

# 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

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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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

### Study Questions

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1. How does the certainty and timing of Babylon's fall demonstrate God's precise control of history?
2. What does the contrast between past glory and future desolation teach about earthly kingdoms?
3. How should awareness that all earthly powers have limited days affect our ultimate allegiances?

### Interlinear Text

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|                        |                                    |                          |              |              |               |       |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| וְעָנָה                | אֵיִם                              | בְּאַלְמוֹנוֹתַי         | וְתַנִּינִים |              |               |       |
| shall cry              | And the wild beasts of the islands | in their desolate houses | and dragons  |              |               |       |
| H6030                  | H338                               | H490                     | H8577        |              |               |       |
| בְּהֵי יְכָלָי         | עַל נָגַע                          | וְקָרִיב                 | לָבוֹא       | עַתָּה       | וַיָּמֶ יְהִי | לֹא   |
| palaces                | in their pleasant                  | is near                  | to come      | and her time | and her days  | H3808 |
| H1964                  | H6027                              | H7138                    | H935         | H6256        | H3117         |       |
| וְלֹא יִמָּשְׁכוּ:     |                                    |                          |              |              |               |       |
| shall not be prolonged |                                    |                          |              |              |               |       |
| H4900                  |                                    |                          |              |              |               |       |

### Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 35:7** (Parallel theme): And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

**Isaiah 25:2** (Parallel theme): For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city; it shall never be built.

**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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