

# 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

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**Ye have seen also the breaches of the city of David, that they are many**—Jerusalem's walls had **breaches** (בִּדְקָה, *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** (וְאֶת־מֵי־הַבְּרֶכָה הַתַּחְתּוֹנָה וְקִבְבַּת־שֵׁטֶם, *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 (קָבַץ, *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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאֵת	בְּקִיעֵי י	עִיר	דָּוִד	רְאִיתֶם	כִּי
H853	also the breaches	of the city	of David	Ye have seen	H3588
	H1233	H5892	H1732	H7200	
כִּי בִּי	וַתִּקְבְּצוּ	אֶת	מֵי	הַבְּרֶכֶת	
that they are many	and ye gathered together	H853	the waters	pool	
H7231	H6908		H4325	H1295	
הַתַּחְתּוֹנָה:					
of the lower					
H8481					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?

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