

# Jeremiah 25:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

## Analysis

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**And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.** The phrase *bimlō'ت shiv'ים shānâ* (בִּמְלֹאת שְׁבָעִים שָׁנָה), when seventy years are fulfilled) indicates precise divine timing. The verb *pāqad* (פָּקַד, punish/visit in judgment) applies to Babylon just as it applied to Judah. Though God used Babylon as His instrument, their brutal excesses and proud arrogance warranted judgment (Isaiah 47; Jeremiah 50-51).

This reveals a crucial theological principle: God holds accountable those He uses to judge others. Assyria faced judgment for pride despite being God's 'rod of anger' (Isaiah 10:5-19). Rome would be destroyed despite executing God's judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70. Being God's instrument doesn't excuse moral responsibility for how that role is executed. Babylon's sin wasn't conquering Judah (God commanded this) but their cruelty, pride, and idolatry in doing so. The phrase *lēhorēbōת 'ôlām* (לְהֹרְבּוֹת עוֹלָם, perpetual desolations) pronounced on Babylon would be even more complete than Judah's—Babylon would never be restored as Judah was.

## Historical Context

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Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian in 539 BC, just 66 years after Nebuchadnezzar's first conquest of Jerusalem. The prophecy's fulfillment was dramatic—Daniel 5 records the fall of Babylon the very night of Belshazzar's feast. Though the city survived initially, it gradually declined until by the Christian era it was deserted ruins. Isaiah 13-14 and Jeremiah 50-51 prophesied Babylon's perpetual desolation, fulfilled more completely than Judah's temporary exile. Archaeological excavations reveal a magnificent ancient city now uninhabited desert—a testimony to fulfilled prophecy.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment on Babylon demonstrate that being used by God doesn't exempt one from moral accountability?
2. What does the greater severity of Babylon's judgment (perpetual versus temporary) teach about degrees of accountability based on knowledge and privilege?
3. How should this principle—that God judges those who execute His judgments—shape our understanding of national and political powers today?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי-לְאֹתָהּ וְכִי-הָ

H1961

are accomplished

H4390

שְׁבַע יָמִ

H7657

שְׁנַת הָ

H8141

years

תֵּהַלְלָה אֲפָלָה דָּ

that I will punish

H6485

עַל

H5921

מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל

the king

H4428

עַל בָּבֶל

H5921

וְעַל כָּל

and that nation

H1471

הַ וְאַ

H1931

גָּאָם הָהִי אֶת יְהִי הָ

saith the LORD

H5002

עֲוֹתָם

H853

עֲוֹתָם

for their iniquity

H5771

עַל כָּל

H5921

וְעַל כָּל

and the land of the Chaldeans

H776

H3778

עַזְלָמָם לְשָׁמָמָה וְעַזְלָמָם לְשָׁמָמָה וְ

and will make

H7760

H853

desolations

H8077

it perpetual

H5769

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 13:19** (Kingdom): And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Daniel 9:2** (Kingdom): In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

**Jeremiah 29:10** (Sin): For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

**Isaiah 14:23** (References Lord): I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.