for all that is great and mighty in the land – Apis, the mercenary soldiers, and the Pharaoh – bows down before that terrible one,” the Babylonians.

II. “Take your positions and prepare to do battle. For the enemy army is destroying all the nations around you.”

A. Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion was an absolute certainty. Get prepared for it!
B. The phrase, “all the nations around you,” included, Clarke noted, the Phoenicians, Philistines, Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites.

C. The news of the coming destruction is to be told in the frontier towns of Migdol and Tahpanhes and in the northern capital of Memphis (Noph). (See the Pulpit Commentary.)

1. Jeremiah 2:16, Even the soldiers from Memphis and Tahpanhes have cracked your skulls, people of Israel. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 44:1, The LORD spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the Judeans who were living in the land of Egypt, those in Migdol, Tahpanhes, Memphis, and in the region of southern Egypt. (NET)

D. The defenders were to make ready for battle. The Babylonians were approaching.

1. The surrounding nations had been destroyed. Egypt stood alone.

   a. Jeremiah 48:17, 39, Mourn for that nation, all you nations living around it, all of you nations that know of its fame. Mourn and say, ‘Alas, its powerful influence has been broken! Its glory and power have been done away!’ Oh, how shattered Moab will be! Oh, how her people will wail! Oh, how she will turn away in shame! Moab will become an object of ridicule, a terrifying
sight to all the nations that surround her.” (NET)

Jeremiah 46:15, Why will your soldiers be defeated? They will not stand because I, the LORD, will thrust them down. (NET)

I. Egypt was defeated because God had willed it to happen and because the Egyptian soldiers were no match for the Babylonian soldiers.

Jeremiah 46:16, I will make many stumble. They will fall over one another in their hurry to flee. They will say, ‘Get up! Let’s go back to our own people. Let’s go back to our homelands because the enemy is coming to destroy us.’ (NET)

I. I will make many stumble.* They will fall over one another in their hurry to flee.

A. *NET Footnote: Hebrew - he multiplied the one stumbling.

B. War is horrible! After all these centuries of human history, it does seem that a peaceful way of resolving conflicts could, should have been developed.

1. People smart enough to put a man on the moon and develop a bomb to “blow us all up” should have found a little better way for us to get along with each other, don’t you think?
II. They will say, ‘Get up! Let’s go back to our own people. Let’s go back to our homelands because the enemy is coming to destroy us.’

A. When they saw the power of the Babylonians, the Egyptian mercenaries wanted to go home!

1. They fled in disarray.

2. These mercenaries were fighting for financial gain and lacked the patriotism and loyalty to Egypt that native Egyptians would have had.

*Jeremiah 46:17,* There at home they will say, ‘Pharaoh King of Egypt is just a big noise! He has let the most opportune moment pass by.’ (NET)

I. In utter defeat, the Egyptians would view their Pharaoh as nothing but a “windbag” (See Smith.) or a “loudmouth.” (Coffman)

A. Pharaoh would be blamed for Egypt’s defeat by the Babylonians.

II. Credit is given to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians for the defeat of the Egyptians when in fact Israel’s God had empowered the Babylonians to achieve this victory. (See Willis)

III. Coffman suggested that the mercenaries may have been the ones here who spoke derogatorily of Pharaoh.

*Jeremiah 46:18,* I the King, whose name is the LORD who rules over all, swear this: I swear as surely as I live that a
conqueror is coming. He will be as imposing as Mount Tabor is among the mountains, as Mount Carmel is against the backdrop of the sea. (NET)

I. I the King who rules over the nations is not Pharaoh nor Nebuchadnezzar, but Jehovah, the Lord of Hosts, the Lord of lord’s and the king of kings.

A. The true king who rules over the nations is not Pharaoh nor Nebuchadnezzar, but Jehovah, the Lord of Hosts, the Lord of lords and the King of Kings.

II. I swear as surely as I live that a conqueror is coming. He will be as imposing as Mount Tabor is among the mountains, as Mount Carmel is against the backdrop of the sea.

