

Jeremiah 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

Analysis

This verse announces Jerusalem's fate: 'And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons.' The Hebrew gallim (גָּלִים, heaps, ruins) describes rubble piles; tannim (תָּנִים, jackals, wild dogs) indicates desolate ruins inhabited only by scavengers. 'And I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant' uses shemamah (שְׁמָמָה, desolation, waste) and ein yoshev (אֵין יוֹשֵׁב, without inhabitant). The judgment extends beyond Jerusalem to all Judah's urban centers. This verse repeats Jeremiah 4:7 and 10:22, emphasizing the theme of urban devastation throughout the book.

Historical Context

Archaeological surveys of Judean sites confirm massive destruction and abandonment during the Babylonian conquest and exile. Jerusalem's walls were razed, the temple destroyed, and the population deported. For seventy years, the land lay largely depopulated, fulfilling the Sabbath rest the people had denied it (2 Chronicles 36:21). Jackals inhabiting ruins became a standard image of desolation (Isaiah 13:22, 34:13-14).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the image of Jerusalem as jackal dens contrast with its identity as God's holy city?
2. What does this prophecy teach about the vulnerability of sacred places when sacred people become unfaithful?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	עֲשֵׂה	עַל	יְהוָה	עַל	יְהוָה	עַל	יְהוָה	עַל	יְהוָה
And I will make	H853	Jerusalem	heaps	and a den	of dragons				H853
H5414		H3389	H1530	H4583	H8577				
the cities	of Judah	And I will make	desolate	H1097	without an inhabitant				
H5892	H3063	H5414	H8077		H3427				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 25:2 (Parallel theme): For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city; it shall never be built.

Jeremiah 51:37 (Parallel theme): And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

Isaiah 34:13 (Parallel theme): And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls.

Isaiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

Jeremiah 10:22 (Parallel theme): Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, and a den of dragons.

Jeremiah 34:22 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant.

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