

Jeremiah 51:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

Analysis

'We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed.' This suggests God's people attempted to be witnesses for righteousness in Babylon (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego), but the nation remained incorrigible. At some point, efforts to reform the unreformable must cease. The command 'forsake her' recognizes when judgment becomes inevitable. Christians live as witnesses but sometimes must 'shake the dust off' (Matt 10:14).

Historical Context

Despite having godly Jews in their midst who demonstrated God's power and wisdom, Babylon persisted in idolatry and pride until judgment fell.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When should efforts to reform individuals or systems cease?
2. What does it mean to 'forsake' what cannot be healed?

Interlinear Text

נָרַפֵּת מֵהּ	אַתָּה	בָּבֶל	וְלֹא	נָרַפֵּת מֵהּ	עָזַב וּמָ
We would have healed	H853	Babylon	H3808	We would have healed	forsake
H7495	H894		H7495		H5800
וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל	בְּבָבֶל	וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל	וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל	וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל	וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל
every one	H1980	into his own country	H776	reacheth	unto heaven
H376		H3588	H5060	H413	H8064
וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל					
מִשְׁפָט הָ	וְלֹא יָשַׁבְתִּי בְּבָבֶל				
for her judgment	H4941	and is lifted up	H5375	even to the skies	H7834

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 18:5 (Parallel theme): For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Jeremiah 50:16 (References Babylon): Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land.

Isaiah 13:14 (Parallel theme): And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.

Jeremiah 46:16 (Parallel theme): He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword.

Ezra 9:6 (Parallel theme): And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

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