

Jeremiah 50:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD.

Analysis

I have laid a snare for thee—God Himself sets the trap (yaqosh, שָׁׁׁן, to ensnare, lay a trap). **And thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware**—the hunter becomes the hunted. The Hebrew lakad (לָקַד, captured, seized) emphasizes sudden, inescapable capture. Babylon's fall came swiftly; Cyrus conquered the city in one night while Belshazzar feasted (Daniel 5:30-31).

Because thou hast striven against the LORD—the Hebrew garah (גָּרַח, to provoke, challenge, contend) indicates deliberate opposition. Babylon didn't merely conquer nations; it challenged Yahweh's authority, desecrated His temple (2 Kings 25:9), mocked His people, and exalted its own gods (Daniel 3:14-15). This verse echoes the principle that opposing God inevitably leads to destruction. No nation, however powerful, can successfully contend with the Almighty.

Historical Context

Cyrus's conquest fulfilled this prophecy precisely. According to Herodotus and the Nabonidus Chronicle, the Persians diverted the Euphrates River and entered Babylon through the riverbed gates—a 'snare' the Babylonians never anticipated. The city fell without prolonged siege in 539 BC. Belshazzar's feast (Daniel 5) occurred the very night of conquest—feasting unaware while judgment approached. This unexpected defeat of history's greatest empire demonstrated God's sovereign control over nations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'strive against the LORD,' and how might nations or individuals do this today?
2. How does Babylon's unawareness of God's trap warn against presumption and false security?
3. What does this verse teach about God's sovereignty over even the most powerful human institutions?

Interlinear Text

I have laid a snare	וְאָתָּה	לְךָ	וְגַם	לְךָ	נִלְכַּדְתָּ	לְךָ	בְּכָל	אֵלֶיךָ
	H3369	H0	H1571		H3920		O Babylon	H859
H3808	and thou wast not aware	H3045	H1571	thou art found	H4672	H1571	and also caught	H3588
H3068	against the LORD	H1624		because thou hast striven				

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:4 (Parallel theme): He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

Job 40:2 (Parallel theme): Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

Job 40:9 (Parallel theme): Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

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