

Jeremiah 50:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

Analysis

As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof (בְּמַהְפֵּכְתָּא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-סָדָם וְאֶת-עַמּוֹרָה, k'mahpekat Elohim et-Sedom v'et-Amorah)—The ultimate comparison: Babylon's judgment parallels Sodom's. The verb haphak (overthrow) is used exclusively for divine catastrophic judgment. This isn't natural decline but supernatural intervention. Edom received this comparison (49:18); Babylon, chief oppressor, receives the same verdict.

So shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein— Exact repetition of 49:18. The formula indicates irrevocable judgment: human habitation becomes impossible. Yet there's redemptive irony: Babylon the city faces Sodom's fate, but the Babylonian captives in Persia would be released. The system is destroyed; individuals may yet find mercy. This distinction between institutional judgment and personal salvation runs throughout Scripture—God destroys evil systems while redeeming individuals who repent.

Historical Context

Unlike Sodom's instant incineration, Babylon's 'overthrow' was gradual: military defeat (539 BC), political decline, economic collapse, population dispersion, eventual abandonment. Yet the end result matches: permanent desolation. God's 'overthrow' doesn't require a single moment; historical processes can execute divine sentences over centuries.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture repeatedly invoke Sodom when describing ultimate judgment?
2. How does God's method of 'overthrowing' differ between instant catastrophe (Sodom) and gradual decline (Babylon)?
3. What hope exists for individuals within systems under divine judgment, and how does this inform Christian witness?

Interlinear Text

וְעַמְקָהּ הַעֲמָקָהּ תְּמַהְפַּכְתִּי אֱלֹהִים כְּמַהְפַּכְתִּי
overthrew As God H853 Sodom H853 and Gomorrah H853 H6017 H3808 H3068 H3808
H4114 H430 H5467 H3068 H3808 H3427 H8033
שָׁכַנְתִּי בְּנָאָם הַיְהוָה לֹא יִשְׁבַּב שָׁם
and the neighbour cities thereof saith the LORD abide H8033
H7934 H5002 H3068 H3808 H3427 H8033
אֵלָי וְאֵלָי יְהִי כְּבָבָב בְּבָבָב אֵלָמָן
so shall no man dwell H0 there neither shall any son of man
H3808 H1481 H1121 H120

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:6 (References God): And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Jeremiah 49:18 (References Lord): As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.

Jude 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org