

# 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

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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 (תֹּפֶת) 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, גֵּי הַהֲרֵגָה) 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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וְלֹא	יְהוָה	נֹאֵם	בָּאִים	יָמֵי	הִנֵּה	לְכֹ
H3808	H3068	H5002	H935	H3117	H2009	H3651
	<b>the LORD</b>	<b>saith</b>	<b>come</b>	<b>Therefore behold the days</b>		
גַּם יֵא	תֹּפֶת	עֹד	הַזֶּה	לְמָקוֹם	יִקְרָא	
H1516	H8612	H5750	H2088	H4725	H7121	
<b>but The valley</b>	<b>Tophet</b>			<b>that this place</b>	<b>shall no more be called</b>	
הַהֲרֹגָה:	גַּם יֵא	אֵם	כִּי	הִנֵּה	בֶּן	
H2028	H1516	H518	H3588	H2011	H1121	
<b>of slaughter</b>	<b>but The valley</b>			<b>of Hinnom</b>	<b>of the son</b>	

## 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,