

Jeremiah 50:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple.

Analysis

The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon—Jewish exiles who survive Babylon's fall return **to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God**. This connects directly to Cyrus's decree allowing Jewish return (Ezra 1:1-4). The returning exiles bear witness that Babylon's fall demonstrates God's righteous judgment.

The vengeance of his temple—*nikmat hekalo* (נִקְמַת הַיְכָלֹו, vengeance for His sanctuary). Nebuchadnezzar burned Solomon's temple in 586 BC (2 Kings 25:9), desecrated its vessels in Belshazzar's feast (Daniel 5:2-3), and exalted Babylonian gods over Yahweh. God's 'vengeance' is not petty retaliation but righteous retribution for specific offenses against His holy dwelling and honor. Babylon's fall vindicates God's name and permits temple rebuilding (completed 515 BC).

Historical Context

In 538 BC, Cyrus issued his famous decree allowing Jews to return and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4). The first wave returned under Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest (Ezra 2), carrying temple vessels Nebuchadnezzar had plundered (Ezra 1:7-11). Their return occurred precisely as Jeremiah prophesied—seventy years after the first deportation (Jeremiah 29:10). The returning exiles indeed 'declared in Zion' God's vengeance on Babylon, celebrating both Babylon's fall and God's faithfulness to restore His temple and people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'vengeance for His temple' demonstrate His jealousy for His own glory and holiness?
2. What does the return of the exiles teach about God's faithfulness to restore what enemies have destroyed?
3. How should believers today respond when God's name, people, or purposes are attacked or desecrated?

Interlinear Text

קוּל	נָסוּ יָם	וּפְלֹטוּ יָם	מֵאֶרֶץ	בְּבָבֶל	לְהַגִּיד
The voice	of them that flee	and escape out	of the land	of Babylon	to declare
H6963	H5127	H6405	H776	H894	H5046
אֶת בְּצִיּוֹן	נִקְמָת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	נִקְמָת	
in Zion	the vengeance	of the LORD	our God	the vengeance	
H6726	H853	H5360	H3068	H430	H5360
הִיכָלֹ:					
of his temple					
H1964					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:20 (References Lord): Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

Jeremiah 50:15 (References Lord): 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.

Lamentations 1:10 (Temple): The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.

Daniel 5:23 (References God): But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: