

Isaiah 47:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.

Analysis

The command for Babylon to 'come down, and sit in the dust' reverses her royal pretensions, depicting humiliation and mourning. The phrase 'virgin daughter of Babylon' employs ironic language - she thought herself inviolable but will be violated by conquest. The removal of her throne signifies divine judgment on human pride; God alone is the judge who puts down one and raises up another (Psalm 75:7).

Historical Context

Babylon fell to Cyrus in 539 BC after seeming invincible for centuries. The city's massive walls and hanging gardens symbolized human achievement, making her fall a theological statement about all empires apart from God.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What modern 'Babylons' (systems of pride and self-sufficiency) seem invincible but face coming judgment?
2. How does Babylon's fall warn against trusting in human achievement or security?

Interlinear Text

שְׁבִי	בְּכָל	בַּת	בְּתִולָת	עַפְרָעַל	שְׁבִי	דָּקָד
Come down	and sit	H5921	in the dust	O virgin	O daughter	of Babylon
H3381	H3427		H6083	H1330	H1323	H894
לֹא רֹץ	אֵין	אֵין	כִסְאָם	בַת	פָשָׁד יְמָם	כִּי
on the ground	H369	there is no throne	O daughter	of the Chaldeans	H3588	H3808
H776		H3678	H1323	H3778		
תֹּוסֵעַ	יְפִי	לְהַקְרָאָה	בְּכָה	עֲנָגָה:		
for thou shalt no more	be called	H0	tender	and delicate		
H3254	H7121		H7390	H6028		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 137:8 (References Babylon): O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

Jeremiah 51:33 (References Babylon): 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.

Jeremiah 50:42 (References Babylon): They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.

Jeremiah 46:11 (Parallel theme): Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured.

Zechariah 2:7 (References Babylon): Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon.

Isaiah 3:26 (Parallel theme): And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

Isaiah 37:22 (Parallel theme): This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

Psalms 18:27 (Parallel theme): For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Jeremiah 48:18 (Parallel theme): Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from thy glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds.

Revelation 18:7 (Parallel theme): How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.