

Jeremiah 50:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.

Analysis

Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand—the war cry signals victory. 'Given her hand' (nathan yad, נָתַן יָד) is an idiom for surrender, submission, making covenant. Babylon capitulates, the siege succeeds. **Her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down**—the massive defensive walls that seemed impregnable are breached. Herodotus described these walls as so wide that chariot races were held atop them. Yet they fall before God's decree.

For it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her—God identifies Himself as the agent: this is **the vengeance of the LORD** (niqmath Yahweh, נִקְמַת יְהוָה). Naqam (נָקַם) means to avenge, to execute justice, to repay. The principle of reciprocal justice follows: 'as she hath done, do unto her' (ka'asher asethah asu lah, כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשְׂתָה עִשׂוּ-לָהּ). This is lex talionis (law of retaliation) applied to nations—measure for measure. Babylon showed no mercy to conquered peoples; now mercy will not be shown to her. This foreshadows Revelation 18:6: 'Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works.'

Historical Context

The conquest of Babylon was surprisingly swift. Daniel 5 describes the city falling in a single night. Archaeological evidence confirms Cyrus's army entered the city with minimal resistance—some sources suggest internal betrayal or that the city's defenses were compromised by diverting the Euphrates. The 'foundations fallen' may refer both to physical walls and to the empire's collapse. Within one generation, Babylon went from world-dominating empire to a Persian province, exactly fulfilling this prophecy of reciprocal judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the principle 'as she hath done, do unto her' demonstrate God's justice in ensuring oppressors face consequences proportional to their crimes?
2. What does it mean that God identifies this as 'the vengeance of the LORD' rather than merely human warfare?
3. How should we understand divine vengeance in light of New Testament teaching to leave vengeance to God (Romans 12:19)?

Interlinear Text

נָפְלוּ	יָדָהּ	נָתַתָּהּ	סָבִיב	עַל יְהוָה יְעוֹ
are fallen	her hand	she hath given	against her round about	Shout
H5307	H3027	H5414	H5439	H7321
נִקְמָתָהּ	כִּי	חֻמוֹתֶיהָ	נִהָרְסוּ	אֲשׁוּיֹתֶיהָ
for it is the vengeance		her walls	are thrown down	her foundations
H5360	H3588	H2346	H2040	H803
לָהּ:	עָשׂוּ	עָשׂוּ	כַּאֲשֶׁר	רָבָה
	do	do		of the LORD
H0	H6213	H6213	H834	H3068
			H0	H1931
			take vengeance	הִיא
			H5358	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 51:58 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

Revelation 18:6 (Parallel theme): Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Jeremiah 46:10 (References Lord): For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

Jeremiah 51:6 (References Lord): Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

Jeremiah 51:44 (Parallel theme): And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

Jeremiah 51:11 (References Lord): Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is

against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple.

Jeremiah 51:14 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillers; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

1 Chronicles 29:24 (Parallel theme): And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.

Lamentations 5:6 (Parallel theme): We have given the hand to the Egyptians, and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

2 Chronicles 30:8 (References Lord): Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.