

Jeremiah 50:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.

Analysis

At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved (מִקְול נִתְפְּשָׁה בָּבֶל)—Babylon's capture causes seismic response. The verb *ra'ash* (quake) suggests cosmic significance: this isn't merely political shift but theologically decisive event. Babylon represented human autonomy, imperial pride, idolatrous system—its fall vindicates God's justice and signals the eventual downfall of all anti-God systems.

And the cry is heard among the nations (וְעֹזֶה בְּגּוֹם נִשְׁמָעָה, uz'aqah vaggoyim nishma'ah)—Nations hear Babylon's death shriek. This fulfilled historically (Babylon's fall reverberated through ancient world, liberating subject peoples) and typologically (Revelation 18:9-19 depicts worldwide mourning at eschatological Babylon's destruction). The fall of archetypal oppressor becomes paradigm for final judgment. Thus Jeremiah 50-51 isn't merely history but prophecy with ongoing significance: every tyranny will fall; every proud system will crumble; only God's kingdom stands forever.

Historical Context

Cyrus's conquest of Babylon (539 BC) was epochal: it ended Neo-Babylonian Empire, began Persian Empire, liberated Jewish exiles, and enabled temple rebuilding (Ezra 1:1-4). The 'cry among nations' was literal—vassals from Egypt to India learned of Babylon's fall and adjusted policies accordingly.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture use cosmic language (earth shaking) for historical events like Babylon's fall?
2. How does Babylon's fall in 539 BC prefigure the final fall of 'Babylon' in Revelation 18?
3. What does the 'cry heard among nations' teach about the public, visible nature of God's judgments?

Interlinear Text

מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ בְּבָבָל נִתְפַּשׁ הַבָּא לְנִרְעָשׁ הַאֲרָץ וְאֶזְעָקָה הַיּוֹם
At the noise of the taking of Babylon is moved the earth and the cry
H6963 H8610 H894 H7493 H776 H2201

בּוֹנְדִּים נִשְׁמָעוּ
among the nations is heard
H1471 H8085

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:21 (Parallel theme): The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea.

Ezekiel 31:16 (Parallel theme): I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

Ezekiel 26:18 (Parallel theme): Now shall the isles tremble in the day of thy fall; yea, the isles that are in the sea shall be troubled at thy departure.

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