

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 אַתָּה דִּבֶּרֶת אֱלֹהִים כֹּזוֹ לְהַקְרִיטוֹ) —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** (לְבָلִיטִי קְיֻוִתְבָה יוֹשֵׁב לְמִזְדָּמָה פִּישְׁמָמוֹת עוֹלָם תִּהְיֶה) —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

Psalm 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

בְּמֹקְדָּם אָמַרְתָּ אֶת־הָיָה דְּבָרָתְךָ אֵל בְּמֹקְדָּם
Then shalt thou say O LORD thou hast spoken against this place

H559 H3068 H859 H1696 H413 H4725

בְּזִיהוּת לְבִלְתִּי לְפִכְרִית וְזֹה יֹשֵׁב בּוֹ
H2088 to cut it off H1115 H1961 H0 that none shall remain

H3772 H3427

עַל־מִזְמָדָם כִּי בְּהַמִּתְהָרֵךְ וְשִׁמְמָה וְתִּשְׁמַמְתָּ
in it neither man nor beast but that it shall be desolate for ever

H120 H5704 H929 H3588 H8077 H5769

תְּהִיאָה:

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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