A. Mount Carmel juts out into the Mediterranean coast near Haifa. The Carmel range is thirteen miles long and reaches a height of 1,742 feet. This was the site of Elijah’s great victory over the prophets of Baal. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. 1 Kings 18:19-20, Now send out messengers and assemble all Israel before me at Mount Carmel, as well as the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah whom Jezebel supports. Ahab sent messen-gers to all the Israelites and had the prophets assemble at Mount Carmel. (NET)

B. Mount Taber was located 5.5 miles SE of Nazareth and 10 miles SW of the Sea of Galilee in the northeastern part of the Valley of Jezreel. It rises 1,350 feet above the
surrounding plain of Esdraelon. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. *Joshua 19:22, Their border touched Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth Shemesh, and ended at the Jordan. They had sixteen cities and their towns. (NET)*

C. This conqueror that was coming was Hamilton stated, Nebuchadnezzar, who was as imposing as Mount Tabor and Mount Carmel.

*Jeremiah 46:19, Pack your bags for exile, you inhabitants of poor dear Egypt.* For Memphis will be laid waste. It will lie in ruins and be uninhabited. (NET)

1. Pack your bags for exile, you inhabitants of poor dear Egypt.

A. *NET Footnote: Hebrew - daughter Egypt (a personification of Egypt, also in verse 24).*

B. References to the Lord who rules over all, to Egypt’s defeat by the Babylonians, to their being laid waste and without habitation and to exile were familiar to the people of Judah and would “evoke a strong empathy in the Israelites for the Egyptians in their humiliation,” Willis advised. Willis further wrote, “They should not rejoice at the Egyptian collapse, for they should see their own fate in the current fate of Egypt.”

C. What God here foretold was absolutely certain of fulfillment!
1. Everything God says is certain. Total confidence can be placed in everything God says.

D. The phrase, “poor dear Egypt” or “daughter of Egypt” is parallel to “virgin daughter of Zion” and means the population of Egypt. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

E. They were to pack for their coming journey into exile which is comparable to the exile of Judah.

1. Ezekiel 12:4, Bring out your belongings packed for exile during the day while they are watching. And go out at evening, while they are watching, as if for exile. (NET)

II. For Memphis will be laid waste. It will lie in ruins and be uninhabited.

A. Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary states, “Today there is little left to mark the glorious past of the city.”

1. Smith added, “The capital of Egypt (Memphis) would be laid waste, and the citizens would be taken captive.”

2. Coffman gives this as a prime example of the fulfillment of prophecy. It was not until near the time of Alexander the Great, long after the time of Jeremiah, that Memphis was laid waste, in ruins, uninhabited, a “great cemetery.”

Jeremiah 46:20, Egypt is like a beautiful young cow. But northern armies will attack her like swarms of stinging flies. (NET)
I. First, Egypt is likened to a beautiful heifer fleeing from the sting of the tiny gadfly; i.e., from Nebuchadnezzar. (Smith)

A. Isaiah 7:18, At that time the LORD will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. (NET)

B. The “beautiful young cow” reminds the reader of the fruitful Nile valley. (See the Pulpit Commentary.)

C. The Babylonians would follow the major trade routes and would attack Egypt coming from the north.

D. Coffman stated that Memphis, prominently mentioned in this section, was the shrine of the Sacred Bull (Apis) of Egypt. On this account, the identification of Egypt here as a ‘heifer’ is thought to be sarcastic.

E. Clarke wrote, “It may be that there is an allusion here to Isis, worshipped in Egypt under the form of a beautiful cow.”

Jeremiah 46:21, Even her mercenaries will prove to be like pampered, well-fed calves, for they too will turn and run away. They will not stand their ground when the time for them to be destroyed comes, the time for them to be punished. (NET)

1. Even her mercenaries will prove to be like pampered, well-fed calves, for they too will turn and run away.
A. Second, Egypt’s fat calves (mercenary soldiers) are pictured as fleeing to their homelands, (Smith) .. stampeding like frightened cattle. (See Willis.)

1. The mercenaries were simply hirelings.

B. “Egypt’s mercenaries were nothing but fat calves in the hands of the butcher,” Coffman wrote quoting The New Bible Commentary Revised.

