

# Jeremiah 50:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

## Analysis

**Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed**—'Your mother' refers to Babylon itself as the mother-city of the empire. Bosh (בּוֹשׁ, confounded) means put to shame, humiliated, disappointed in expectation. Chapher (חָפֵר, ashamed) intensifies this—disgraced, reproached. The personification makes the judgment vivid: the proud city will experience shame as profound as a mother whose children bring disgrace.

**Behold, the hindermost of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert**—'hindermost' (achariyth, אֲחֲרִית) means last, rearmost, least important—a shocking reversal for the world's greatest empire. From first to last, from fertility to desert (midbar, מִדְבָּר), from abundant waters to dry land (tsiyah, צִיָּה)—complete desolation. This reversal demonstrates God's sovereignty: He raises up and brings down kingdoms according to His purposes (Daniel 2:21). Revelation 17-18 applies Babylon's judgment typologically to all anti-God systems that oppose His people.

## Historical Context

Babylon was famed for its grandeur—hanging gardens, massive walls, the Ishtar Gate. Yet Jeremiah prophesied it would become a desolate wilderness. After conquest by Persia (539 BC), Babylon gradually declined. Alexander the Great planned to rebuild it but died before doing so. By the time of Christ, ancient

historians described Babylon as largely abandoned. Today the archaeological site sits in a desolate region of Iraq—literally a wilderness, exactly as prophesied.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Babylon's fall from 'first among nations' to 'hindermost' illustrate God's power to humble the proud?
2. What does this reversal teach about the temporary nature of earthly power and the danger of building security on anything other than God?
3. How should the certainty of judgment on Babylon-like systems of power shape Christian engagement with political and economic structures today?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ וִשְׁחַת	אָמַתְּ	מֵאַת	סְפִּיבָּה	וַיַּלְדַּתְּךָ מִ	הַנְּהָה
confounded	Your mother	shall be sore	you shall be ashamed	she that bare	H2009
H954	H517	H3966	H2659	H3205	
אַחֲרֵי יְהֹוָה	מִדְבָּר	צִיָּה	צִיָּה	תִּשְׁכַּחַתְּ	
behold the hindermost	of the nations	shall be a wilderness	a dry land	and a desert	
H319	H1471	H4057	H6723	H6160	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 51:43** (Parallel theme): Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

