

Jeremiah 51:63

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

Analysis

And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book (וְיָהִי כִּלְתָּבָן) — After completing the reading, Seraiah must perform symbolic act. **That thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates** (וְקַשְׁרָתָ שְׁלֵמָה אֶת־הַסְּפָר אֶל־תּוֹךְ פְּרָת) — Tying a stone ensures the scroll sinks. The Euphrates River was Babylon's lifeblood, source of irrigation, transportation, drinking water, defensive moat. Casting the prophecy into Euphrates dramatizes Babylon's drowning in judgment.

This enacted parable visually communicates what words declare: Babylon will sink, never to rise. The scroll's descent into river depths prefigures the empire's descent into historical oblivion. Revelation 18:21 echoes this: an angel throws a millstone into the sea, declaring, 'Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.' Jeremiah's acted prophecy establishes the archetype for eschatological judgment.

Historical Context

The Euphrates was central to Babylon's identity and economy (see Isaiah 13:1, the 'burden' against 'the desert of the sea'—perhaps referencing the vast marshlands around Babylon). Cyrus later diverted this river to conquer the city—ironic fulfillment of waters becoming instrument of doom.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the theological significance of prophetic symbolic acts—how do they differ from mere illustration?
2. Why cast the scroll into the Euphrates specifically rather than destroying it another way?
3. How does this act prefigure Revelation 18:21's angel casting a millstone into the sea?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהְיֶה כָּל תְּבִיבָה הַסְּפָר אֲתָה לִפְרֵר

H1961 And it shall be when thou hast made an end H3615 H7121 H853 H5612 of reading this book

תִּפְרֹשֶׂת תְּקַשֵּׁר עַל־אֶבֶן וְהַשְׁלַכְתָּו אֶל תְּמִימָה

H2088 that thou shalt bind H7194 H5921 H68 H7993 H413 H8432 to it and cast it into the midst

פְּרָת:
of Euphrates
H6578

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 18:21 (Parallel theme): And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