1. Coffman noted that these mercenaries probably ate well, looked good, and made a beautiful parade; but they were worthless as fighting men.

2. Clarke wrote, “Perhaps there is a reference here to the case of a cow stung with gnats. She runs hither and thither, not knowing where to go; so shall it be with these scattered people.”

II. They will not stand their ground when the time for them to be destroyed, the time for them to be punished comes.

A. The Egyptian mercenaries lacked courage and/or dedication to duty and destruction was coming upon them.

B. These mercenaries may have been a different group than those mentioned previously in verse 9. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

Jeremiah 46:22, Egypt will run away, hissing like a snake, as the enemy comes marching up in force. They will come
against her with axes as if they were woodsmen chopping down trees. (NET)

I. Egypt will run away, hissing like a snake,* as the enemy comes marching up in force.

   A. *(NET Footnote: Or – Egypt will rustle away like a snake.

      1. Egypt retreats like a hissing snake gliding away.

   B. Third, the Babylonians are pictured as woodsmen with axes demolishing Egypt depicted here as a hissing snake. (See Smith.)

   C. Coffman wrote that, “The serpent was sacred to one of the most prominent Egyptian gods and this symbol of the whole nation is sarcastically referred to in this verse.”

      1. The nation of Egypt is viewed as a snake running away from the woodsmen as they cut down the forest in which the snake took cover.

      2. Isaiah 29:4, You will fall; while lying on the ground you will speak; from the dust where you lie, your words will be heard. Your voice will sound like a spirit speaking from the underworld; from the dust you will chirp as if muttering an incantation. (NET)

II. They will come against her with axes as if they were woodsmen chopping down trees.

   A. “Egypt will be felled like a dense forest,” Willis advised.
B. The Pulpit Commentary states, “Egypt (like Jerusalem in Isaiah 29:4, is imagined as a maiden seated on the ground and faintly sighing; and her feeble voice is likened to the rustling sound of a serpent in motion.”

Jeremiah 46:23, The population of Egypt is like a vast, impenetrable forest. But I, the LORD, affirm that the enemy will cut them down. For those who chop them down will be more numerous than locusts. They will be too numerous to count. (NET)

I. The population of Egypt is like a vast, impenetrable forest. But I, the Lord, affirm that the enemy will cut them down.

A. Egypt is not known for forests, but figuratively it is pictured as a forest to be hewn down by the Babylonians.

B. Egypt’s grandeur is likened here to an impenetrable forest with its abundant, beautiful and valuable timber and resources which would be cut down, destroyed. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

1. Jeremiah 22:6-7, “For the LORD says concerning the palace of the king of Judah, “This place looks like a veritable forest of Gilead to me. It is like the wooded heights of Lebanon in my eyes. But I swear that I will make it like a wilderness whose towns have all been deserted. I will send men against it to destroy it with their axes and hatchets. They will hack up its fine cedar panels and columns and throw them into the fire. (NET)
2. Isaiah 2:13, for all the cedars of Lebanon, that are so high and mighty, for all the oaks of Bashan; (NET)

3. Isaiah 10:18-19, 33-34, The splendor of his forest and his orchard will be completely destroyed, as when a sick man’s life ebbs away. There will be so few trees left in his forest, a child will be able to count them. Look, the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, is ready to cut off the branches with terrifying power. The tallest trees will be cut down, the loftiest ones will be brought low. The thickets of the forest will be chopped down with an ax, and mighty Lebanon will fall. (NET)

II. For those who chop them down will be more numerous than locusts. They will be too numerous to count.

A. Fourth, the Babylonians are described as a vast swarm of locusts devouring everything in Egypt in their path. (See Smith.) (Also see Willis.)

1. Psalm 105:34, He ordered locusts to come, innumerable grasshoppers. (NET)

2. Nahum 3:15, There the fire will consume you; the sword will cut you down; it will devour you like the young locust would. Multiply yourself like the young locust; multiply yourself like the flying locust! (NET)
Jeremiah 46:24, Poor dear Egypt will be put to shame. She will be handed over to the people of the north. (NET)

I. Egypt was to be left in defeat, confounded and shamed.

II. Willis advised, “This heaping up of destructive images helps to convey the certainly of the Egyptian defeat and the relentless nature of the Babylonian attack.”

