Reading Guide for Jeremiah 25

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Judgment on Judah: They Will Serve Babylon 70 Years (25:1-14)
   This oracle begins in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, 605 B.C. There is a recognition that for 23 years (627-605), Jeremiah's persistent messages regarding judgment and repentance have gone unheeded. Because of this, Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army will be used as the instrument of God's judgment upon Judah, as well as all the nations. This oracle ends (vv. 11-14) with the Lord's assurance that Babylon's dominance will only last seventy years and afterwards they themselves will face judgment.

> *Superscription (25:1-2)*
> *Indictment Upon Judah (25:3-7)*
> *Judgment Upon Judah (25:8-11)*
> *Judgment Upon Babylon (25:12-14)*

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Judgment on the Nations: They Will Drink the Cup of God's Wrath (25:15-29)
   The next oracle expands on the emphasis of Babylon's conquest on all nations as judgment against them. In a sign-act similar to those performed in chapters 13 and 19, Jeremiah is called to take the cup of God's wrath and command all the nations to drink from it. As in the previous oracle, there is assurance that Babylon too will eventually drink of the cup of the Lord's judgment (v. 26).

> *Command: Make the Nations Drink the Cup (25:15-16)*
> *Response: Giving the Cup (25:17)*
> *List of Nations (25:18-26)*
> *Command: Speak to the Nations (25:27-29)*

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The Lord Brings Disaster Upon the Nations (25:30-38)
   This third oracle continues the theme of judgment upon the nations, but focuses less on Babylon and more on the Lord's wrath. It is comprised in three sections. It begins in vv. 30-31 with the Lord pictured as a lion roused ready to devour Judah and the surrounding nations. The next section, vv. 32-33 is a similar proclamation of the Lord's plans of disaster upon the earth. The last section, vv. 34-38, returns to the image of the Lord as a lion approaching the shepherds/leaders, calling them to wail over the coming destruction of the land.

> *Judgment Against the Nations (25:30-31)*
> *Coming Disaster (25:32-33)*
> *Judgment Upon the Leaders (25:34-38)*