

Jeremiah 50:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation.

Analysis

Slay all her bullocks—the parim (פָּרִים, young bulls) likely symbolize Babylon's warriors and princes (Jeremiah 46:21, 50:11). Bulls represented strength and virility; calling warriors 'bullocks' both acknowledges their power and ironically depicts their slaughter like sacrificial animals. **Let them go down to the slaughter**—the Hebrew tebach (תְּבַחַת, slaughter, butchering) often refers to preparing animals for sacrifice or meat.

Woe unto them! for their day is come—the yom (יּוֹם, day) is the appointed time of divine visitation and judgment. **The time of their visitation**—pekudah (פְּקֻדָּה, reckoning, accounting, judgment) from the root paqad, meaning God's direct intervention to punish or reward. Babylon's 'day' of unchallenged dominance ends; God's 'day' of reckoning arrives.

Historical Context

During the conquest of Babylon, significant military losses occurred. The Nabonidus Chronicle records that Nabonidus fled, his army was defeated, and Babylon fell to Cyrus without prolonged resistance. Later Babylonian revolts against Persian rule (522 BC and 484 BC) resulted in severe Persian reprisals, decimating Babylon's population and military strength. The 'slaughter' came in stages, fulfilling this prophecy completely.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the 'day of visitation' teach about God's perfect timing in executing judgment?
2. How does the imagery of bulls going to slaughter illustrate that human strength is powerless before God's appointed judgment?
3. What warning does this verse offer to the proud and powerful who seem invincible in their 'day'?

Interlinear Text

לְתַחַת כָּל חַרְבָּה יָרַד וְלֹט בָּהּ הַיּוֹם
Slay all her bullocks let them go down to the slaughter woe
H2717 H3605 H6499 H3381 H2874 H1945

עַלְיָה מִתְּאַת עַלְיָה מִתְּאַת עַלְיָה מִתְּאַת עַלְיָה מִתְּאַת עַלְיָה מִתְּאַת
is come unto them! for their day the time of their visitation
H5921 H3588 H935 H3117 H6256 H6486

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 34:7 (Parallel theme): And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.

Jeremiah 46:21 (Parallel theme): Also her hired men are in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, and are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, and the time of their visitation.

Psalms 37:13 (Parallel theme): The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

Psalms 22:12 (Parallel theme): Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.

Jeremiah 48:44 (Parallel theme): He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, even upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

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