

Jeremiah 32:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:

Analysis

The evidence of the purchase (סֵפֶר הַמִּקְנָה, sefer hammiqnah—scroll of purchase) **both that which was sealed...and that which was open**—Ancient contracts used a dual-document system: one sealed (official, tamper-proof) and one open (accessible for reference). This matches archaeological discoveries of cuneiform tablets with sealed clay envelopes.

The careful preservation of legal documents (**according to the law and custom**) demonstrates covenant continuity. Even in chaos, God honors order and law. The sealed/open contrast parallels Scripture itself—some truths sealed until proper time (Daniel 12:4, Revelation 22:10), others openly revealed. Jeremiah's meticulous legal procedure during catastrophe models faith that trusts God's future restoration enough to preserve evidence for generations yet unborn—these documents would prove Israel's land rights after exile.

Historical Context

Clay jars (v. 14) were standard for long-term document preservation in ancient Near East—the Dead Sea Scrolls were similarly preserved. The dual-document system protected against fraud while maintaining accessibility. Such legal precision in Scripture confirms eyewitness testimony and historical reliability.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does careful legal documentation during crisis demonstrate faith in God's long-term faithfulness?
2. What 'evidences' should believers preserve for future generations about God's covenant faithfulness?
3. How does the sealed/open document system illustrate progressive revelation in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ח	אֶת	ס	פָּר	הַמִּקְנֵה	אֶת	הַחֶת וּמִ
So I took	H853	the evidence		of the purchase	H853	both that which was sealed
H3947		H5612		H4736		H2856
הַמִּצְוָה		וְהַחֶק יִם	אֶת	הַגָּלִי:		
according to the law		and custom	H853	and that which was open		
H4687		H2706		H1540		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:27 (Word): And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,