

Jer. 52, Epilog
September 7, 1991
H. Van Dyke Parunak

Overview

There is a sense of fulfillment when a promise is kept. Promises of good are fulfilled with joy; promises of evil, with sadness, yet a sense of relief that the anticipation is finally over. This chapter records the fulfillment of God's promises of judgment, throughout the book of Jer, but with some surprising twists.

1. Three major divisions to this chapter:

a) 1-27, Zed under the Babylonians (< 2 Kings 24:18-25:21)

b) 28-30, the several deportations of the people. Excludes Daniel and his friends in Neb's accession year (Dan. 1:1), just after the death of Josiah, because Jer does not comment on these events in his book.)

| | Neb's Year | Number Deported | Jer's Ref | Note |
|----|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 1) | 7 | 3023 | 24 | = 2 Kings 24:12ff, 8th year, deportation of J'chin, with 10K or 18K people |
| 2) | 18 | 832 | 37++ | fall of the city; Zed. taken |
| 3) | 23 | 745 | 42 | prob. after death of Gedaliah; by Nebuzaradan |

c) 31-34, Jehoiachin (= Jeconiah, = Coniah) under the Babylonians

2. These draw our attention to the foregoing prophecies: those concerning the people in general (28-30), and those concerning the two exiled kings, Zed (1-27) and J'chin (31-34). This last chapter reminds us that these prophecies have indeed been fulfilled, though in some cases with a twist. Let's trace the connections.

A. 28-30, The Captivity of the People

Many times throughout the book Jer foretold the coming captivity. This passage particularly recalls 6:9, where the invader is compared to a gleaner going over the field again and again.

NB: These numbers cannot represent the main body of the people. 2 Kings 24:12ff shows that 10K were taken captive with J'chin alone, and the writer here, quoting adjacent parts of 2 Kings 24, can hardly be ignorant of these numbers. Perhaps the reference is to adult men here, and total population in 2 Kings.

B. 1-27, The Capture of Zedekiah

This is the longest part of the chapter, and sets forth first Zed's two-fold sin, then the punishment for each part.

1. His Sin, 2-3

Preferred translation highlights two aspects to his sin:

- a) Sin against the Lord, focus on Jerusalem: "He did that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that J'qim did, for it (his evil) provoked the anger of the Lord in Jerusalem and Judah, until he cast them away from his face."
- b) Rebellion against Neb: "And Zed rebelled against the King of Babylon."

Each of these aspects brings corresponding punishment in the next section.

- 2. His Punishment, 4-27. Divided into three parts by the date formulas.
 - a) General, 4-5: the siege. This leads to two specific outcomes, corresponding to the two specific sins.
 - b) Punishment for Sinning against Nebuchadnezzar, 6-11.
 - 1) The focus here is on Zed's specific interactions with Neb. Nothing is said about Jerusalem or its people.
 - 2) In fact, 9b-11 emphasizes this by altering plural verbs in 2 Kings 25 to singulars, making the King of Babylon the agent throughout. (2 Kings 25:6b-7 = Jer. 52:9b-10 are plural in Kings; 2K v.8 = Jer v.11 are both singular.)
 - c) Punishment for Sinning against God in Jerusalem, 12-27. Now the focus returns to Jerusalem and the people in it, corresponding to the description of the first sin in 2-3a. It was in Jerusalem that Zed's sin provoked the Lord; now, in Jerusalem, the judgment falls.
- 3. The Prophecy, 34:1-5. Falls into two parts, one immediate (and fulfilled here); the other more remote (and quite unexpected, given what we read here).
 - a) 2-3 clearly fulfilled.
 - b) 4-5 must seem very distant to Zed as he stands before Neb in Riblah, yet God graciously gives them to him as a light in his darkness. In the midst of his deepest suffering, he can hold on to God's gracious promise.

C. 31-34, The Release of J'chin

- 1. Accession of Ewil-Merodach, the successor of Neb, is 562. Why J'chin and not Zed? Probably because Zed has already died, and received the funeral that God promised him.
- 2. The governing prophecy in this case is 22:24-30. Like Zed's prophecy, it is partially fulfilled, but leaves some for the future, and the future part seems very remote from the standpoint of the events here.
 - a) Certainly, J'chin has been cast out of Judah, never to return.

