Clips from Psalms

Psalms 97:6-7
Jehovah's Power and Dominion

"The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory. Let all them be put to shame that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods."
None of the things Babylon trusted in would save them. Jeremiah writes, "The wall of Babylon shall fall." There was no nation, deity, or structure of man that had the power to keep Jehovah from his objectives. The Lord said, "Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall destroyers come unto her, saith Jehovah" (Jeremiah 51:53). Babylon's deities would be put to shame (Jeremiah 51:44, 47). Isaiah writes of her idolatry saying, "1 Bel boweth down, Nebu stooppeth; their idols are upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: the things ye carried about are made a load, a burden to the weary beast. 2 They strop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity" (Isaiah 46:1-2).

**Babylon Falls at the Hands of the Medes and Persians**

The Lord determined to punish Babylon as all other nations who walked in wickedness (Jeremiah 25:12; 50:51; 50:14). The Lord would bring the Medes and Persians against Babylon and they would be conquered (Jeremiah 51:11; Daniel 5:24-28). Isaiah writes, "17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, who shall not regard silver, and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. 18 And their bows shall dash the young men in pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb: their eye shall not spare children. 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah" (Isaiah 13:17-19).

Cyrus, a Persian military leader, defeated the Medes and brought the Medo-Persian Empire together at 509 BC. Cyrus took the city of Babylon in 500 - 495 BC giving it to Darius the Mede (see Daniel 5:31). Jehovah had made known the fall of Babylon approximately one hundred and fifty years before it would actually happen. Isaiah went as far as even naming Cyrus over a hundred years before he would be born (Isaiah 44:28).

Cyrus defeated Babylon in what is known in history as the Battle of Opis. The famed walls of Babylon were indeed impenetrable with the only way into the city through one of its many gates or through the Euphrates which ebbed beneath its thick walls. Metal gates at the river's in-flow and out-flow prevented underwater intruders, if one could hold one's breath to reach them. Cyrus (or his generals) devised a plan to use the Euphrates as the mode of entry to the city, ordering large camps of troops at each point and instructed them to wait for the signal. Awaiting an evening of a national feast among Babylonians Cyrus' troops diverted the Euphrates river upstream, causing the Euphrates to drop to about 'mid thigh level on a man' or to dry up altogether (Daniel 5). The soldiers marched under the walls through the lowered water. The Persian Armies conquered the outlying areas of the city's interior while a majority of Babylonians at the city center were oblivious to the breach (see Wikipedia on the Battle of Opis).

**God's Purpose Accomplished**

The "purpose" of God was accomplished against Babylon (Jeremiah 51:29). There are three lessons that we may learn from a study of Babylon.

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The "purpose" of God was accomplished against Babylon (Jeremiah 51:29). There are three lessons that we may learn from a study of Babylon.

First, Babylon, like Judah and all sinful nations before and after, must come to understand the universal sovereignty of God. All must acknowledge that "Jehovah of hosts is his name" before any changes can be made in their hearts (Jeremiah 51:19). God is "He who made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding hath he stretched out the heavens. When he uttereth his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he makes lightnings for the rain, and brings forth the wind out of his treasuries" (Jeremiah 51:15-16). Isaiah tells of the coming of Cyrus as he writes, "12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob, and Israel my called: I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. 13 Yea, my hand hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spread out the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together. 14 Assemble yourselves, all ye, and hear; who among them hath declared these things? He whom Jehovah loveth shall perform his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans. 15 I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him; I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous" (Isaiah 48:12-15).

Sinful man is moved to acknowledge God and repent of their sins by recognizing his glorious, powerful, and far-reaching in this universe. God presses man forcing him to either repent and suffer and die in their sins. The book of Jeremiah records God's pressing of Judah and Babylon. The book of Revelation records God's pressing of the world to repent (see Revelation 9, 16). The Apostle Paul writes, "God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7-8).

In contrast, Babylon believed that they were innocent seeing that they were doing the work of God. If God did not spare his own people what makes sinful man believe they can escape the judgment of God (2 Peter 2:4-6)?