

# Jeremiah 9:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out.

## Analysis

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This verse describes the mourners' voice: 'For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion.' The Hebrew *qol nehi* (קֹל נְהִי) is the characteristic sound of formal lamentation. 'How are we spoiled!' uses *shadad* (שָׁדַד, devastated, ruined)—the cry of complete destruction. 'We are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out.' The Hebrew *bosh* (בוֹשׁ, shame, confusion) indicates the public humiliation of exile. 'Forsaken the land' (*azavnu eth-ha'arets*) uses the same verb applied earlier to forsaking Torah (9:13)—now they must forsake their land because they forsook God's law.

## Historical Context

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The lament captures authentic exile experience—not just geographical displacement but loss of identity, heritage, and hope. Being 'cast out' by their dwellings personifies the land itself expelling unfaithful inhabitants, fulfilling Leviticus 18:24-28's warning that the land would 'vomit out' those who defiled it. Archaeological evidence shows mass abandonment of Judean sites during this period.

## Related Passages

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

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

### Study Questions

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1. How does the language of the land 'casting out' its inhabitants reflect the theology of land as divine gift contingent on obedience?
2. What parallels exist between Israel's exile and Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden?

### Interlinear Text

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כִּי	קוֹל	נְהִי	נִשְׁמָע	מִצִּיּוֹן	אֵי יֵרָא	שָׁדָדֵנוּ
H3588	<b>For a voice</b>	<b>of wailing</b>	<b>is heard</b>	<b>out of Zion</b>	H349	<b>How are we spoiled</b>
	H6963	H5092	H8085	H6726		H7703
בְּשָׁנוּ	מְאֹד	כִּי	עָזַבְנוּ	אֶת הָאָרֶץ	כִּי	
<b>confounded</b>	<b>we are greatly</b>	H3588	<b>because we have forsaken</b>	<b>the land</b>	H3588	
H954	H3966		H5800	H776		
הֵשָׁל יָדָיו	מִשְׁכְּנוֹתֵינוּ:					
<b>have cast us out</b>	<b>because our dwellings</b>					
H7993	H4908					

### Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 4:13** (Parallel theme): Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.

**Deuteronomy 28:29** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.