- b) Yet his situation seems rather comfortable here, 37 years after he was taken captive.
- c) But in the midst of his renewed prosperity, the latter part of the prophecy must come back again and again to haunt him: his seed is excluded from ever sitting on the throne of David.

Summary

- 1. All three sections of this chapter remind us that God keeps his promises.
- 2. The reports of Zed and J'chin remind us that "it's not over until the fat lady sings." In his extreme humiliation, Zed could still look forward to being honored by his people as a king; while J'chin, even though honored by Neb's successor, would have to realize that his line was cut off and at an end. Cf. Psa. 73.
- 3. These vignettes of prophecy fulfilled and yet to be fulfilled may have a further point. Like the promises to Zed and J'chin, the book as a whole has near-term and far-term promises. The near-term promises concern the fall of Jerusalem; these are fulfilled. The far-term promises, notably 30-33, still lie ahead. By showing us the first part but not the second of the prophecies of these two kings, Jer reminds us that the fall of Jerusalem realizes part, but not all, of what God promised him. And by showing us how incongruent the short-term and long-term outcomes are for the two kings, he reminds us that the darkness of Judah's night of captivity will be overwhelmed by the glory of the restoration of the Davidic kingdom in the age to come.
- 4. [Started preaching Jer on 30 Apr 1989; 2 years, 4.5 months]

Psalm: 24

Analysis

- A. 1, Enthronement notice
 - 1. 1 B.EN-(E&:RIYM W:/)AXAT \$FNFH CID:QIY.FHW. B:/MFL:K/OW
 - 2. W:/)AXAT (E&:R"H \$FNFH MFLAK: B.I/YRW.\$FLFIM
 - 3. W:/ \$"M)IM./OW {X:AMIY+AL} [X:AMW.+AL] B.AT-YIR:M:YFHW. MI/L.IB:NFH
- B. 2-3, Summary of Zed's two-fold sin (against the Lord, and against Babylon)
 - 1. ampl p
 - a) text: 2 WA/Y.A(A& HF/RA(B.:/("YN"Y Y:HWFH K.:/KOL):A\$ER-(F&FH Y:HOWYFQIYM
 - b) ampl:
 - 1) 3 K.IY (AL-)AP Y:HWFH HFY:TFH B.I/YRW.\$FLAIM WI/YHW.DFH
 - a> Subject of HFY:TFH is HFRA(in v.2
 - b> For syntax, compare JER 32:31 K.IY (AL-)AP./IY W:/(AL-X:AMFT/IY HFY:TFH L./IY HF/(IYR HA/Z.O)T L:/MIN-HA/Y.OWM):A\$ER B.FNW.)OWT/FH. W:/(AD HA/Y.OWM HA/Z.EH LA/H:ASIIYR/FH. M"/(AL P.FNFY

- 2) (AD-HI\$:LIYK/OW)OWT/FM M"/(AL P.FNFY/W--amplified in vv.12-27.
2. WA/Y.IM:ROD CID:QIY.FHW. B.:/MELEK: B.FBEL--amplified in vv.6-11.
- C. 4-5, temporal p: Neb. besieges the city. (Zed. 9:10.10)
1. time: 4 WA/Y:HIY BA/\$.FNFH HA/T.:\$I(IYT L:/MFL:K/OW B.A/XODE\$ HF/(:A&IYRIY B.E/(F&OWR LA/XODE\$
 2. text: sequence p
 - a) B.F) N:BW.KAD:RE)C.AR MELEK:-B.FBEL HW.) W:/KFL-X"YL/OW (AL-Y:RW.\$FLAIM
 - b) WA/Y.AX:ANW. (FLEY/HF
 - c) WA/Y.IB:NW. (FLEY/HF D.FY"Q SFBIYB
 - d) 5 WA/T.FBO) HF/(IYR B.A/M.FCOWR (AD (A\$:T."Y (E&:R"H \$FNFH LA/M.ELEK: CID:QIY.FHW.
- D. 6-11, temporal p: fall of the city and capture of Zedekiah (Zed. 11:4.9). Shows the result of Zed's sin against Neb. Note how the action slows down and everything is spelled out in excruciating detail. This is peak.
1. time: temporal p

The w on wyxqz is required to form a temporal link with v.7. Translate "In the fourth month, when the famine had taken hold of the land, so that there was no food for the people of the land, the city was broken up. Then (at that time)" ... seq p. about the men of war.

