

Jeremiah 25:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Analysis

Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. This poetic description depicts the complete cessation of normal life. The Hebrew *qôl śāsôn wəqôl śimhâ* (קול ששון וקול שמחה, voice of mirth and voice of gladness) represents joy and celebration, particularly weddings—the epitome of communal joy. The phrase *qôl ḥātān wəqôl kallâ* (קול חתן וקול כלה, voice of bridegroom and voice of bride) emphasizes the end of marriages and new families.

The *qôl rēḥayim* (קול רחיים, sound of millstones) represents daily domestic activity—grinding grain for bread, the most basic sustenance. The *’ôr hannēr* (אור הנר, light of the candle/lamp) symbolizes home and life itself. Together, these images portray total desolation—no weddings, no children, no food production, no homes inhabited. This reverses creation and covenant blessings, returning the land to pre-Edenic chaos. Revelation 18:21-23 uses identical imagery to describe Babylon's judgment, demonstrating the principle that those who execute God's judgment must themselves eventually face it.

Historical Context

The destruction of Jerusalem and Judean towns in 586 BC fulfilled this prophecy literally. Archaeological excavations show a dramatic population decline—from perhaps 75,000 to less than 10,000. Cities were burned, never to be rebuilt. The land lay desolate for seventy years, with minimal agriculture and no significant urban life. The joy of weddings, the routine of daily bread-making, the light of evening lamps—all ceased as the population was either killed, enslaved, or exiled.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do these images of everyday life—weddings, bread-making, lamplight—emphasize the totality of God's judgment?
2. What does the reversal of creation and covenant blessings teach about sin's ultimate trajectory?
3. How should the certainty of God's fulfilled judgments on ancient Judah inform our understanding of future judgment warnings in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

וְהָאֲבִדְתִּי י	מִהָּם	ק וּל	שִׁשׁוֹן	ק וּל	שִׂמְחָה
Moreover I will take	H1992	and the voice	of mirth	and the voice	of gladness
H6		H6963	H8342	H6963	H8057
ק וּל	חֲתָן	ק וּל	כָּלָה	ק וּל	
and the voice	of the bridegroom	and the voice	of the bride	and the voice	
H6963	H2860	H6963	H3618	H6963	
יָרֵחַ	וְאֹר	נֵר:			
of the millstones	and the light	of the candle			
H7347	H216	H5216			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:34 (Parallel theme): Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

Jeremiah 16:9 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

Ezekiel 26:13 (Parallel theme): And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.