

Jeremiah 44:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein,

Analysis

Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem—God appeals to empirical evidence, using the Hebrew perfect tense *rə'îtem* (you have seen) to emphasize their eyewitness status. They personally witnessed Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC, yet learned nothing from it. The phrase **this day they are a desolation** (*hayyôm hēmmâ ḥorbâ*) uses the demonstrative force of 'this very day' to stress the ongoing nature of the judgment—it wasn't ancient history but present reality.

No man dwelleth therein (*'ên yôšēb bāhem*) echoes covenant curses in Leviticus 26:31-33 and Deuteronomy 28:51-52. The Hebrew *ḥorbâ* (desolation, waste) appears 42 times in Jeremiah, becoming his signature term for covenant judgment. God explicitly claims authorship: **I have brought** (*hēbē'tî*), not Babylon. The Chaldeans were merely instruments; Yahweh was the ultimate cause, fulfilling His sworn covenant threats. This theological framing is crucial—history isn't random; God governs it according to His covenant.

Historical Context

By 582 BC, Jerusalem had lain in ruins for four years. Archaeological excavations confirm the destruction layer from 586 BC, showing massive fire damage and

depopulation. The phrase 'no man dwelleth therein' reflects the demographic catastrophe—the population of Judah dropped from perhaps 75,000 to 20,000. These Egyptian refugees had witnessed this firsthand, making their continued idolatry in Egypt inexcusable.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does witnessing God's judgment in others' lives affect your own response to His warnings?
2. What 'desolations' in your spiritual life testify to the consequences of disobedience?
3. Why do you think people can witness clear evidence of judgment yet persist in the same sins?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת־
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	the God	of Israel	H859
	H559	H3068	H6635	H430	H3478	
עַל־	הֵבִיתִי	אֶת־	כָּל־	הָרָעָה	אֲשֶׁר	רָאִיתִי
	that I have brought		all the evil		Ye have seen	H7200
	H935		H7451	H834	H853	H3605
וְהָיָה	לְיְהוּדָה	וְלְכָל־	עָרֶיהָ	וְלְיִרְוְשָׁלַם		
H2005	of Judah	and upon all the cities		upon Jerusalem		
	H3063	H5892		H3389	H5921	H3605
בָּקָה	וְאֵין־	הָיָה	הַיּוֹם	חֲרָבָה		
H0	H369	H2088	and behold this day	they are a desolation		
			H3117	H2723		
				וְאֵין־		
				and no man dwelleth		
				H3427		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 6:11 (References Lord): Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Jeremiah 34:22 (References Lord): Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 9:11 (References Jerusalem): And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 4:7 (Parallel theme): The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

Micah 3:12 (References Jerusalem): Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

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