 - a) antecedent event: ampl p
 - 1) text: 6 B.A/XODE\$ HF/R:BIY(IY B.:/TI\$: (FH LA/XODE\$ WA/Y.EX:EZAQ HF/RF(FB B.F/(IYR
 - 2) ampl: W:/LO)-HFYFH LEXEM L:/(AM HF/)FREC
 - b) concurrent event: 7 WA/T.IB.FQA(HF/(IYR
 2. text: seq p
 - a) Actions of the Judeans
 - 1) W:/KFL-)AN:\$"Y HA/M.IL:XFMFH YIB:R:XW. !!! impf? Waltke 31.2 #'s 7-10. They began to flee from the city.
 - 2) WA/Y."C:)W. M"/HF/(IYR LAY:LFH D.EREK: \$A(AR B."YN-HA/XOMOTAYIM):A\$ER (AL-G.AN HA/M.ELEK: a> W:/KA&:D.IYM (AL-HF/(IYR SFBIYB
 - 3) WA/Y."L:KW. D.EREK: HF/(:ARFBFH
 - b) Actions of the Babylonians
 - 1) 8 WA/Y.IR:D.:PW. X"YL-K.A&:D.IYM)AX:AR"Y HA/M.ELEK:
 - 2) WA/Y.A&.IYGW.)ET-CID:QIY.FHW. B.:/(AR:BOT Y:R"XOW a> W:/KFL-X"YL/OW NFPOCW. M"/(FLFY/W
 - 3) 9 WA/Y.IT:P.:&W.)ET-HA/M.ELEK:
 - 4) WA/Y.A(:ALW.)OT/OW)EL-MELEK: B.FBEL RIB:LFTFH B.:/)EREC X:AMFT
 - c) Actions of the King of Babylon (shift from 2 Kings 25, where verbs are plural--the emphasis here is on the king-to-king confrontation)
 - 1) WA/Y:DAB."R)IT./OW MI\$:P.F+IYM

- 2) 10 WA/Y.IŞ:XA+ MELEK:-B.FBEL)ET-B.:N"Y CID:QIY.FHW.
L:/("YNYFY/W
a> W:/GAM)ET-K.FL-&FR"Y Y:HW.DFH \$FXA+ B.:/RIB:LFTFH
b> 11 W:/)ET-("YN"Y CID:QIY.FHW. (IW."R
- 3) WA/Y.A)AS:R/"HW. BA/N:XUŞ:T.AYIM
- 4) WA/Y:BI)/"HW. MELEK:-B.FBEL B.FBEL/FH
- 5) WA/Y.IT.:N/"HW. {B:/B"YT}- [B"YT]-HA/P.:QUD.OT (AD-YOWM
MOWT/OW

E. 12-27, seq p: Deeds of Nebuzaradan in Jerusalem (Neb. 19:5.10--note shift to dating by Nebuchadnezzar, now that Zed is captured.) Shows the result of Zed's sin against the Lord in Jerusalem.

