

Revelation 18:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Analysis

The silencing of musicians, craftsmen, and millstones represents complete cessation of cultural and economic life. Harps and music symbolize joy and celebration; their absence indicates mourning. Craftsmen represent productive labor and economic activity. The millstone's sound was daily life's rhythm; its silence means desolation. The phrase 'no more at all' appears repeatedly, emphasizing permanent end. Reformed theology sees this as comprehensive judgment—cultural, economic, and domestic life all cease. Joy built on injustice cannot last; true joy comes from God alone.

Historical Context

Ancient cities' soundscapes included music from celebrations, craftsmen at work, and millstones grinding grain. These sounds indicated vibrant urban life. Their silencing fulfilled prophetic patterns (Jeremiah 25:10, Ezekiel 26:13 on Babylon and Tyre). The vision communicated total desolation—not partial destruction but complete end of civilization's normal activities.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the silencing of daily sounds (music, craftsmen, millstones) illustrate judgment's comprehensive nature—affecting all areas of life?
2. What does this permanent end ('no more at all') teach about the finality of God's judgments on unrepentant systems?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	φωνὴ	κιθαρωδῶν	καὶ	μουσικῶν	καὶ	αὐλητῶν	καὶ
And	the sound	of harpers	And	musicians	And	of pipers	And
G2532	G5456	G2790	G2532	G3451	G2532	G834	G2532
σαλπιστῶν	οὐ	μὴ	ἀκουσθῇ	ἐν	σοὶ	έτι	καὶ
trumpeters	G3756	G3361	shall be heard	in	thee	any more	And
G4538			G191	G1722	G4671	G2089	G2532
πάσης	τεχνίτης	πάσης	τέχνης	οὐ	μὴ		
of whatsoever	craftsman	of whatsoever	craft	G3756	G3361		
G3956	G5079	G3956	G5078				
εὑρεθῇ	ἐν	σοὶ	έτι	καὶ	φωνὴ	μύλου	οὐ
he be shall be found	in	thee	any more	And	the sound	of a millstone	G3756
G2147	G1722	G4671	G2089	G2532	G5456	G3458	
μὴ	ἀκουσθῇ	ἐν	σοὶ	έτι			
G3361	shall be heard	in	thee	any more			
	G191	G1722	G4671	G2089			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 26:13 (Parallel theme): And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

Jeremiah 25:10 (Parallel theme): Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Jeremiah 16:9 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

Jeremiah 7:34 (Parallel theme): Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

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