

Isaiah 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

Analysis

Babylon will remain perpetually uninhabited—never settled, no nomads pitching tents, no shepherds grazing flocks. The three negatives (never, neither, neither) emphasize permanent desolation. Even nomads and shepherds—who use any land—will avoid it. This curse of complete abandonment demonstrates divine judgment's thoroughness. What God curses remains cursed. The land itself bears witness to God's judgment on Babylon's sins.

Historical Context

After initial conquest (539 BC), Babylon declined gradually. By Christian era, it was abandoned ruins. Alexander the Great planned to rebuild it but died before accomplishing this. Throughout centuries, the site remained desolate. Attempts to rebuild have consistently failed, fulfilling this prophecy precisely. The archaeological site confirms perpetual desolation—a testimony to prophetic accuracy and divine judgment's permanence.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does perpetual desolation demonstrate the permanence of divine judgment?
2. What does failed attempts to rebuild Babylon teach about inability to reverse God's curses?
3. How do ancient ruins of judged nations serve as witnesses to God's justice?

Interlinear Text

לֹא

בְּתִשְׁבַּב

תִּשְׁבַּב

לֹא

צָה

לֹא

צָה

תִּשְׁבַּב

עַד

H3808

be inhabited

H3427

It shall never

H5331

H3808

neither shall it be dwelt

H7931

H5704

זֶד וּזֶד

זֶד וּזֶד

זֶד וּזֶד

שָׁמֶן

לְ

יְהִי

H1755

in from generation

in from generation

H1755

H3808

pitch tent

H167

H8033

עֲרָבָה

וְרָעָם

לֹא

יְרַבֵּ צָו

neither shall the Arabian

there neither shall the shepherds

H3808

make their fold

H7257

H6163

H7462

שָׁמֶן

H8033

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 14:23 (Parallel theme): I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 51:43 (Parallel theme): Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

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