

Isaiah 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the water of the old pool: but ye have not looked unto the maker thereof, neither had respect unto him that fashioned it long ago.

Analysis

Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the water of the old pool—continuing water system improvements. The **ditch** (מִקְבֵּה, miqveh, reservoir/collection pool) channeled water from the **old pool** (הַבְּרִכָּה הַיּוֹשֶׁתָּה, haberekhah hayeshanah) between two walls, protecting it during siege. Sophisticated hydraulic engineering.

But ye have not looked unto the maker thereof (וְלֹא הִבְטַתְתֶּם אֶל־עַשְׂרָה, velo hibattem el-oseha)—the devastating indictment. They **looked to** (הִבְּיט, hibbit, gazed at, regarded, trusted) armor, water systems, fortifications, but **not** to the Maker. **The maker thereof** refers to God who created Jerusalem, established it, planned it.

Neither had respect unto him that fashioned it long ago (וְאֶצְבָּה מְרַחֹק לֹא) (רְאִיּתֶם, veyotsrah merachoq lo re'item)—"fashioned" (יצַר, yatsar) is the potter/designer word used in Genesis 2:7 for God forming man. God shaped Jerusalem's history and destiny "long ago" (מְרַחֹק, merachoq, from afar/ancient times). They saw immediate threats but ignored the eternal God.

This is the chapter's theological climax: comprehensive human preparation (vv.8-11) without spiritual repentance or trust in God is ultimately futile. They trusted the created (walls, water, weapons) while ignoring the Creator.

Historical Context

This verse may reference Hezekiah's famous tunnel project (2 Kings 20:20, 2 Chronicles 32:3-4, 30), which brought Gihon Spring water inside the city via a 1,750-foot tunnel—an engineering marvel still visible today. The tunnel inscription found in 1880 describes how workers dug from both ends and met in the middle. While this was wise planning, Isaiah condemns doing such work without corresponding spiritual preparation—repentance, prayer, trust in God who controls whether sieges succeed or fail.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'look unto the maker' in practical terms when facing threats or challenges?
2. How do we similarly invest in 'ditches and pools' (practical preparations) while neglecting 'him that fashioned it long ago' (spiritual foundations)?
3. Why does God condemn preparation and wisdom when they replace rather than accompany faith and repentance?

Interlinear Text

פָּבָרָךְ הַ
לֹּמְדֵי
בֵּין מִתְּמִימָה

וּמִקְנֵת הַ
also a ditch Ye made H996

H4724

H6213

H2346

between the two walls

לְמַיִם

for the water

pool

H1295

וַיַּצְבַּךְ הַ
עֲשֵׂי יְמִינְךָ
וְאֶל

הַבְּטַחַת

אֶל

עֲשֵׂי יְמִינְךָ

וַיַּצְבַּךְ הַ

of the old

H3808

but ye have not looked

H413

Ye made

unto him that fashioned

H3465

H5027

H6213

H3335

לֹא מִתְּחַנֵּן
it long ago H3808 thereof neither had respect

H7350

H7200

רְאִיתֶם:

Additional Cross-References

Micah 7:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Isaiah 31:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Isaiah 17:7 (Parallel theme): At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.

2 Kings 25:4 (Parallel theme): And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.