

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

נִרְפָּה תָּה	אֶת	בָּבֶל	וְלֹא	נִרְפָּה תָּה	עָזַב וְהָ	
We would have healed	H853	Babylon	H3808	We would have healed	forsake	
H7495		H894		H7495	H5800	
וְנִלְךָ	אִישׁ	לְאֶרְצוֹ	כִּי	נִגַּע	אֶל	הַשָּׁמַיִם
H1980	every one	into his own country	H3588	reacheth	H413	unto heaven
	H376	H776		H5060		H8064
מִשְׁפָּטָהּ	וְנִשָּׂא	עַד	שָׁמַיִם:			
for her judgment	and is lifted up	H5704	even to the skies			
H4941	H5375		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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