

Jeremiah 50:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

Analysis

God commands the proclamation of Babylon's fall throughout the earth. Babylon, instrument of God's judgment on other nations, now faces judgment itself. The specific mention of Bel and Merodach (chief Babylonian deities) emphasizes the futility of idol worship. When Babylon falls, her gods fall with her - exposing their powerlessness. Only YAHWEH stands eternally; all false gods are 'confounded' and 'broken in pieces.'

Historical Context

This prophecy came while Babylon was at its zenith of power. Speaking of its fall seemed impossible, yet God decreed it. Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 BC, fulfilling this word.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment on Babylon (His own instrument) display His justice?
2. What modern 'Babylons' trust in idols that will ultimately fall?

Interlinear Text

פָּשָׁת יְעֻזָּה בְּגֹויִם בְּשָׁמְמָה יְעַזָּה נְסָתָרָה פָּשָׁת יְעֻזָּה
Declare ye among the nations and publish and set up a standard and publish

H5046

H1471

H8085

H5375

H5251

H8085

בְּלֹא תִּכְתַּחַד אַל תְּכַנֵּה אַמְרָה נְלָקַד הַבָּבּוּלּוֹן בְּבָבּוּלּוֹן בְּלֹא
and conceal not say is taken Babylon are confounded Bel

H408

H3582

H559

H3920

H894

H3001

H1078

בְּתַזְבִּין מְרֹדֵךְ הַבָּבּוּלּוֹן נְלָקַד יְהֹוָה בְּתַזְבִּין
are broken in pieces Merodach are confounded her idols are broken in pieces

H2865

H4781

H3001

H6091

H2865

גָּלוּלִים:

her images

H1544

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 46:1 (Parallel theme): Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast.

Isaiah 21:9 (References Babylon): And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

Jeremiah 51:47 (References Babylon): Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

Jeremiah 51:44 (References Babylon): 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.

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