

Isaiah 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have seen also the breaches of the city of David, that they are many: and ye gathered together the waters of the lower pool.

Analysis

Ye have seen also the breaches of the city of David, that they are many—Jerusalem's walls had **breaches** (בָּקָרָת, bedeqet, breaks/gaps) requiring repair. **The city of David** refers to the original fortress Jerusalem, the oldest fortified section. The phrase "they are many" shows extensive damage or vulnerability.

And ye gathered together the waters of the lower pool (את-מימי הברכה התחתונה, קבצתם, ve'et-meimei haberekhah hatachtonah qibbatstem)—water security was crucial for siege survival. The "lower pool" was likely part of Jerusalem's complex water system. Gathering/collecting water (קָבֵץ, qabats) shows preparation for siege.

This verse describes rational siege preparation: assess damage (see the breaches), secure water supply (gather water from the pool). These were wise military measures. The problem isn't the actions themselves but the absence of spiritual preparation—no mention of seeking God, repenting, or trusting Him (condemned in vv.11-14).

Historical Context

Jerusalem's water systems were engineering marvels. Hezekiah built the famous tunnel bringing water from Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam inside the city walls (2 Kings 20:20, 2 Chronicles 32:30). The 'lower pool' (also mentioned Isaiah 22:11)

and 'upper pool' (Isaiah 7:3) were parts of this system. Archaeological excavations have confirmed these complex waterworks. While Hezekiah's tunnel was wise preparation, Isaiah criticizes trusting engineering without repentance.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does 'seeing the breaches' teach about honest assessment of our vulnerabilities and weaknesses?
2. How can we 'gather water' (make prudent preparations) while still maintaining primary trust in God rather than our preparations?
3. Why does God criticize practical wisdom (wall repairs, water security) in this passage?

Interlinear Text

רָאִיתִ מִן־בְּקִיעַ עִירְכִּי־דָּיוֹדְךָ יְהִי־תְּבִיעַ
H853 also the breaches of the city of David Ye have seen H3588
H1233 H5892 H1732 H7200

בְּרֶכֶת הַמְּלֵךְ אֶת־תְּמִימָנֶת־אֶת־בְּרֶכֶת
that they are many and ye gathered together the waters pool
H7231 H6908 H853 H4325 H1295

בְּתַחַת־זָנָה:
of the lower
H8481

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 20:20 (Parallel theme): And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org