

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 (לֹכֶן הַיְמִינִים בָּאִים וַיַּקְרֹבֵת עַל־פְּסִילָה)—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** (וְבָכַל־אָרֶצָה יְאַנוֹק חַלָּל)—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

וְהִנֵּה לְכֶם יְמִינֵיכֶם נָאָם בְּאַיִם יְהִי הַנְּאָמָר

H3651 H2009 Wherefore behold the days come saith the LORD

H3117 H935 H5002 H3068

וְכֹל פָּסִיל יְבָל עַל וְפִקְדָּת יְהִי

that I will do judgment upon her graven images

H6485 H5921 H6456 H3605

כָּלְלָה אָנָּה אֶרְצָה

and through all her land shall groan the wounded

H776 H602 H2491

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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