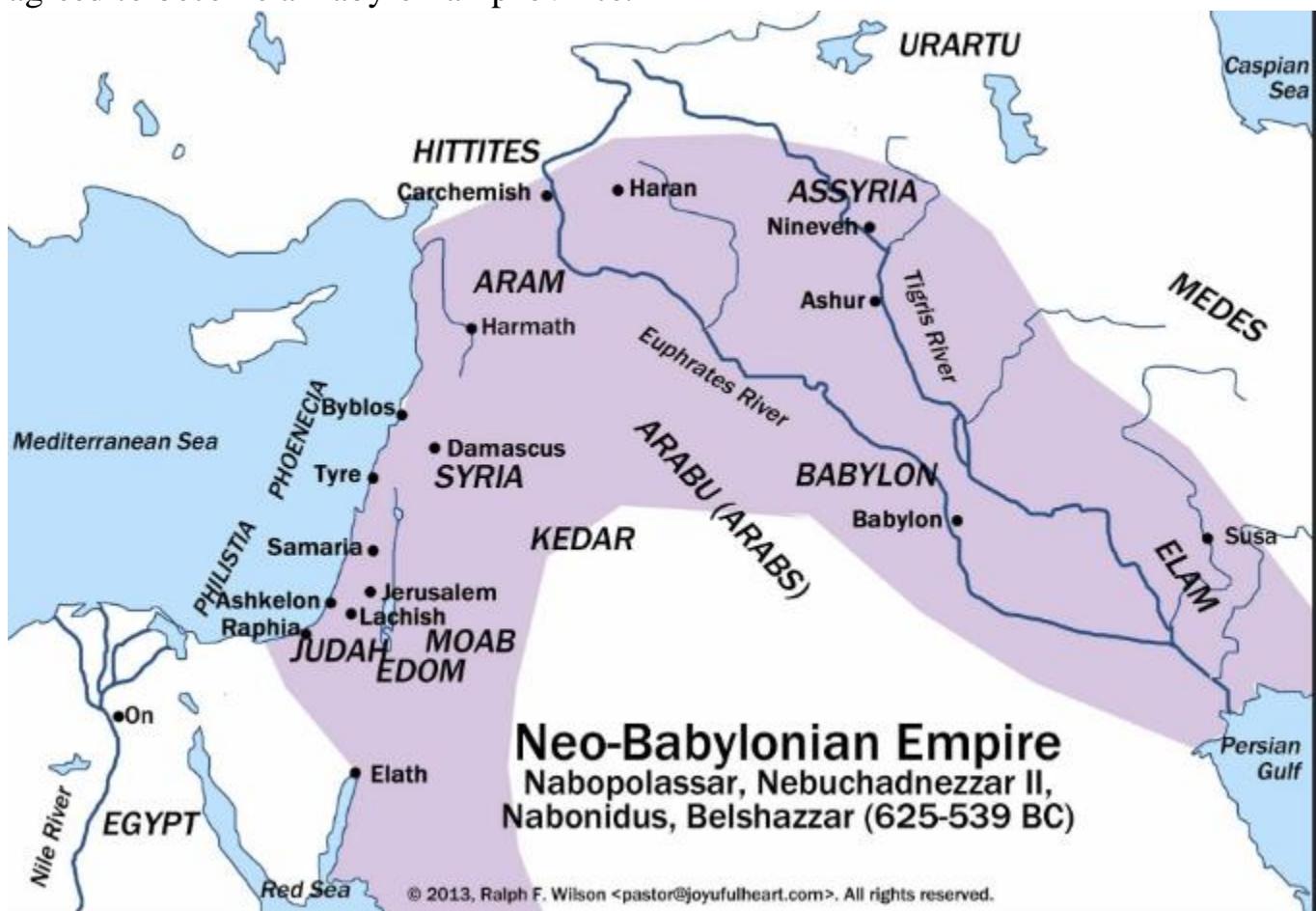


## Jeremiah 27

### Interational Alert

**Read Jeremiah 27:1-11:** God was warning all of the nations that surrounded Israel, that he had commissioned Nebuchadnezzar to take control over their lands and peoples. The bible is largely about Israel, and specifically the line of the messiah; but there is peripheral information too. We typically don't focus or follow how this prophecy played out to the other nations being warned here.

Anyone resisting Nebuchadnezzar or running away will add to their curses and die. God had prophesied through Daniel that Babylon would be the ultimate manmade empire (but it was really God made). Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. Elsewhere he was described as a huge tree to feed the world and provide an alternate life while God closed their countries for sanitation and maintenance. Ammon and other nations were pounded by Nebuchadnezzar and agreed to become a Babylonian province.



*I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, And its height was great. The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it. (Daniel 4:11-12)*

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a tremendous impact on the nation of Israel and the history of the ancient Near East. He is referred to by name over 90 times in the Old Testament. The nation of Ammon became a Babylonian province, so it lived on to remain a nation. In fact, it flourished because it was used to outside controlling influence. Ammon was absorbed into the Arab nations during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Moab was captured and deported by Babylon. The Nabateans destroyed Moab in 400 BC. Tyre was a prosperous coastal nation to the north. Tyre's mainland city fell to the siege of Nebuchadnezzar; forcing them to relocate to their offshore island. Alexander later built a causeway and wiped Tyre out. All of this national turnover and repossession was all part of God's plan of Israel.

*For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. (Habakkuk 1:6)*

### False Prophecy

Jeremiah was opposed by numerous false prophets. What is a false prophet? For starters, a prophet must be 100% accurate. False prophets were supposed to be killed as a menace to the public. We hear bad advice all day long in the media our godless culture tries to figure it out on their own. Following bad advice could get everyone killed.

*But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. ' And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)*

What makes a false prophet do what they do? One reason is that they have no fear of God; and they insert their own opinion. Here are some comparisons between false and true prophets:

- A false prophet will act on presumption, with little supporting evidence as they are predisposed to a favorite outcome. This is self-inspired verses how a true prophet is God inspired.
- A false prophet wants something for himself. He wants recognition, acceptance, wealth and prestige. A true prophet can experience public ridicule and hatred and contempt. People want to kill the messenger.

*And the LORD said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart. (Jeremiah 14:14)*

Another reason for this confusion is that they are seeking popularity and approval and reward and public standing. They are not following the Good Shepherd and they do not hear his voice.

*For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because there is no shepherd. (Zechariah 10:2)*

False prophecy is the same as *blasphemy*. We all make scriptural mistakes. Blasphemy includes your intentions. You are putting words into God's mouth...or taking words out of his mouth. We are told that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin. That is to have a clear understanding of what God is doing, and to clearly mischaracterize it in order to serve our own agenda. The Devil is a pro at this. He manipulates all of us to get what he wants.... treason against God.

*Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1-5)*

False prophets and those who commit blasphemy are not Spirit-led. If you are not Spirit led, you are led by your flesh...and ultimately led by *the evil one*.

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)*

*They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” (John 8:39-44)*

Here are a few other things that go hand in hand with false prophecy and blasphemy:

They are adulterous

*"And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err. Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah. (Jeremiah 23:13-14)*

They are Treacherous

*Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people; Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, They have done violence to the law. (Zephaniah 3:4)*

**Read Jeremiah 27:12-22:** People may not say that God is not real, but they are willing to put words in his mouth to accomplish their agenda. The Bible says that our hearts are deceitfully wicked. This all makes it pretty clear that we are adept and inclined to convince ourselves that what we want to happen is reality. We are living in an increasingly virtual world.