

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

Psalms 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 κιθαρῳδῶν καὶ μουσικῶν καὶ ἀύλητῶν 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 ἔτι καὶ
trumpeters shall be heard in thee any more And
G4538 G3756 G3361 G191 G1722 G4671 G2089 G2532

πάσης τεχνίτης πάσης τέχνης οὐ μὴ
of whatsoever craftsman of whatsoever craft G3756 G3361
G3956 G5079 G3956 G5078

εὕρεθῇ ἐν σοὶ ἔτι 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 ἔτι
shall be heard in thee any more
G3361 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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