

Isaiah 14:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.

Analysis

'For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.' Divine first-person declaration: 'I will rise up'—God personally acts against Babylon. The judgment is comprehensive: 'name' (reputation, memory), 'remnant' (survivors), 'son' (immediate descendants), 'nephew' (extended descendants). Four-fold repetition stresses totality: nothing of Babylon survives. The double 'saith the LORD' (opening and closing) confirms divine authority. This is prophetic lawsuit verdict: Babylon is sentenced to complete obliteration—no survivors, no memory, no future. History confirms this: Babylon the empire and city ceased; only archaeological ruins remain.

Historical Context

After falling to Persia (539 BC), Babylon declined. Alexander the Great died there (323 BC); afterward it continued declining. By early Christian era, Babylon was largely abandoned; its exact location was forgotten until 19th-century archaeology rediscovered it. The name survived only as symbolic (Revelation 17-18 uses 'Babylon' for Rome and end-times evil system), not as political entity. The utter fulfillment of 'cut off name, remnant, son, nephew' is remarkable: one of history's greatest cities completely ceased. This validates prophetic authority and warns all nations: God's word stands; His judgments execute exactly as spoken.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Babylon's complete disappearance demonstrate the certainty of God's prophetic word?
2. What does the total erasure of Babylon teach about the transience of earthly kingdoms vs. God's eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְהַקְרֵבֶת יְהֹוָה אֶצְבָּא וְתַּחֲרֵב וְיִקְרַמֶּת מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
For I will rise up H5921 against them saith H5002 the LORD H3068 of hosts H6635 and cut off H3772

נִאֵם תְּלַבֵּב לְבָבְךָ וְתַּחֲרֵב וְתַּחֲרֵב וְתַּחֲרֵב
from Babylon H894 the name H8034 and remnant H7605 and son H5209 and nephew H5220 against them saith H5002

וְיִהְיוֹה:
the LORD H3068

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:7 (Parallel theme): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

1 Kings 14:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

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