   A. The “people of the north” were the Babylonians, Chaldeans.

   B. This again is a sarcastic reference. Egypt was certainly not a “poor dear” anything to Judah.

Jeremiah 46:25, The LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will punish Amon, the god of Thebes. I will punish Egypt, its gods, and its kings. I will punish Pharaoh and all who trust in him. (NET)

I. The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will punish Amon, the god of Thebes.*

   A. *NET Footnote: Hebrew - Amon of No (that is, Thebes, the capital of Upper Egypt and the center for the worship of the god Amon).

   B. Thebes (No, No Amon) was the royal city of southern Egypt at modern Luxor, about 350 miles south of Cairo. Thebes not only was the capital of Egypt; it also served as the center of worship of the great Egyptian god Amon. On the east bank of the Nile the huge temple complexes at Karnak and Luxor where the Egyptians worshiped their gods
can still be seen. Many tombs of pharaohs, queens, and noblemen are located on the west bank of the Nile River. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Coffman quoting from the New Bible Commentary, Revised wrote, “Amon was the chief god of Upper Egypt and No (Thebes) was the capital and principal city of the area.”

II. I will punish Egypt, its gods and its kings. I will punish Pharaoh and all who trust in him.

A. Thebes, Hamilton wrote, was the chief god of Egypt.

1. Thebes and all Egypt’s lesser gods could not protect the country against Babylon and certainly not against the power and authority of the Lord God Almighty, the ruler of heaven and earth!

B. Smith wrote that Yahweh declared war on Egypt’s gods.

1. Amon, the sun god, would be humbled.

2. Thebes (No), the religious capital, would be left in ruins.

3. Pharaoh, who was regarded as a god, would be ridiculed in defeat, called a “windbag.”

a. Isaiah 36:6, Look, you must be trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed staff. If someone leans on it for support, it punctures his hand.
and wounds him. That is what Pharaoh king of Egypt does to all who trust in him! (NET)

Jeremiah 46:26, I will hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar and his troops, who want to kill them. But later on, people will live in Egypt again as they did in former times. I, the LORD, affirm it!” (NET)

I. I will hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar and his troops, who want to kill them.

A. It was God who handed the Egyptians over to the Babylonians who were intent on Egypt’s destruction.

B. Ezekiel 29:13, “For this is what the sovereign LORD says: At the end of forty years I will gather Egypt from the peoples where they were scattered. (NET)

C. God rules in the affairs of men.

1. Acts 17:24-27, The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives life and breath and everything to everyone. From one man he made every nation of the human race to inhabit the entire earth, determining their set times and the fixed limits of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope around for him and
find him, though he is not far from each one of us. (NET)

II. But later on, people will live in Egypt again as they did in former times.

   A. Those days of defeat would be transient. Good and prosperous days would in time return to Egypt.

   B. Even today twenty-six centuries later, Egypt stands, not as the glorious Egypt of old, but as a significant nation in world affairs. (Coffman)

III. I, the Lord, affirm it!

   A. What has been foretold is a sure thing . . . guaranteed by the word of the Lord himself!

   **A Promise of Hope for Israel**

   **Oracle Three**

Jeremiah 46:27, “You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid; do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I will rescue you and your descendants from the faraway lands where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They will be secure and no one will terrify them. (NET)

I. “You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid; do not be terrified, people of Israel.
A. In spite of all their sins, God would still use Israel to accomplish his purpose of bringing the Messiah into the world through them. (See Coffman.)

1. Isaiah 30:10-11, They say to the visionaries, “See no more visions!” and to the seers, “Don’t relate messages to us about what is right! Tell us nice things, relate deceptive messages. Turn aside from the way, stray off the path. Remove from our presence the Holy One of Israel.” (NET)

B. Matthew Henry wrote, “Comfort and peace are here spoken to the Israel of God. It may refer to the captives in Babylon for whom God had mercy in store, or, more generally, to all the people of God, designed for their encouragement in the most difficult times, when the judgments of God are abroad among the nations.”

