

Jeremiah 50:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed.

Analysis

A sword is upon the liars (חֶרֶב אֶל־הַבַּדִּים, cherev el-habbaddim)—The baddim were diviners, false prophets, practitioners of Babylonian occult arts (Isaiah 44:25). Babylon's religious system depended on omens, astrology, dream interpretation—all condemned as lies by Scripture. **And they shall dote** (וְנָאֲלוּ, v'no'alu)—they will become foolish, lose their minds. Their vaunted predictive powers will fail spectacularly.

A sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed (חֶרֶב אֶל־גִּבּוֹרֶיהָ, cherev el-gibboreha v'chattu)—Babylon's elite warriors (gibborim) will be shattered with terror (chatat). Military might and occult manipulation—Babylon's twin pillars—both crumble. This exposes the futility of trusting in human strength or demonic deception. Only God's word endures; all other foundations are sand.

Historical Context

Babylonian religion was elaborate and influential, featuring priests (kalū), exorcists (āšipu), diviners (bārû), and astrologers. Daniel's superiority to these practitioners (Daniel 2:27-28, 5:15-17) demonstrated Yahweh's supremacy. When Babylon fell, its religious establishment's predictions of eternal dominance were exposed as lies.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture classify divination, astrology, and false prophecy as 'lies' rather than merely errors?
2. What does the collapse of Babylon's 'wise men' teach about counterfeit spirituality's inability to deliver security?
3. How do modern forms of divination (horoscopes, fortune-telling, even some 'prophecy') replicate Babylon's spiritual adultery?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	הַבַּיִדִּים	וְנָא לֵו	אֶל
A sword	is upon the liars	and they shall dote	A sword
H2719	H907	H2973	H413
גְּבוּרַת יְהוָה	וְנִתְּנוּ		
is upon her mighty men	and they shall be dismayed		
H1368	H2865		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:22 (Parallel theme): Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.

Isaiah 44:25 (Parallel theme): That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

Nahum 3:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

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