

# Jeremiah 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through them; neither can men hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone.

## Analysis

This verse shifts to lament: 'For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing.' The Hebrew *nehi* (נְהִי, lamentation) and *qinah* (קִנָּה, funeral dirge) indicate formal mourning. 'For the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation' (*ne'oth midbar*, נְאֹת מִדְבָּר, pastures of the wilderness). The devastation extends from mountainous terrain to desert pastures. 'Because they are burned up, so that none can pass through them' describes scorched-earth warfare. 'Neither can men hear the voice of the cattle' indicates complete depopulation—no livestock remain. 'Both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled' completes the picture: birds and wild animals have abandoned devastated land. This is creation-reversing judgment, returning cultivated land to primordial chaos.

## Historical Context

Babylonian warfare included systematic destruction of agricultural infrastructure to prevent rebellion and ensure conquered territories couldn't support armies. Archaeological evidence from Judah shows extensive burning of towns and disruption of settlement patterns during this period. The ecological devastation described—absence of livestock, birds, and wildlife—indicates complete environmental collapse accompanying military destruction.

## Related Passages

---

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the ecological devastation described here reflect the cosmic scope of covenant judgment?
2. What does the departure of animals from the land suggest about sin's impact on creation itself?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְעַל תִּתְהַנֵּן בְּכָה אֲשֶׁר בְּרִים עַל

H5921 For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing H5921  
H2022 H5375 H1065 H5092

תֵּא וְתַּחֲנֹן מִדְבָּר לְלִפְנֵי הַלִּבְנָה

and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation H3588  
H4999 H4057 H7015

בְּאַתָּה מִבְּלִי אֲשֶׁר עַבְרָה אַל

because they are burned up H3341 so that none can pass H3808  
H1097 H376 H5674

שָׁמַע וְלֹא מִקְנֵה הַלְּבָנָה מִעַד וְ

through them neither can men hear H8085 the voice of the cattle both the fowl H5775  
H6963 H4735

וְעַד בְּהַמְּה הַלְּבָנָה נִלְלָה כְּלָכְלָה

of the heavens H8064 and the beast are fled they are gone H1980  
H5704 H929 H5074

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 12:4** (Parallel theme): How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end.

**Hosea 4:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

**Jeremiah 12:10** (Parallel theme): Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

**Jeremiah 7:29** (Parallel theme): Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

**Ezekiel 33:28** (Parallel theme): For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through.

**Ezekiel 29:11** (Parallel theme): No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

**Ezekiel 14:15** (Parallel theme): If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts:

---