

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* (קִינָה, funeral dirge) indicate formal mourning. 'For the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation' (*ne'oth midbar*, נְאוֹת 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

עַל H5921	הַ הָרִים H2022	אֶשׁ אֶ H5375	בָּכָה H1065	וְנָהָה H5092	וְעַל H5921
For the mountains		will I take up	a weeping	and wailing	
וְעַל H4999	וְעַל H4999	מִדְבָּר H4057	קִינָה H7015	כִּי H3588	
and for the habitations		of the wilderness	a lamentation		
נִצְתּוּ H3341	נִצְתּוּ H3341	מִבְּלִי H1097	אֵין H376	עֹבֵר H5674	וְלֹא H3808
because they are burned up		so that none	can pass		
שָׁמַע H8085	שָׁמַע H8085	וְלֹא H6963	מִקֹּל H4735	וְעֹף H5775	
through them neither can men hear		the voice	of the cattle	both the fowl	
הַשָּׁמַיִם H8064	וְעַל H5704	וְהַבְּהֵמָה H929	נִדְדוּ H5074	הֵלְכוּ H1980	
of the heavens		and the beast	are fled	they are gone	

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: