

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 hêmmâ 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 bâhem*) 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

אָתָּה מִשְׁרָאָל אֱלֹהִים צָבָאֹת כָּה

H3541 Thus saith the LORD of hosts the God of Israel H859

H559

H3068

H6635

H430

H3478

עַל הַבָּאֶת רָאִיתִ מְכֹל אֶת אֶשְׁר בְּרִעָה

Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought H5921

H7200

H853

H3605

all the evil

H834

that I have brought

H5921

H935

וְהַבָּאֶת וְשָׁלָל כָּל וְעַל יְרֵשָׁה

upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah H2005

H3389

H5921

H3605

and upon all the cities

H5892

of Judah

H3063

H2005

בָּקָר מִאָיִן בָּזֶה פֵּי זָמָן סְרִבָּה

they are a desolation and behold this day

H2088

H369

H0

H3117

וְשָׁבָב:

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org