

# Jeremiah 51:64

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

## Analysis

**And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her** (בָּבֶל וְלֹא-מָקוֹם מִפְנֵי חַכְעָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מִבְּאָיָה) v'amarta kakhah tishqa Bavel v'lo-taqum mippnei hara'ah asher anokhi mevi aleha)—The interpretive key: 'Thus shall Babylon sink.' The scroll's sinking illustrates the empire's sinking. Shaq'a (sink) suggests drowning, being overwhelmed. The negation 'shall not rise' indicates no recovery, no resurrection. The ra'ah (evil/calamity) comes from God personally (anokhi, emphatic 'I').

**And they shall be weary** (יִעֲפֹו, v'yaefu)—Babylon's defenders will be exhausted, unable to resist. This word closes the oracle section. **Thus far are the words of Jeremiah** (עַד-הַנֵּה דְבָרִי יִרְמְיָהוּ) —Colophon marking the end of Jeremiah's prophetic oracles proper. Chapter 52 (historical appendix) follows, but the prophetic word concludes here—appropriately, with Babylon's sinking. From Genesis 11's Babel to Jeremiah 51's Babylon to Revelation 18's eschatological Babylon, the arc of judgment on human pride and autonomy is complete. Christ alone rises from death; all other kingdoms sink.

## Historical Context

This colophon indicates chapter 52 was added later as historical verification. Jeremiah's oracles concluded with Babylon's doom—everything after is denouement. The scroll's sinking in Euphrates occurred around 593 BC; Babylon's

fall came 539 BC—54 years later. Faith sustained God's people through the waiting.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does Babylon's 'sinking' and inability to 'rise' reveal about the finality of God's judgments on rebellious powers?
2. How does the colophon ('Thus far are the words of Jeremiah') function literarily and theologically?
3. In what ways does Babylon's fall from Genesis 11 to Revelation 18 frame the biblical narrative of human rebellion and divine justice?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַמְרָת	תַּשְׁקַע	עַבְדָּה	בְּכָל	לֹא	תַּקְלִים
And thou shalt say	sink	Thus shall Babylon	and shall not rise		
H559	H8257	H894	H6965		
from	the evil	that I will bring			
H6440	H7451	H935	H5921		
upon her and they shall be weary	עד	בְּנָה	דִּבְרָי	יְהִיּוּ:	
H3286	H5704	H2008	H1697	of Jeremiah	H3414

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 51:58** (References Babylon): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

**Job 31:40** (Word): Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley. The words of Job are ended.

**Revelation 18:21** (References Babylon): 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.

**Psalms 72:20** (Parallel theme): The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

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