

# Jeremiah 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter.

## Analysis

God announces poetic judgment: "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter." Tophet (תָּפֵת) was the specific site in Hinnom's valley where child sacrifice occurred. God will rename it based on coming judgment—from a place of false worship to a place of divine wrath's execution.

"The valley of slaughter" (Gei ha-Haregah, גֵּיא הַרְגֵּחַ) indicates the Babylonian invasion will fill this valley with corpses. The place where Judah slaughtered innocent children will become where God executes judgment on the guilty. This demonstrates lex talionis—poetic justice where punishment mirrors crime. The principle recurs in Scripture: those who shed innocent blood have their blood shed (Gen 9:6, Matt 26:52, Rev 13:10).

The renaming signifies permanent infamy. Names in Hebrew thought represent essence and character. Changing Tophet's name from a worship site to a slaughter site marks the place's permanent association with divine judgment. This warns that places of persistent sin become monuments of judgment. For believers, this underscores that unrepented sin brings certain judgment, while Christ provides the only escape from the Valley of Slaughter we deserve.

## Historical Context

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The Babylonian siege and conquest (588-586 BC) involved massive casualties. Starvation during the siege, battle deaths, and executions after Jerusalem's fall filled valleys with corpses. Lamentations describes the horror (Lam 2:11-12, 19-22, 4:4-10). The prophecy's fulfillment vindicated Jeremiah and demonstrated God's word's certainty. Modern archaeological excavations reveal mass burial sites and destruction layers confirming the biblical account of this period's devastation.

## 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 God's poetic justice—making sites of sin become sites of judgment—reveal His righteousness?
2. What places in your life might need 'renaming' because they've become associated with persistent sin?
3. How does Christ's bearing our judgment in the 'valley of slaughter' provide escape from what we deserve?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	יְהִי	הַ	לְכָ	לְכָ	יְמִ	יְמִ	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	לֹא	יְהִי	הַ	לְכָ		
H3651	H2009				Therefore	behold	the	days	come	saith	the	LORD	H3808	
					H3117				H935	H5002	H3068			
שָׁלַׁל	לֹא	יְקַרְא		לְמַקְדֵּשׁ	וּמְ	לְמַקְדֵּשׁ	וּמְ	הַ	פָּתָח	עַד	פָּתָח	בְּ	אֵ	
shall	no	more	be	called	that	this	place		H2088	H5750	Tophet	but	The	valley
H7121					H4725						H8612		H1516	
בְּן	הַ	הַ	מִ	הַ	בְּ	אָמֵ	בְּ	אָמֵ	בְּ	יְאֵ	בְּ	בְּרִכְבָּהּ		
of	the	son	of	Hinnom		H3588		H518		but	The	valley	of	slaughter
H1121			H2011						H1516		H2028			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 15:8** (Parallel theme): And the border went up by the valley of the son of Hinnom unto the south side of the Jebusite; the same is Jerusalem: and the border went up to the top of the mountain that lieth before the valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the valley of the giants northward:

**Isaiah 30:33** (References Lord): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

**Jeremiah 19:2** (Parallel theme): And go forth unto the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the east gate, and proclaim there the words that I shall tell thee,