

## Aim of lesson

To demonstrate the inspiration of scripture from an example of the evidence of fulfilled prophecy, and thus to give us confidence in it.

## Bible background

Isaiah 13, 14 and 47; Jeremiah 25:11-14; Jeremiah 50 and 51

## Preparation required

Many examples of prophecy could have been used for this lesson. But the prophecies about Babylon have been chosen because they:

- \* are specific and unambiguous
- \* are prophecies which must have been written before the event; generally this means the fulfilments occurred after the completion of the Old Testament.
- \* have just one straightforward meaning

Other topics in this course consider the prophecies relating to the Jews and to the Lord Jesus.

## Suggested outline of lesson

Get the young people to go through the Bible passages and pick out from each group of references the key points, which are summarised here:

Jeremiah 25:12-14; 50:41-42	Many nations
Jeremiah 50:9-10, 14-15, 26	The city would be destroyed and plundered
Jeremiah 51:37	The city will become a heap of ruins
Jeremiah 51:26	No stone would be used for building material (the Arabs used the bricks for building, but not the stone)
Isaiah 13:19-20 Jeremiah 50:1-3, 16, 23 Jeremiah 51:29, 43	Babylon will be uninhabited
Isaiah 13:21-22 Jeremiah 51:37	Animals will live there
Isaiah 14:23	The area would become a swampland
Jeremiah 50:12, 38 Jeremiah 51:36	It will become dry and barren

Now get them to look at the documentary evidence, see how each reference has been fulfilled, and add this to the chart.

Make the significance of the predictions clear. Imagine someone saying similar things today: e.g. that America would always be a second rate nation, and that London would never be inhabited again!

## Relevance to our lives

This lesson has two key messages. Firstly it confirms the inspiration of the Bible, as the word of God; secondly it gives us confidence that the other prophecies of the book will be fulfilled.

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord God, we are sorry that we sometimes have doubts about your word and about your hand in the world; and thank you that you have provided us with such proof that it is true, and that you do indeed rule the world. Give us faith to trust in you and in your promises. Amen.

## **Other suggestions for activities**

1. The young people could write a 'newspaper article', imagining that they had just excavated the site of Babylon and were bringing to the world the first exciting news of what was there.
2. If you are able, a video could be produced, in which the various people mentioned in the Students' notes were 'interviewed'.

## **Postscript**

The next lesson is about the Koran. If you intend to consider that subject it might be beneficial, at the end of this lesson, to discover something of what the young people already know, so that you can tailor next week's lesson accordingly.