

Jeremiah 50:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee.

Analysis

Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud—God directly addresses Babylon as zdon (זֹדֶן, pride, arrogance, presumption). Pride was Babylon's characteristic sin: the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:4), Nebuchadnezzar's boast (Daniel 4:30), Belshazzar's sacrilege (Daniel 5:22-23). **I am against thee** is one of Scripture's most terrifying phrases—when God sets Himself against someone, no defense avails.

Saith the Lord GOD of hosts—Adonai Yahweh Tseva'ot (אָדוֹנָי יְהוָה צְבָאֹת), the full title emphasizing sovereign authority over all armies. **For thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee**—the appointed yom (day) and eth paqadtik (time of your reckoning) arrive with certainty. God's longsuffering has limits; the 'day' of grace ends, judgment begins.

Historical Context

Pride characterized Babylon from its founding. The Tower of Babel represented humanity's arrogant attempt to make a name for themselves independent of God (Genesis 11:4). Nebuchadnezzar's pride led to seven years of madness until he acknowledged God's sovereignty (Daniel 4:28-37). Belshazzar's pride in drinking from Jerusalem's temple vessels the night Babylon fell epitomized the empire's arrogance (Daniel 5:2-5, 22-23). When Cyrus conquered Babylon, he claimed that

Marduk (Babylon's chief god) had chosen him—ironic confirmation that Babylon's gods could not save them. Pride indeed preceded Babylon's fall.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What makes pride such a dangerous sin that God directly opposes the proud (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5)?
2. How did Babylon's pride manifest, and where do you see similar arrogance in modern institutions or nations?
3. What does it mean to have God 'against' you, and how does this motivate humility and repentance?

Interlinear Text

אַל יְבַהֵּן	H2005	בְּ	H413	אֵל יְהִי	H2087	אָדָם	H5002	נָאָם	H136
Behold I am against thee O thou most proud				saith the Lord					

אֱלֹהִים	H3069	וְ	H6635	אֵל	H3588	יְמִמְךָ	H935	עַת	H3117	פְּקֻדָּתְךָ:	H6256	תֵּהַלֵּה	H6485	
GOD of hosts is come for thy day the time that I will visit														

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 50:29 (References Lord): Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 21:13 (References Lord): Behold, I am against thee, O inhabitant of the valley, and rock of the plain, saith the LORD; which say, Who shall come down against us? or who shall enter into our habitations?

Nahum 2:13 (References Lord): Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

James 4:6 (References God): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Ezekiel 39:1 (References God): Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

1 Peter 5:5 (References God): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.