

Jeremiah 51:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men (וְהִשְׁכַּרְתִּי שָׂרֵיהֶּ וְחֻזְמֵיהֶּ פְּחוֹתֵיהֶּ וְסִגְנֵיהֶּ וְגִבּוֹרֵיהֶּ, v'hishkarti sareha vachamameha pachoteha us'ganeha v'gibboreha)—God will intoxicate Babylon's entire leadership: princes, sages, governors, officials, warriors. The verb shakar (make drunk) suggests stupor, inability to function. This recalls Belshazzar's feast (Daniel 5:1-4)—literal drunkenness accompanied spiritual blindness.

And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake (וְיִשְׁנוּ שְׁנַת עוֹלָם וְלֹא יָקִיצוּ, v'yash'nu sh'nat olam v'lo yaqitsu)—Death described as eternal sleep from which there's no waking. This isn't soul-sleep doctrine but poetic description of permanent mortality. **Saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts** (נֹאֵם הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהוָה, n'um-haMelekh YHWH Tseva'ot sh'mo)—The divine King, commander of heavenly armies, decrees this. Earthly king (Belshazzar) sleeps eternally; heavenly King reigns forever.

Historical Context

Belshazzar was killed the night Babylon fell (Daniel 5:30). Nabonidus disappeared from history. Babylon's ruling class was replaced by Persian administration. The

'perpetual sleep' was both literal (death) and metaphorical (permanent end of their dynasty and power).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the 'drunkenness' metaphor capture both literal folly (Belshazzar's feast) and spiritual blindness?
2. What does 'perpetual sleep' teach about the finality of death and judgment for those outside God's covenant?
3. Why does God emphasize His title 'the King' and 'LORD of hosts' in context of deposing human kings?

Interlinear Text

וְהִשְׁכַּרְתִּי	שָׁרֵי יְהוָה	וְחֲכָמֵי יְהוָה	פְּחוֹתֵי יְהוָה	וְסֻגְּנֵי יְהוָה
And I will make drunk	her princes	and her wise	men her captains	and her rulers
H7937	H8269	H2450	H6346	H5461
וְגִבּוֹרֵי יְהוָה	וְיֹשְׁנֵי וְ	שֵׁנִת	עוֹלָם	וְלֹא יִקְוּ יָצוּ
and her mighty men	and they shall sleep	sleep	a perpetual	and not wake
H1368	H3462	H8142	H5769	H3808 H6974
וְנֹא יֵאָמָר	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ	יְהוָה הֵוא	צָבָא וְ	שְׁמוֹ:
saith	the King	is the LORD	of hosts	whose name
H5002	H4428	H3068	H6635	H8034

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:18 (Kingdom): As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come.

Jeremiah 48:15 (Kingdom): Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 25:27 (References Lord): Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.

Jeremiah 51:39 (References Lord): In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD.

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