- 1. 12 W./BA/XODEŞ HA/X:AMIYŞIY B.E/(F&OWR LA/XODEŞ HIY) \$:NAT
T.:ŞA(-(E&:R"H \$FNFH LA/M.ELEK: N:BW.KAD:RE)C.AR MELEK:-B.FBEL
B.F) N:BW.ZAR:):ADFN RAB-+AB.FXIYM (FMAD LI/P:N"Y MELEK:-B.FBEL
B.I/YRW.ŞFLFIM
- 2. Destruction and confiscation of property--all disjunctive
clauses. Like an inventory.
 - a) 13 WA/Y.I&:ROP)ET-B."YT-Y:HWFH W:/)ET-B."YT HA/M.ELEK:
 - b) W:/)"T K.FL-B.FT."Y Y:RW.ŞFLAIM W:/)ET-K.FL-B."YT HA/G.FDOWL
&FRAP B.F/)"Ş
 - c) 14 W:/)ET-K.FL-XOMOWT Y:RW.ŞFLAIM SFBIYB NFT:CW. K.FL-X"YL
K.A&:D.IYM):AŞER)ET-RAB-+AB.FXIYM
 - d) 15 W./MI/D.AL.OWT HF/(FM W:/)ET-YETER HF/(FM HA/N.IŞ:)FRIYM
B.F/(IYR W:/)ET-HA/N.OP:LIYM):AŞER NFP:LW.)EL-MELEK: B.FBEL
W:/)"T YETER HF/)FMOWN HEG:LFH N:BW.ZAR:):ADFN RAB-+AB.FXIYM
 - e) 16 W./MI/D.AL.OWT HF/)FREC HIŞ:)IYR N:BW.ZAR:):ADFN
RAB-+AB.FXIYM L:/KOR:MIYM W./L:/YOG:BIYM
 - f) seq p
 - 1) 17 W:/)ET-(AM.W.D"Y HA/N.:XOŞET):AŞER L:/B"YT-Y:HWFH
W:/)ET-HA/M.:KONOWT W:/)ET-YFM HA/N.:XOŞET):AŞER
B.:/B"YT-Y:HWFH \$IB.:RW. KA&:D.IYM
 - 2) WA/Y.I&:)W.)ET-K.FL-N:XUŞ:T.FM B.FBEL/FH
 - g) 18 W:/)ET-HA/S.IROWT W:/)ET-HA/Y.F(IYM W:/)ET-HA/M:ZAM.:ROWT
W:/)ET-HA/M.IZ:RFQOT W:/)ET-HA/K.AP.OWT W:/)"T K.FL-K.:L"Y
HA/N.:XOŞET):AŞER-Y:ŞFR:TW. B/FHEM LFQFXW.
 - h) 19 W:/)ET-HA/S.IP.IYM W:/)ET-HA/M.AX:T.OWT
W:/)ET-HA/M.IZ:RFQOWT W:/)ET-HA/S.IYROWT W:/)ET-HA/M.:NOROWT
W:/)ET-HA/K.AP.OWT W:/)ET-HA/M.:NAQIYOWT):AŞER ZFHFB ZFHFB
WA/):AŞER-K.ESEP K.FSEP LFQAX RAB-+AB.FXIYM
 - i) 20 HF/(AM.W.DIYM \$:NAYIM HA/Y.FM)EXFD W:/HA/B.FQFR
\$:N"YM-(F&FR N:XOŞET):AŞER-T.AXAT HA/M.:KONOWT):AŞER (F&FH
HA/M.ELEK: \$:LOMOH L:/B"YT Y:HWFH LO)-HFYFH MIŞ:QFL
LI/N:XUŞ:T./FM K.FL-HA/K."LIYM HF/)"L.EH
 - j) 21 W:/HF/(AM.W.DIYM
 - 1) \$:MONEH (E&:R"H)AM.FH {QOWMFH} [QOWMAT] HF/(AM.UD HF/)EXFD
 - 2) W:/XW.+ \$:T."YM-(E&:R"H)AM.FH Y:SUB.EN.W.
 - 3) W:/)FB:Y/OW)AR:B.A()AC:B.F(OWT
 - 4) NFBW.B
 - 5) 22 W:/KOTERET (FLFY/W N:XOŞET
 - 6) W:/QOWMAT HA/K.OTERET HF/)AXAT XFM"\$)AM.OWT W./&:BFKFH
W:/RIM.OWNIYM (AL-HA/K.OWTERET SFBIYB HA/K.OL N:XOŞET

- 7) W:/KF/)"L.EH LA/(AM.W.D HA/\$."NIY W:/RIM.OWNIYM
 8) 23 WA/Y.IH:YW. HF/RIM.ONIYM T.I\$:(IYM W:/\$I\$.FH RW.XFH
 9) K.FL-HF/RIM.OWNIYM M")FH (AL-HA/&.:BFKFH SFBIYB

