

# Jeremiah

## Chapter 47

### *Judgment on the Philistines*

**The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh struck down Gaza. 2 “Thus says the LORD: Behold, waters are rising out of the north, and shall become an overflowing torrent; they shall overflow the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. Men shall cry out, and every inhabitant of the land shall wail. 3 At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his stallions, at the rushing of his chariots, at the rumbling of their wheels, the fathers look not back to their children, so feeble are their hands, 4 because of the day that is coming to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon every helper that remains. For the LORD is destroying the Philistines, the remnant of the coastland of Caphtor. 5 Baldness has come upon Gaza; Ashkelon has perished. O remnant of their valley, how long will you gash yourselves? 6 Ah, sword of the LORD! How long till you are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard; rest and be still! 7 How can it be quiet when the LORD has given it a charge? Against Ashkelon and against the seashore he has appointed it.”**

**Ch 47** The conquering forces “out of the north” (Babylon) would inundate the Philistines, leaving devastation in their wake. (TLSB)

**47:1** *concerning the Philistines.* They were ancient enemies of the people of Israel on the west, along the shores of the Mediterranean. (Kretzmann)

*Pharaoh.* It is uncertain whether Neco II or Hophra is intended. (CSB)

*struck down Gaza.* Before the Babylonians defeated the Philistines, the city-state of Gaza, one of the Philistines’ southernmost strongholds, fell to the Egyptians. Pharaohs Psamtik I (664–610 BC) and Neco II (610–595 BC) were both active in Philistia. (TLSB)

*Gaza.* The exact occasion of this conquest is a matter of conjecture. It may be that Pharaoh-necho took the city after the battle of Megiddo, or that Pharaoh-hophra smote the city after his vain attempt to drive the Chaldeans out of the country. At any rate, Gaza was strong enough after its conquest by Pharaoh to be an object of anxious concern and to demand stern measures on account of its opposition to Jehovah. The exact occasion of this conquest is a matter of conjecture. It may be that Pharaoh-necho took the city after the battle of Megiddo, or that Pharaoh-hophra smote the city after his vain attempt to drive the Chaldeans out of the country. At any rate, Gaza was strong enough after its conquest by Pharaoh to be an object of anxious concern and to demand stern measures on account of its opposition to Jehovah. (Kretzmann)

**47:2** *the north.* Babylonia, as in 1:13–14; 46:20. (CSB)

*overflowing torrent* – Like a winter torrent, carrying everything before it. (Kretzmann)

*the land ... dwell in them.* The Hebrew for this phrase is repeated verbatim from 8:16. (CSB)

*land.* Phoenicia and Philistia. *towns.* Includes Tyre and Sidon (see v. 4) as well as Gaza, Ashkelon (see v. 5) and other Philistine cities. (CSB)

**47:3** *stallions*. Lit. “strong ones.” (CSB)

*look not back*. No hope of rescue. (TLSB)

*feeble are their hands*. Paralyzed by terror (see 6:24; Isa 13:7). (CSB)

A general powerlessness having taken hold of them, making it impossible for them even to think of defending themselves. (Kretzmann)

**47:4** *Tyre and Sidon*. Phoenician allies of the Philistines. (TLSB)

*Caphtor*. Crete One of many islands in the Mediterranean believed to be the original homeland of the Philistines. (CSB)

Likely the island of Crete, from which the Philistines may have migrated to Canaan. (TLSB)

**47:5** *baldness has come*. Shaving the head was a sign of mourning. (TLSB)

One of the city-states of Philistia, due to tearing out the hair because of great grief. (Kretzmann)

*Ashkelon*. Another Philistine city-state located north of Gaza along the Great Sea. (TLSB)

*valley*. Roughly equivalent to the modern Gaza Strip, it lay west of the foothills that separated Philistia from Judah. (CSB)

**47:6** *sword of the LORD!* Egypt, which punishes the Philistines. (TLSB)

*you*. The Philistines. (CSB)

**47:7** *against Ashkelon*. The immediate fulfillment took place under Nebuchadnezzar in 604 B.C. (CSB)

*seashore*. See Eze 25:16; the Philistine plain. (CSB)

**Ch 47** Jeremiah proclaims an oracle against the Philistines. God will settle all accounts in the end, bringing perfect justice to the peoples of the world. God rescues faithful Judeans from many earthly enemies, but the greatest rescue He accomplished is saving people from the Law’s eternal condemnation. This He accomplished for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. • Lift our hearts, O Lord, when troubles come into our lives; keep our eyes on Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen. (TLSB)