

Jeremiah 51:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will do judgment upon her graven images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan.

Analysis

Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will do judgment upon her graven images (לֶכֶן הִנֵּה-יָמִים בָּאִים וְפָקַדְתִּי עַל-פִּסְלֵיהָ, lakhen hinneh-yamim ba'im ufaqadti al-pesileha)—God's paqad (visitation/judgment) will target Babylon's idols. Since they violated God's sanctuary, He'll destroy theirs. **And through all her land the wounded shall groan** (וּבְכָל-אֶרֶץָּהּ יִאָּנֶק הַלָּל, uv'khol-artsah ye'enoq chalal)—Babylon's entire territory will echo with groans of the chalal (pierced/slain).

This verse connects temple desecration (v. 51) to idol judgment—measure for measure. Babylon's gods couldn't prevent their own temples' downfall (Isaiah 46:1-2 mocks Bel and Nebo being carted into exile). The groan of Babylon's wounded answers the groan of Jerusalem's slain. God's justice is precise: the punishment fits the crime. This principle, terrifying for perpetrators, comforts victims: God sees every injustice and will balance the scales. No wound goes unavenged; no tear unnoticed.

Historical Context

When Xerxes I suppressed a Babylonian revolt (484 BC), he demolished religious structures and melted down Marduk's golden statue—fulfilling the judgment on idols. Later conquests further damaged Babylon's temples. The groaning of

wounded throughout the land occurred across multiple invasions: Cyrus (539 BC), Xerxes (484 BC), Alexander (323 BC).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment on Babylon's idols vindicate His own sanctuary's honor?
2. What does the principle of measure-for-measure judgment reveal about God's justice?
3. In what ways should Christians anticipate God avenging wrongs done to His people and His name?

Interlinear Text

לֵךְ H3651	הִנֵּה H2009	וְיָמֵי H3117	בָּאִים H935	נֹאֵם H5002	יְהוָה H3068
	Wherefore	behold the days	come	saith	the LORD
וּפְקֻדָּתִי י H6485	עַל H5921	פְּסִילֵי יְהוָה H6456	וּבְכָל H3605		
that I will do judgment	upon her	graven images			
אֶרֶץ הָ H776	יֵאָנֶה קַ H602	דָּלֵל: H2491			
and through all her land	shall groan	the wounded			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 51:47 (Judgment): Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

Jeremiah 50:38 (Parallel theme): A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols.

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