C. God did not want his people then and does not want his people now to be afraid and terrified.

1. We are to be confident, courageous and bold in living for God and faithfully proclaiming his word.

II. For I will rescue you and your descendants from the faraway lands where you are captives.

A. As Egypt’s distress would be temporary, Israel’s troubles would also pass.

B. Remarkable is the fact that Jews have survived the Babylonian and Roman destructions of Jerusalem, dispersion among nations around the world and unspeakable
persecutions including the holocaust and still stand as a distinct people!

III. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace.

A. Jeremiah 50:4-7, “When that time comes,” says the LORD, “the people of Israel and Judah will return to the land together. They will come back with tears of repentance as they seek the LORD their God. They will ask the way to Zion; they will turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the LORD in a lasting covenant that will never be forgotten. ‘My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have allowed them to go astray. They have wandered around in the mountains. They have roamed from one mountain and hill to another. They have forgotten their resting place. All who encountered them devoured them. Their enemies who did this said, ‘We are not liable for punishment! For those people have sinned against the LORD, their true pasture. They have sinned against the LORD in whom their ancestors trusted.’ (NET)

B. Jeremiah 51:5-6, 10, 35-36, 45-46, 50, “For Israel and Judah will not be forsaken by their God, the LORD who rules over all. For the land of Babylonia is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. Get out of Babylonia quickly, you foreign people. Flee to save your lives. Do not let yourselves be killed because of her sins. For it is time for the LORD to wreak his revenge. He will pay Babylonia back for what she has done. The exiles from Judah will say, ‘The LORD has
brought about a great deliverance for us! Come on, let’s go and proclaim in Zion what the LORD our God has done!’ The person who lives in Zion says, “May Babylon pay for the violence done to me and to my relatives.” Jerusalem says, “May those living in Babylonia pay for the bloodshed of my people.” Therefore the LORD says, “I will stand up for your cause. I will pay the Babylonians back for what they have done to you. I will dry up their sea. I will make their springs run dry. “Get out of Babylon, my people! Flee to save your lives from the fierce anger of the LORD! Do not lose your courage or become afraid because of the reports that are heard in the land. For a report will come in one year. Another report will follow it in the next. There will be violence in the land with ruler fighting against ruler.” You who have escaped the sword, go, do not delay. Remember the LORD in a faraway land. Think about Jerusalem. (NET)

C. This they did following their return from the Babylonian captivity.

IV. They will be secure and no one will terrify them.

A. The exiles returning from Babylonian captivity need not be terrified...because God would be with them.

1. They did have opposition as Nehemiah found when he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, but he was successful because of his faith and confidence in God.
2. Nehemiah was not terrified because of the ridicules and opposition of people such as Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem.

3. They had a mind to work, were dedicated to the task, and were successful.

Jeremiah 46:28, I, the LORD, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servant, for I am with you. Though I completely destroy all the nations where I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will indeed discipline you but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” (NET)

I. I, the Lord, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servant, for I am with you.

A. In good times and bad, the descendants of Jacob are not to be afraid because the Lord promised to be with them!

1. As Judah previously had learned, God would be with them as long as they were faithful to the Lord.

2. Many of God’s promises are conditional.

II. Though I completely destroy all the nations where I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you.

A. As there was hope for the future of Egypt, there was hope for the people of Israel.

1. Jeremiah 30:10-11, So I, the LORD, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my
servants. Do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I will rescue you and your descendants from a faraway land where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They will be secure and no one will terrify them. For I, the LORD, affirm that I will be with you and will rescue you. I will completely destroy all the nations where I scattered you. But I will not completely destroy you. I will indeed discipline you, but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” (NET)

B. Through all these millennia many nations have risen and fallen, but the Jews have remained a distinctive people.

1. Driven from Palestine by the Romans and dispersed among all the world’s nations, the Jews have remained an identifiable people.

2. . . . and now many of them have returned to their homeland.

