

Jeremiah 51:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon.

Analysis

So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon (וַיִּכְתֹּב יִרְמְיָהוּ אֶת כָּל־הַרָעָה אֲשֶׁר־תָּבוֹא אֶל־בָּבֶל אֶל־סֵפֶר אֶחָד, vayyikhtov Yirmeyahu et-kol-hara'ah asher-tavo el-Bavel el-sefer echad)—Jeremiah compiled Babylon oracles (chapters 50-51) into a single scroll. **Even all these words that are written against Babylon**—emphasizing comprehensiveness. This written prophecy served multiple purposes:

1. witness against Babylon
2. encouragement for exiles
3. testimony to God's sovereignty
4. historical record for vindication when fulfilled.

The act of writing codifies and preserves God's word.

Unlike oral tradition, the written scroll can be transported, referenced, and verified. This underscores Scripture's authority—God's words inscribed, not merely transmitted. The scroll's journey into Babylon's heart, then its ritual destruction (vv. 63-64), dramatizes Babylon's eventual fate. Prophetic symbolism often enacts future reality in miniature, calling it into existence by faith.

Historical Context

This scroll was distinct from Jeremiah's other writings (see chapter 36's scroll). It specifically contained anti-Babylon oracles. Its dramatic disposal in the Euphrates (v. 63) was subversive political theater—treason if discovered, but God protected His messenger.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of writing prophecy versus merely speaking it—why does inscription matter?
2. How does the scroll's journey into Babylon demonstrate faith in God's word even when circumstances contradict it?
3. In what ways do prophetic symbolic acts participate in and announce the realities they represent?

Interlinear Text

תָּבֹא	אֲשֶׁר	הַכָּעָה	כָּל	אֵת	יִרְמְיָהוּ	הַכְּתוּבִים
that should come	H834	all the evil	H3605	H853	So Jeremiah	that are written
H935		H7451			H3414	H3789
הַדְּבָרִים	כָּל	אֵת	אֲחֵד	סֵפֶר	אֶל	בָּבֶל:
even all these words	H3605	H853	in a	book	H413	against Babylon
H1697			H259	H5612		H894
בָּבֶל:	אֶל	הַכְּתוּבִים	הָאֵלֵּה			
against Babylon	H413	that are written	H428			
H894		H3789				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:8 (Parallel theme): Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

Jeremiah 36:32 (Word): Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.

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