

Deuteronomy 28:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

Analysis

And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates—Hebrew *ṣûr* (צָר) describes a strangling siege cutting off all supplies. The repetition of **all thy gates** twice emphasizes total encirclement. **Thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst**—the verb *bāṭah* (בָּטַח, 'trusted') is devastating: Israel would trust in walls (military might) rather than in God.

This prophesies both the Babylonian and Roman sieges with precision. Babylon breached Jerusalem's walls in 586 BC after 18 months (2 Kings 25:1-4). Rome surrounded Jerusalem with a siege wall in AD 70, starving the city before destroying the temple. The phrase **throughout all thy land** means no city would escape—every fortified place would fall. Archaeological remains of Lachish show Assyrian siege ramps fulfilling this very prophecy.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sieges were horrific—armies surrounded cities, cut off food and water, and waited for starvation. The Babylonian siege of Jerusalem saw conditions so desperate that cannibalism occurred (see v. 53). The Roman siege

was equally brutal, with Josephus recording that over 600,000 bodies were thrown from the walls.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'high walls' do we trust in besides God—wealth, status, security measures?
2. How does this passage demonstrate that no human defense can stand against God's judgment?
3. What does Christ's destruction of the 'dividing wall of hostility' (Ephesians 2:14) mean in light of this curse?

Interlinear Text

וְהִצְרַבֵּ	לְבָ	בְּכָל	שְׁעָרֵ	עַד	כִּי
And he shall besiege	H0	H3605	H8179	H5704	come down
H6887					H3381
וְהִצְרַבֵּ	לְבָ	בְּכָל	שְׁעָרֵ	עַד	כִּי
walls	until thy high	and fenced	and fenced	thou trustedst	
H2346	H1364	H1219	H834	H859	H0
בְּכָל	לְבָ	בְּכָל	לְבָ		
throughout all thy land	And he shall besiege	H6887	H6887		
H3605	H776				
שְׁעָרֵ	אֶרְצָ	שְׁעָרֵ	אֶרְצָ	נָתַת	
thee in all thy gates	H3605	throughout all thy land	H834	hath given	
H8179		H776		H5414	
אֶלְהָ	יְהָ	לְהָ	אֶשְׁר		
which the LORD	thy God	H0			
H3068	H430				

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