

Now Hear This *Ray Stedman*

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Jeremiah 46-51.
- B. Truth comes at several levels in this passage.
 - 1. There are nine nations in this passage historically.
 - 2. These nine nations correspond to our present reality.

II. Egypt.

- A. Egypt was the great nation until Babylon broke them.
- B. Egypt is always the world seeking after its own satisfaction and enjoyment.
- C. The world comes at us in surges and waves to get us back into bondage to it.
- D. The characterization of Egypt and the world to us is that it loves noise—it does not want to stop and think.
- E. God's response is to punish the evil doers.

III. The Philistines.

- A. They were always the enemy of Israel—they are types of the nominal Christian since they were in the land but enemies of God. This is also a picture of the same attitudes in every believer's heart.
- B. The advance of the Babylonian army meant the end of the Philistines.

IV. Five nations related to Israel: Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, and Arabia.

- A. These tribes represent the flesh—the part of us that we cannot get away from but is the inner enemy within.
- B. The confidence of Moab would be disturbed, but its fortunes would be restored.
- C. Ammon represents the aggressive spirit of insolence and arrogance that preys upon the believer, but even Ammon's fortunes would be destroyed.
- D. Edom represents the flesh lusting against the spirit, which would ultimately be destroyed.
- E. Arabia and Damascus are permitted to continue. They represent the restlessness of the flesh.

V. Elam.

A. It was a province of Babylon meriting a specific word from God.

B. It represents the evil thoughts of the devil.

VI. Babylon.

A. This represents the devil, especially as he uses false religion to claim authority.

B. Babylon would be desolate.

VII. These are great forces, but by faith, we can walk in the midst of them.

Application questions:

1. Which of these forces does the church fall prey to the most today, in your opinion? Explain.

2. Which of these forces do you find yourself struggling with the most? Explain.

3. Expand on what the speaker said—by faith we can walk in the midst of these great forces. What does this mean?
