

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

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 *shedad* (שָׁדָד, 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* (בּוֹשׁ, 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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וְאֵת לְכָה	אֵיךְ	מֵאֵת	נִשְׁמָע	עַל	נִתְּהַנֵּה	וְאֵת	כֵּן
H3588	For a voice	of wailing	is heard	out of Zion	H349	How are we spoiled	
H6963		H5092	H8085	H6726		H7703	
בָּשְׁתָּוּ	מָאֵד	כִּי	עַל בְּנֵינוּ	כִּי	אֵת	לְזִ	
confounded	we are greatly	H3588	because we have forsaken	H5800	the land	H3588	
H954		H3966			H776		
הַשְׁלִיכָה יְכָוֹן							
have cast us out	because our dwellings	H7993	H4908				

Additional Cross-References

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.