

Jeremiah 50:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

Analysis

And the most proud shall stumble and fall—zdon (זִדּוֹן, the pride, arrogance) personified will kashal (כָּשַׁל, stumble, totter) and naphal (נָפַל, fall, collapse). Pride goes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18). **And none shall raise him up**—no ally, no god, no power can restore what God casts down. Babylon had numerous vassal nations and alleged divine patrons, yet none could prevent or reverse its fall.

And I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him—fire symbolizes complete, purifying judgment. The Hebrew ba'ar (בָּאֵר, kindle, burn) and akal (אָכַל, devour, consume) suggest unstoppable destruction spreading from Babylon proper to surrounding regions. This echoes Amos's judgment oracles where fire consumes palaces (Amos 1:4, 7, 10, 12, 14). The fire represents both literal destruction and God's consuming wrath.

Historical Context

Though Cyrus's conquest was relatively peaceful, subsequent fires did consume Babylon. Xerxes I burned Babylon after revolts in 484 BC. Alexander the Great found the city partially ruined by 331 BC. The Parthians and Sassanians ruled over a steadily declining Babylon. Medieval travelers found only ruins. The 'fire' of judgment consumed Babylon progressively but completely. Today, the site lies desolate in Iraq, with Saddam Hussein's attempted reconstruction in the 1980s-90s never succeeding. The proud city has no 'raiser' to restore it.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty that 'none shall raise him up' demonstrate the finality of God's judgments?
2. What does the spreading fire 'round about him' teach about how sin and its consequences affect surrounding areas and peoples?
3. What hope does this verse offer to those oppressed by the proud, and what warning to the arrogant?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| לֹא יִכָּשֵׁל ל | וְדָוִן | וְנָפַל ל | וְאֵין | לֹא | |
| shall stumble | And the most proud | and fall | H369 | H0 | |
| H3782 | H2087 | H5307 | | | |
| וְלֹא יִמָּלֵךְ יֵם | וְהִצַּתִּי | אֵשׁ | בְּעָרָיו | וְאֵכְלָהּ | |
| and none shall raise him up | and I will kindle | a fire | in his cities | and it shall devour | |
| H6965 | H3341 | H784 | H5892 | H398 | |
| כָּל | סְבִיבֹתָיו: | | | | |
| H3605 | all round about | | | | |
| | H5439 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:27 (Parallel theme): And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad.

Jeremiah 21:14 (Parallel theme): But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the LORD: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it.

Revelation 18:8 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Amos 2:5 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

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