

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 (וְהַשְׁפְּרַתִּי שָׁרִיר וּפְכָמִים פְּחוֹתִים וּסְגָגִים וְגַבּוֹרִים) — 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 עֹלֶם וְלֹא יִקְיַצּוּ) — 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** (תֹּאמֶן־נָמֵן, בָּמָלֵךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שְׁמוֹ) — 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

וְיִתְּבַּשֵּׂל יְהִי And I will make drunk	שָׁרֵךְ יְהִי her princes	וְחִכְמָתְךָ יְהִי and her wise	פְּחוּזָתְךָ יְהִי men her captains	וְסִגְלָתְךָ יְהִי and her rulers
H7937	H8269	H2450	H6346	H5461
וְיִשְׁבְּנֵה יְהִי and her mighty men	וְיִשְׁבְּנֵה יְהִי and they shall sleep	שְׁנַתְךָ יְהִי sleep	עִזְלָתְךָ יְהִי a perpetual	וְלֹא יִזְרַעַל יְהִי and not wake
H1368	H3462	H8142	H5769	H3808
וְיִהְיֶה לְךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהִי saith the King	וְיִהְיֶה לְךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהִי is the LORD	וְיִהְיֶה לְךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהִי of hosts	וְיִהְיֶה לְךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהִי 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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org