

Jeremiah 50:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men.

Analysis

A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD (חרב על-כשדים) — The fivefold anaphora 'a sword upon' creates relentless drumbeat of judgment. Babylon, who wielded God's sword against nations (27:6-8), now faces that same weapon turned against them. The cherev (sword) represents both military conquest and divine judgment. **Upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men** — comprehensive targeting: general population, political rulers, and intellectual elite. Babylon's famed wisdom tradition (Daniel 1:20, 2:2) cannot avert this sword.

Historical Context

Babylon's fall to the Medo-Persian coalition (539 BC) was both military conquest and divine judgment. Cyrus's forces diverted the Euphrates and entered through Babylon's river gates. The 'sword' was literal (though Babylon fell with minimal bloodshed) and symbolic (God's judicial sentence executed through Persia).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does God use the same 'sword' metaphor for both executing judgment and receiving judgment?
2. What does the targeting of Babylon's 'wise men' teach about the limitations of human wisdom apart from God?
3. How does the repetitive 'sword upon' formula emphasize the comprehensive and inescapable nature of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

אָל יְהוָה נָאָמֵן כִּי כִּי עַל כִּי כִּי
A sword is upon the Chaldeans saith the LORD
H5921 H3778 H5002 H3068 H413

אָל שָׁבְּעַת לְבָבָל אָל שָׁבְּעַת יְהִי
and upon the inhabitants of Babylon and upon her princes
H3427 H894 H413 H8269 H413

בְּכַפְּרִים:
and upon her wise
H2450

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 47:6 (Word): O thou sword of the LORD, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still.

Jeremiah 51:57 (References Lord): And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Hosea 11:6 (Word): And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour them, because of their own counsels.

Daniel 5:30 (Parallel theme): In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

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