

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 (וְנִתְבַּחַר יְרֵמִיָּהוּ אֶת כָּל-קָרְבָּעָה אֲשֶׁר-פָּבֹא אֶל-בָּבֶל אֶל-סִפְר אֶחָד) vavyikhtov 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

תְּבִיבָה וְאֶשְׁר בְּרַע הַכְּתָב יְמִינֵי הָרָמִים הַכְּתָב יְמִינֵי הָרָמִים
that are written So Jeremiah H3789 H3414 H853 H3605 H7451 all the evil H834 H935 that should come

פְּדָבָר יְמִינֵי הַכְּתָב יְמִינֵי הָרָמִים
against Babylon H413 H894 H413 H5612 H259 even all these words H1697

בְּכָל: בְּכָל: בְּכָל:
that are written H428 H3789 H413 against Babylon H894

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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