3. chiasitic p: Nebuz. took captives

- a) 24 WA/Y.IQ.AX RAB-+AB.FXIYM)ET-&:RFYFH K.OH"N HF/RO)\$
 W:/)ET-C:PAN:YFH K.OH"N HA/M.I\$:NEH W:/)ET-\$:LO\$ET \$OM:R"Y
 HA/S.AP
- b) 25 W./MIN-HF/(IYR LFQAX SFRIYS)EXFD):A\$ER-HFYFH PFQIYD
 (AL-)AN:\$"Y HA/M.IL:XFMFH W:/\$IB:(FH):ANF\$IYM M"/RO)"Y
 P:N"Y-HA/M.ELEK:):A\$ER NIM:C:)W. BF/(IYR W:/)"T SOP"R &AR
 HA/C.FBF) HA/M.AC:B.I))ET-(AM HF/)FREC W:/\$I\$.IYM)IY\$ M"/(AM
 HF/)FREC HA/N.IM:C:)IYM B.:/TOWK: HF/(IYR
4. 26 WA/Y.IQ.AX)OWT/FM N:BW.ZAR:):ADFN RAB-+AB.FXIYM
 5. WA/Y.OLEK:)OWT/FM)EL-MELEK: B.FBEL RIB:LFT/FH
 6. 27 WA/Y.AK.EH)OWT/FM MELEK: B.FBEL
 7. WA/Y:MIT/"M B.:/RIB:LFH B.:/)EREC X:AMFT
 8. WA/Y.IGEL Y:HW.DFH M"/(AL)AD:MFT/OW

F. 28-30, Tally of the Exiles: chiasitic summary p

1. summary: 28 ZEH HF/(FM):A\$ER HEG:LFH N:BW.KAD:RE)C.AR
 2. text:
 a) B.I/\$:NAT-\$EBA(Y:HW.DIYM \$:LO\$ET):ALFPIYM W:/(E&:RIYM
 W./\$:LO\$FH
 b) 29 B.I/\$:NAT \$:MOWNEH (E&:R"H LI/N:BW.KAD:RE)C.AR
 MI/YRW.\$FLAIM NEPE\$ \$:MONEH M")OWT \$:LO\$IYM W./\$:NFIYM
 c) 30 B.I/\$:NAT \$FLO\$ W:/(E&:RIYM LI/N:BW.KAD:RE)C.AR HEG:LFH
 N:BW.ZAR:):ADFN RAB-+AB.FXIYM Y:HW.DIYM NEPE\$ \$:BA(M")OWT
)AR:B.F(IYM WA/X:AMI\$.FH
 (NB: not MYRW\$LYM; could be from Egypt, but that was Neb's
 37th year, acc. to ANET 308, see notes on 46:13)
3. summary: K.FL-NEPE\$)AR:B.A(AT):ALFPIYM W:/\$" \$ M")OWT P

G. 31-34, Restoration of Jehoiachin: temporal p

1. time: 31 WA/Y:HIY BI/\$:LO\$IYM WF/\$EBA(\$FNFH L:/GFLW.T
 Y:HOWYFKIN MELEK:-Y:HW.DFH B.I/\$:N"YM (F&FR XODE\$ B.:/(E&:RIYM
 WA/X:AMI\$.FH LA/XODE\$
2. sequence p:
 a) NF&F)):EWIYL M:RODAK: MELEK: B.FBEL B.I/\$:NAT MAL:KUT/OW
)ET-RO)\$ Y:HOWYFKIYN MELEK:-Y:HW.DFH
 b) WA/Y.OC")OWT/OW MI/B."YT {HA/K.:LIY} [HA/K.:LW.))
 c) 32 WA/Y:DAB."R)IT./OW +OBOWT
 d) WA/Y.IT."N)ET-K.IS:)/OW MI/M.A(AL L:/KIS.") {M:LFKIYM}
 [HA/M.:LFKIYM]):A\$ER)IT./OW B.:/BFBEL
3. coordinate p:
 a) 33 W:/\$IN.FH)"T B.IG:D"Y KIL:)/OW
 b) ampl p
 1) text: W:/)FKAL LEXEM L:/PFNFY/W T.FMIYD K.FL-Y:M"Y XAY./FW
 2) ampl: 34 WA/):ARUXFT/OW):ARUXAT T.FMIYD NIT.:NFH-L./OW
 M"/)"T MELEK:-B.FBEL D.:BAR-YOWM B.:/YOWM/OW (AD-YOWM
 MOWT/OW K.OL Y:M"Y XAY.FY/W