III. I will indeed discipline you, but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.

A. Judah had sinned for so long and so grievously they had to be punished, but God promised not to destroy them.

B. Keown, Sealise and Smothers wrote that verses 27-28 constitute a “salvation oracle” that strongly resembles several passages in Isaiah.
1. Isaiah 41:8-16, “You, my servant Israel, Jacob whom I have chosen, offspring of Abraham my friend, you whom I am bringing back from the earth’s extremities, and have summoned from the remote regions—I told you, “You are my servant.” I have chosen you and not rejected you. Don’t be afraid, for I am with you! Don’t be frightened, for I am your God! I strengthen you—yes, I help you—yes, I uphold you with my saving right hand! Look, all who were angry at you will be ashamed and humiliated; your adversaries will be reduced to nothing and perish. When you will look for your opponents, you will not find them; your enemies will be reduced to absolutely nothing. For I am the LORD your God, the one who takes hold of your right hand, who says to you, ‘Don’t be afraid, I am helping you.’ Don’t be afraid, despised insignificant Jacob, men of Israel. I am helping you,” says the LORD, your protector, the Holy One of Israel. “Look, I am making you like a sharp threshing sledge, new and double-edged. You will make the hills like straw. You will winnow them and the wind will blow them away; the wind will scatter them. You will rejoice in the LORD; you will boast in the Holy One of Israel. (NET)

2. Isaiah 43:1-7, Now, this is what the LORD says, the one who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: “Don’t be afraid, for I will protect you. I call you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I am with
you; when you pass through the streams, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not harm you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer. I have handed over Egypt as a ransom price, Ethiopia and Seba in place of you. Since you are precious and special in my sight, and I love you, I will hand over people in place of you, nations in place of your life. Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. From the east I will bring your descendants; from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, ‘Hand them over!’ and to the south, ‘Don’t hold any back!’ Bring my sons from distant lands, and my daughters from the remote regions of the earth, everyone who belongs to me, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed—yes, whom I made! (NET)

3. Isaiah 44:2-5, This is what the LORD, the one who made you, says—the one who formed you in the womb and helps you: “Don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen! For I will pour water on the parched ground and cause streams to flow on the dry land. I will pour my spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your children. They will sprout up like a tree in the grass, like poplars beside channels of water. One will say, ‘I belong to the LORD,’ and another will use the name ‘Jacob.’ One will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’ and use the name ‘Israel.’” (NET)
Conclusion:

I. God rules in the affairs of individuals and nations.

   A. This can certainly be seen in the biblical references to Babylon and Egypt, Assyria and Israel, Judah and its surrounding nations and Babylon.

   B. Long term as a rule, the righteous are blest and the wicked are punished.

II. God’s promises to repentant Judah were kept.

   A. God’s promises to his repentant people today will also be kept.

   B. Related references:

      1. Jeremiah 4:27, All this will happen because the LORD said, “The whole land will be desolate; however, I will not completely destroy it. (NET)

      2. Jeremiah 5:10,18, The LORD commanded the enemy, “March through the vineyards of Israel and Judah and ruin them. But do not destroy them completely. Strip off their branches for these people do not belong to the LORD. Yet even then I will not completely destroy you,” says the LORD. (NET)

      3. Jeremiah 30:11, For I, the LORD, affirm that I will be with you and will rescue you. I will completely destroy all the nations where I
scattered you. But I will not completely destroy you. I will indeed discipline you, but only in due measure. I will not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” (NET)

4. Jeremiah 9:10, I said, “I will weep and mourn for the grasslands on the mountains, I will sing a mournful song for the pastures in the wilderness because they are so scorched no one travels through them. The sound of livestock is no longer heard there. Even the birds in the sky and the wild animals in the fields have fled and are gone.” (NET)

5. Jeremiah 10:24, Correct us, LORD, but only in due measure. Do not punish us in anger or you will reduce us to nothing. (NET)

6. Jeremiah 1:8, Do not be afraid of those to whom I send you, for I will be with you to protect you,” says the LORD. (NET)

7. Jeremiah 15:20, I will make you as strong as a wall to these people, a fortified wall of bronze. They will attack you, but they will not be able to overcome you. For I will be with you to rescue you and deliver you,” says the LORD. (NET)
Questions

On

Jeremiah 46:1-28

1. What parts of Jeremiah 46 are written in prose and what parts are written as poetry? List characteristics of Hebrew poetry.

2. How is Jeremiah 46 indicative of the fact that the events addressed in the book of Jeremiah are not arranged in chronological order?

3. Jeremiah 46:1-51:64 contains ____________ made against ____________ _____________. The oracles were in the following order against ____________, ____________ (first), ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, and _____________ (second).
4. When was the first oracle pertaining to Egypt composed? When was the second Egyptian oracle composed. Give dates and background information about each oracle. 

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

5. According to Willis, what do these oracles show? What words best describe the content of these oracles? 

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

6. With what Kings, according to Coffman, was Jeremiah a contemporary? 

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

7. Besides Jeremiah, what other prophets spoke of the nations? What did each prophet say about the nations? 

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________
8. Locate Carchemish?
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

9. What happened at Carchemish in 609 B.C.?
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

10. What happened at Carchemish in 605 B.C.?
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

11. Locate the Euphrates River and explain its role in biblical history.
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

12. Who was Nebuchadnezzar? Give as much information as possible.
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

13. Who was Jehoiakim? Give as much information as possible.

14. Describe the armor, weaponry and attitude of the Egyptian soldiers as they marched into battle.

15. Define “brigandine.” How does this word relate to the events of Jeremiah 46?

16. Describe the monumental change within the Egyptian army which took place between verses 4 and 5. What caused this change?
17. What was Judah’s attitude toward Egypt’s defeat? What may have accounted this attitude? ____________________________

18. Why, according to Willis, was Judah’s joy to be short lived? __

19. Why could not even the swiftest and strongest Egyptian soldiers escape from the Babylonians? ______________________

20. What rose like the Nile at flood stage? Who stumbled and fell? Date these occurrences. Describe the circumstances in which each of these things happened. ________________
21. What in Jeremiah 46 tells us Pharaoh dreamed of world domination? Name other leaders who also dreamed of world domination?

22. Locate Ethiopia.

23. Locate Libya.

24. Locate Lydia.
25. Why were these places mentioned in connection with the Egyptian army? 

26. What day, according to verse 10, belonged to the Lord? 

27. What other days are called days of the Lord in the Bible? 

28. God rules overall. To what extent are the events of human history predestined by the Lord?
29. What does the Bible say about God’s “sword”? Define God’s “sword”. _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

30. The _____________ were ______________ to be _____________ at ______________. “The ______________ would provide ______________ a ______________ of their ______________ ______________,” Coffman wrote. _____________ _____________ is ______________ as a ______________ _____________ with a ______________ ______________ _____________ on his ______________.

31. Locate Gilead. For what was Gilead well known? _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

32. Identify the use of sarcasm in verse 11. _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

33. What was the cure for Egypt’s illness? _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

34. The ______________ ___ ___________ were filled with ______________ and ______________. In their ______________ ______________ they would ____________ over another and ______________ of them will ______________ ______________. This “_____________” could be referenced as their ______________ and ______________.

35. The __________ __ would hear of Egypt’s ______________ ______________. Their ______________ of ________ have ______________ throughout the ______________. Even to this day the ____________ ______________ of the ______________ ______________ by the ______________ is well known by ______________ ______________ ______________ and so it will ever been.

36. When did Nebuchadnezzar invade Egypt? What were the results of this attack? _________________

37. Locate Migdol? Give full information about Migdol and tell how it relates to the events of Jeremiah 46. ______________
38. Locate Memphis. Give full information about Memphis and tell how it relates to the events of Jeremiah 46.

39. Locate Tahpanhes. Give full information about Tahpanhes and tell how it relates to the events of Jeremiah 46.

40. The news of the coming _______________ was to be told in the _______________ _______________ of _______________ and _______________ and in the _______________ _______________ of _______________. The _______________ were to _______________ _______________ for _______________. The _______________ were _______________. The _______________ _______________, _______________, _______________, _______________, _______________, had been _______________.

41. Why were the Egyptian soldiers defeated? What factors were involved in producing the Babylonian victory?
42. ________ is ___________! After all these __________ of _______________ ______________, it does seem that a ______________ way of ______________ ______________ could, should have been _______________.

