

# Jeremiah 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end.

## Analysis

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This verse connects human sin to creation's suffering: 'How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein?' The Hebrew *evel* (עָבַל, mourn) applies to the land itself—creation groans under sin's burden (Romans 8:19-22). 'Herbs wither' (*yavesh*) describes agricultural suffering. 'The beasts are consumed, and the birds.' Even animals suffer from human wickedness. 'Because they said, He shall not see our latter end.' The wicked assume God doesn't observe consequences—practical atheism enabling sin. Their denial of divine oversight produces creation-wide devastation.

## Historical Context

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The connection between human sin and ecological devastation appears throughout Scripture (Genesis 3:17-18, Leviticus 26:19-20, Hosea 4:1-3). The drought and agricultural failures Jeremiah witnessed resulted from both natural causes and divine judgment. Modern ecology confirms that human behavior affects environmental systems; biblical theology grounds this in moral-cosmic connections established at creation.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does human wickedness affect creation beyond human society?
2. What does creation's 'mourning' reveal about the cosmic scope of sin's consequences?

## Interlinear Text

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עַד	מִתִּי	תִּאָּבֵל ל	הָאָרֶץ	וְעֵשֶׂב	כָּל	הַשָּׂדֶה הַזֶּה
H5704	H4970	<b>mourn</b>	<b>How long shall the land</b>	<b>and the herbs</b>	H3605	<b>of every field</b>
		H56	H776	H6212		H7704

יִיבֹּשׁ	מִכַּעַת	יֹשְׁבֵי	בָּהּ	סֹפְתָהּ
<b>with</b>	<b>for the wickedness</b>	<b>of them that dwell</b>	H0	<b>are consumed</b>
H3001	H7451	H3427		H5595

בְּהֵמוֹת	וְעוֹף	כִּי	אָמְרוּ	לֹא	יִרְאֶה
<b>therein the beasts</b>	<b>and the birds</b>	H3588	<b>because they said</b>	H3808	<b>He shall not see</b>
H929	H5775		H559		H7200

אֶת	אַחֲרִיתָנוּ:
H853	<b>our last end</b>
	H319

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 9:10** (Parallel theme): For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through them; neither can men hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone.

**Psalms 107:34** (Evil): A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

**Jeremiah 4:25** (Parallel theme): I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.

**Jeremiah 23:10** (Evil): For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.

**Jeremiah 7:20** (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

**Romans 8:22** (Parallel theme): For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

**Hosea 4:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

**Jeremiah 5:31** (Parallel theme): The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

**Habakkuk 3:17** (Parallel theme): Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: