

# Jeremiah 19:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet:

## Analysis

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God explains the symbolic act: "Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet." Just as the pottery jar was irreparably shattered, so Jerusalem will be irrecoverably broken. The comparison to Tophet is devastating—the city will become like the detested child-sacrifice site, associated with abomination and judgment. What was meant to be God's holy city becomes synonymous with the place of His fierce wrath.

The comprehensive nature of judgment appears in "this place" and "the inhabitants thereof"—both the physical city and its population face destruction. Geography and people together suffer covenant curses. This total judgment reflects total covenant violation. Half-measures and partial reforms proved insufficient; only complete devastation remains when complete apostasy persists.

This verse warns that no place, regardless of past sanctity or privilege, stands immune to judgment if covenant obligations are violated. The temple's presence didn't protect Jerusalem (Jer 7:4, 26:6), nor did Davidic promises guarantee the city's preservation absent faithfulness. Christ's prophecy of Jerusalem's coming destruction in AD 70 (Luke 19:41-44, 21:20-24) echoes these themes—religious privilege without genuine faith brings judgment. Only the New Jerusalem, founded on Christ's perfect obedience, endures forever (Rev 21:2-4).

## Historical Context

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Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC fulfilled this prophecy literally. The city walls were broken down, the temple burned, houses demolished, and population deported (2 Kgs 25:8-12). The once-glorious city David captured and Solomon beautified became ruins comparable to the detested Tophet. Archaeological excavations reveal extensive burn layers and destruction throughout Jerusalem from this period, confirming the prophetic word's accuracy and the judgment's totality.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does comparison to Tophet emphasize the complete reversal of Jerusalem's intended purpose?
2. What does it mean that no religious heritage or past privilege exempts anyone from judgment for persistent unfaithfulness?
3. How does Christ's establishment of the New Jerusalem provide hope beyond earthly Jerusalem's judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ דֹעַת אָשָׁשׁ הַ לְּמַקְדֵּשׁ וְ מִנְחָה נָאָמֵן כִּי הַ יְהִי הַ נָּאָמֵן  
H3651 Thus will I do unto this place H2088 saith the LORD  
H6213 H4725 H5002 H3068

וְלֹא שָׁבְבָה יְהִי כְּתָפַת: כְּתָפַת: כְּתָפַת:  
and to the inhabitants thereof and even make this city as Tophet  
H3427 H5414 H853 H5892 H2063 H8612