43. When they saw the ______________ of the ______________, the ______________ ______________ wanted to __________ _________________. They ______________ in ________________.

44. Pharaoh claimed to be divine. What, according to verse 17, did the Egyptians and/or mercenaries call Pharaoh? What did this mean? ____________________________________________

45. What did the King, the Lord who rules over all, swear? (See verse 18.) ____________________________________________

46. Locate and give information about Mount Carmel. ________

47. Locate and give information about Mount Tabor. __________

48. Who was the conqueror who was coming? What was the purpose of the mention of Mount Carmel and Mount Tabor in verse 18? ________________

49. What did Willis find to be similarities between the experiences of Judah and Egypt as they related to the Babylonians? (See verse 19.) ________________

50. The phrase, “____________ ___________ __________,” or “_________ of ____________” is parallel to “____________ ___________ of ____________” and means the __________ of ________________.
51. What is the significance of Memphis being laid waste? Why was Memphis rather than some other city cited in verse 19?

52. Why is Memphis as used in verse 19 an example of the fulfillment of prophecy?

53. What is the significance of likening Egypt to a “beautiful young cow” and the Babylonians to “swarms of stinging flies”?

54. What is the significance of likening the Egyptian mercenaries to “pampered, well-fed calves”? How did they conduct themselves in battle?
55. What is the significance of likening Egypt to a hissing snake slithering away from danger? ______________________________________

56. What is the significance of likening the Babylonians to woodsmen “chopping down trees” when Egypt was not known for being a forested country? ______________________________________

57. What is the significance of likening Egypt to a “vast, impenetrable forest”? ______________________________________

58. What is the significance of likening the Babylonians to locusts too numerous to be counted? What does the Bible say about locusts in other passages? ______________________________________
59. The “_____________ of the ______________” were the ________. ______________ was to be left in ______________, ______________ and ______________. ______________ was certainly not a “_____________ ______________” anything to ______________. This again is a ______________ ______________.

60. Locate and/or identify Amon of No and Thebes. Explain the importance and significance of Amon of No and Thebes. _______ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________.

61. God promised to punish ______________, its ______________, and its ______________, ______________ and ______________ who ______________ in him.

62. ______________ and ______________ ______________ _______________ could not ______________ the ______________ against ______________ and certainly not the ______________ and ______________ of the ______________ ______________ ______________, the ______________ of ______________ and ______________. ______________ promised to ______________ them over to ______________ and his ______________ who wanted to ______________ them.

63. What did the apostle Paul say about God ruling in the affairs of men? ______________________________________________
64. When and to what extent did Egypt recover from the troubles discussed in Jeremiah 46? ________________

65. The descendants of Jacob, God’s _____________, were told not to be _____________ nor _______________.


67. What promise did God make to the children of Jacob in verse 27? When was this promise fulfilled? If the promise has not yet been fulfilled, when will it be fulfilled? __________________
68. Why were the descendants of Jacob able to be unafraid? Was God’s promise to be with the descendants of Jacob conditional or unconditional? How does the holocaust figure in all this?

69. In ______________ ______________ and ______________, the ____________ of ____________ are not to be ______________ because the ________________ to be with them. As ______________ had previously learned, ______________ would be ______________ ______________ as __________ as ______________ were ______________ to the ______________. Many of ___________’s ______________ are ________________.

70. God promised, “Though I ____________ ______________ _________ the ______________ where I ____________ you, I will not ______________ you.”

71. Through all these ______________ many ______________ have ______________ and ______________, but the ______________ have ______________ a ______________ ______________. Driven from ______________ by the ______________ and ______________ among all the ________________’s ______________, the ______________ have remained an ______________ ______________. . . . and now many of them have ______________ to their ______________.

72. Compare what is said in Jeremiah 46:27-28 with what is said in Isaiah 41:8-16, Isaiah 43:1-7 and Isaiah 44:2-5. ______________
73. Give biblical examples which show that God rules in the affairs of men and nations.

74. Give biblical examples which show that long term, as a rule, the righteous are blessed and the wicked are punished.

75. What are some of the promises God has made to his people today?