

# Jeremiah 50:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

## Analysis

**Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there** (לֶכֶן יֵשְׁבוּ צִיִּים אֶת־אֲיִים, lakhen yesh'vu tsiyyim et-iiyim)—Desert creatures and island/coastland beasts will inhabit Babylon's ruins. The tsiyyim and iyyim may be jackals, wild dogs, hyenas—scavengers that thrive in desolation. **And the owls shall dwell therein** (בְּנוֹת יַעֲנָה, b'not ya'anah)—ostriches or owls, symbols of desolate places (Isaiah 13:21-22, 34:13).

**And it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation** (וְלֹא־תֵשֶׁב עוֹד לְנֶצַח וְלֹא תִשְׁכֹּן עַד־דּוֹר וָדוֹר, v'lo-teshev od lanetsach v'lo tishkon ad-dor vador)—Prophetic hyperbole emphasizing thorough desolation. While the site of Babylon was occupied intermittently in later periods, it never regained its former glory or population. The city that was 'glory of kingdoms' (Isaiah 13:19) became archaeological ruins—a fulfillment startling in its completeness.

## Historical Context

After Persian conquest, Babylon declined. Alexander the Great planned to restore it as his capital but died before accomplishing this (323 BC). Seleucid rulers

founded Seleucia nearby, drawing population away. By medieval period, Babylon was abandoned ruins. Today it remains desolate—a testimony to fulfilled prophecy.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do 'wild beasts' and 'owls' symbolize the reversal of civilization under God's judgment?
2. What does Babylon's permanent desolation teach about the finality of divine sentences against rebellious powers?
3. In what sense is 'prophetic forever' to be understood—as absolute or as hyperbolic emphasis on thoroughness?

## Interlinear Text

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לְךָ יָשׁוּב	צִיִּים	אֶת
H3651 shall dwell H3427	Therefore the wild beasts of the desert H6728	H854
אִיִּים	יָשׁוּב	בְּנֵי חֹת וְעֹלֵי חַיִּים
with the wild beasts of the islands H338	shall dwell H3427	H0 there and the owls H1323 H3284
וְלֹא יָשׁוּב	עוֹד לְךָ צֶחַח	וְלֹא יָשׁוּב
H3808 shall dwell H3427	H5750 for ever H5331	H3808 neither shall it be dwelt H5704 H7931
וְדָר:	וְדָר:	
in from generation H1755	in from generation H1755	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 18:2** (Parallel theme): And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

**Jeremiah 25:12** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

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