

Handout: Jeremiah Lesson 13

In Chapters 25:1-29:32, Yahweh commands Jeremiah to preach submission to Babylonia. This section contains four major parts:

1. Jeremiah’s oracle that Judah and other nations must accept Babylonian rule as the will of God (Chapter 25).
2. A narrative concerning Jeremiah’s trial for delivering a prophetic sermon on the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple within the Temple complex (Chapter 26).
3. Jeremiah’s confrontation with the prophet Hananiah (Chapters 27-28).
4. Jeremiah’s letter to the Babylonian exiles (Chapter 29).

Symbolic imagery of the covenant relationship using the metaphor of drinking wine:

Drinking Wine	Part I	Part II	Part III	Part IV
Examples in Scripture	Joy of drinking good wine Isaiah 25:6-8; 62:8-9; 65:13; Jeremiah 31:12; 40:12	Becoming drunk Isaiah 5:11-12; 28:1; Jeremiah 8:13; 48:26; 51:7; Joel 1:5	Loss of wine; drinking the “cup of God’s wrath” Psalm 11:6; 75:8/9; Isaiah 51:17-23; 63:2-3; Jeremiah 13:12-14; 25:15-31; 49:12; 51:6-7; 48:26; Lamentations 4:21; Ezekiel 23:31-34; Joel 4:13; Habakkuk 2:16	Rejoicing in the best “new wine” at the Master’s table Promise: Zechariah 9:15-16; Joel 4:18; Amos 9:13 Fulfilled: Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Revelation 19:7-9

- ◆ Part I: Yahweh and his people enter into a Covenant relationship. Yahweh binds His people to Himself in the blessings of security and prosperity in return for obedience to the Covenant. Drinking the best wine is a symbol of covenant unity with God.
- ◆ Part II: The Covenant people ignore the Laws of the Covenant; they rebel by going their own way. They become drunk on their sins.
- ◆ Part III: God sends His holy prophet to call His people back to Him. Failing in this mission, the prophet calls down a Covenant Lawsuit, resulting in Covenant curses—punishment meant to bring about repentance and restoration. In judgment, the drink the “cup of God’s wrath.”
- ◆ Part IV: In response to repentance, Yahweh reaches out to restore and to take His people back into the Covenant relationship they first enjoyed. Jesus restores us through the “new wine” of the Eucharist.

The nations listed in verses 18-26 were all part of the Babylonian Empire. They are listed according to geographic location beginning with nations to the west of Judah, next the nations on the east across the Jordan River, nations to the southeast, and finally nations in the far northeast. Jeremiah’s oracle dooms twenty nations or city-states to drink the “cup” of Yahweh’s wrath when those states fall under the “yoke” of the Babylonians. Sheshak/Sheshach, the 21st nation, is a coded reference to Babylon and the last to drink from God’s cup of judgment when the nation is conquered by the Persians in 539 BC. The neo-Babylonian Empire covered the territories of modern Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

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