

Jeremiah 51:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.

Analysis

Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off (וְאָמַרְתָּ יְהוָה אֲתָה דִּבַּרְתָּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה לְהַכְרִיתוֹ, v'amarta YHWH attah dibbarta el-hamaqom hazzeh l'hakrito)—Seraiah must affirm God's sovereign decree. The verb karat (cut off) indicates thorough destruction, covenant-curse language. **That none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever** (לְבִלְתִּי הָיֹת־בָּהּ יוֹשֵׁב לַמָּאֲדָם וְעַד־בְּהֵמָה כִּי־שִׁמְמוֹת עוֹלָם תִּהְיֶה, l'vilti h'yot-bah yoshev me'adam v'ad-behemah ki-shimmot olam tihyeh)—Total depopulation: neither human nor animal. 'Desolations forever' (shimmot olam) echoes earlier oracles.

This prayer-form declaration makes Babylon's judgment a matter of liturgy, not mere politics. Seraiah's prayer acknowledges God's word as settled reality: 'You have spoken—therefore it is done.' Faith treats God's promises and threats as already accomplished facts, regardless of present evidence. This prayer anticipates fulfillment and worships God for His justice before visible vindication arrives.

Historical Context

Babylon's long decline fulfilled this 'perpetual desolation,' though not instant annihilation. The hyperbolic 'forever' language emphasizes thoroughness. By medieval period, Babylon was indeed uninhabited ruins—'neither man nor beast.'

Today, though some reconstruction for tourism, it remains largely desolate, confirming prophecy.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why is Seraiah instructed to declare judgment as prayer rather than mere proclamation?
2. What does treating God's future promises as present realities teach about biblical faith?
3. How should the 'neither man nor beast' formula inform our understanding of comprehensive divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְאַמַּרְתָּ	יְהוָה	אֶתְּ הָ	דָּבָרָךְ	אֶל	הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה
Then shalt thou say	O LORD	H859	thou hast spoken	H413	against this place
H559	H3068		H1696		H4725

הֵיאָה	לְהַכְרִית וְ	לְבַלֵּת י	הַיּוֹת	בּוֹ	יֹשֵׁב בּ
H2088	to cut it off	H1115	H1961	H0	that none shall remain
	H3772				H3427

לְמַאֲדָם	וְעַד	בְּהֵמָה	כִּי	שָׁמָּה וְהָ	עוֹלָם
in it neither man	H5704	nor beast	H3588	but that it shall be desolate	for ever
H120		H929		H8077	H5769

תְּהִיָּה:
H1961

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 50:13 (References Lord): Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.

Jeremiah 50:3 (Parallel theme): For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

Ezekiel 35:9 (References Lord): I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy cities shall not return: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

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