

# Jeremiah 22:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel  
wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and  
his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?

## Analysis

**Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol?** (העֲזֵב נִבְזֵה נִפְזֵץ הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה כּוֹנְיוֹה) ha'etsev nivzeh nafuts ha'ish hazeh konyahu). The Hebrew עֲזֵב (etsev, 'idol' or 'vessel') combined with נִבְזֵה (nivzeh, 'despised') and נִפְזֵץ (nafuts, 'shattered/broken') creates a devastating image. **Is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure?** (כְּלֵי אֵין חֶפְץ בּוֹ) k'li ein chefets bo)—pottery with no usefulness, discarded as worthless. **Wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed?** The rhetorical questions express shock and demand explanation.

The answer lies in covenant rebellion. What seemed permanent—Davidic dynasty, royal authority, dynastic succession (zera, 'seed')—proves fragile when divorced from faithfulness. Paul uses similar pottery imagery in Romans 9:21-23 regarding vessels of wrath and mercy. The questions force recognition that human glory apart from God is an empty, shattered idol. Even kings are clay pots in the Potter's hands.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings were often deified or seen as semi-divine representatives. The shocking reversal—from exalted monarch to despised, broken vessel—would have been culturally devastating. The vocabulary of 'casting out' recalls how broken pottery was discarded in garbage heaps outside city walls,

becoming worthless rubble. Jehoiachin's reduction from king to prisoner dramatized this theological reality.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What 'vessels' (roles, achievements, identities) have you made into idols that God may need to shatter?
2. How does this image challenge cultural assumptions about human greatness and legacy?
3. In what ways might you be a 'vessel of honor' rather than a broken, despised idol?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל־אָמֵן כִּי־הִנֵּה־בְּעֵצֶב נָבָז הִנֵּה־בָּזָבָז  
is he a vessel  
H3627

וְאֵין־בָּזָבָז מִתְּבָזָבָז מִתְּבָזָבָז  
wherein is no pleasure  
H2656

וְאֵין־בָּזָבָז מִתְּבָזָבָז  
wherefore are they cast out  
H7993

לֹא־אָשָׁר־בָּזָבָז  
into a land  
H5921

לֹא־אָשָׁר־בָּזָבָז  
which they know  
H3045

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 31:12** (Parallel theme): I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.

**Hosea 8:8** (Parallel theme): Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure.

**Jeremiah 48:38** (Parallel theme): There shall be lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the LORD.

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