

Isaiah 13:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

Analysis

Wild beasts will 'cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces.' The timing: 'her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.' This emphasizes imminence—judgment approaches rapidly. The contrast between 'pleasant palaces' (past glory) and wild beasts crying there (future desolation) highlights the dramatic reversal. 'Days shall not be prolonged' indicates that Babylon's extension is limited—God has set an expiration date. This warns that apparent stability doesn't guarantee longevity when judgment is decreed.

Historical Context

Though written ~700 BC when Babylon wasn't yet dominant, this predicted its limited duration. Babylon's Neo-Babylonian Empire lasted less than a century (626-539 BC) before falling to Persia. The 'pleasant palaces' (Nebuchadnezzar's hanging gardens, etc.) eventually housed only animals. The prophecy that 'her time is near' proved accurate—God's timeline for nations is exact. No empire lasts beyond its divinely-appointed span.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Jeremiah 51:33 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon is like a threshingfloor, it is time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come.

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