

# Isaiah 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

## Analysis

Isaiah asks the duration question: 'Lord, how long?' God's answer is devastating: until complete desolation—cities without inhabitants, houses without people, land utterly desolate. This prophesies the Babylonian exile but also looks forward to eschatological judgment. The thoroughness ('utterly desolate') emphasizes comprehensive judgment, not partial chastisement. Only after utter devastation will restoration come.

## Historical Context

The Babylonian exile (586 BC, 150+ years future) fulfilled this literally—Jerusalem destroyed, population exiled, land desolate for 70 years. The scope of judgment matched the depth of rebellion.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

1. How does God's patience before judgment demonstrate both His mercy and the seriousness of sin?
2. What does it mean that God sometimes must completely tear down before He can rebuild?

## Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר	עַד	מַתִּי	אָדָנִי	וְאָמַר	עַד	אָשֶׁר	אָמַר	הַשְׁאָה
<b>Then said</b>	H5704	H4970	<b>I Lord</b>	<b>Then said</b>	H5704	H834	H518	<b>be wasted</b>
H559			H136	H559				H7582
עַד יָמִים	בְּמִינְיוֹן	בְּמִינְיוֹן	וְבָתִים	מִן יָמִים	מִן יָמִים	מִן יָמִים	מִן יָמִים	אֵיךְ
<b>Until the cities</b>	H369	<b>without inhabitant</b>	<b>and the houses</b>	H369	<b>without man</b>			
H5892		H3427	H1004	H120				
וְאָדָם הַשְׁאָה וְאָדָם הַשְׁמַמָּה:								
<b>and the land</b>	<b>be wasted</b>	<b>be utterly</b>						
H127	H7582	H8077						

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 1:7** (Parallel theme): Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

**Psalms 94:3** (References Lord): LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?

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

**Psalms 90:13** (References Lord): Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

**Leviticus 26:31** (Parallel theme): And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

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