

Jeremiah 31:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever.

Analysis

The whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes — (כל-בָּעֵמֶק הַפְּגָרִים וְהַלְּשׁוֹן) areas of ritual impurity become consecrated. Pegarim (corpses, and deshen (ashes, לְשׁוֹן, specifically sacrificial ashes) marked the valley of Hinnom (Gehenna) and the ash dump east of the city as ceremonially unclean (Leviticus 4:12). God declares these spaces **holy unto the LORD** (קדש ליהה) — the strongest possible reversal.

The brook of Kidron (Kidron Valley) was Jerusalem's eastern boundary where idols were burned (2 Kings 23:4, 6, 12) and corpses dumped (2 Chronicles 29:16). The **corner of the horse gate** completed the city's southeastern corner. **It shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever** (לא-תִּתְנַשֵּׁשׁ וְלֹא-תִּתְקַרֵּס עוֹד) directly counters Jeremiah's commission to 'pluck up and throw down' (1:10) — permanent restoration replaces cyclical judgment.

Historical Context

The valley of Hinnom (Gehenna) was infamous for child sacrifice to Molech (7:31-32, 19:6), making its transformation into holy ground especially significant. Jesus's use of 'Gehenna' for eternal judgment (Matthew 5:22, 29-30) inverts

Jeremiah's redemptive vision—what God cleanses stays pure; what remains defiled faces eternal consequences.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What areas of your life seem too defiled for God to redeem and consecrate?
2. How does this verse's 'never again' promise relate to God's covenant faithfulness despite Israel's repeated unfaithfulness?
3. In what sense does the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22) fulfill this promise of permanent, undefiled holiness?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁרְמוֹת	וְכָל	וְפִדְשָׁן	וְכָל	וְפִדְשָׁן	וְכָל
And the whole valley	of the dead bodies	and of the ashes	And the whole valley	of the dead bodies	and of the ashes
H3605	H6010	H6297	H3605	H1880	H8309
עַד	לִי	עַד	עַד	פֶּתַח	שַׁעַר
unto the brook	of Kidron	unto	unto	gate	of the horse
H5704	H5158	H6939	H5704	H6438	H5483
לְא	לִיהְיוֹן	לְא	לְא	וְנִצְתֶּשׁ	וְלֹא
toward the east	shall be holy	unto the LORD	unto the LORD	it shall not be plucked up	it shall not be plucked up
H4217	H6944	H3068	H3808	H5428	H3808
לְעוֹלָם:	עַד	וְכָל	לְעוֹלָם:	וְכָל	וְכָל
nor thrown down	H5750	any more for ever	H5769		
H2040					

Additional Cross-References

Joel 3:17 (Holy): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

2 Samuel 15:23 (Parallel theme): And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

John 18:1 (Parallel theme): When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

2 Kings 11:16 (Parallel theme): And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came into the king's house: and there was she slain.

2 Chronicles 23:15 (Parallel theme): So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there.

Nehemiah 3:28 (Parallel theme): From above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his house.

Zechariah 14:20 (Holy): In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

2 Kings 23:6 (References Lord): And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

2 Kings 23:12 (References Lord): And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.