

# Jeremiah 32:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.

## Analysis

**The king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem** (צַר, tsar—to bind, besiege, cause distress). The military term conveys more than tactical encirclement—it's covenantal language for divine judgment (Deuteronomy 28:52-53). God weaponizes Babylon against His own people.

**Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison** (חַצֵּר הַמִּתְּרָה, chatsar hamattarah—the guard courtyard). Jeremiah's imprisonment for prophesying Jerusalem's fall (v. 3-5) creates dramatic irony: God's faithful spokesman is imprisoned while the rebellious king remains 'free' yet doomed. The prophet's suffering validates his message—he experiences in microcosm the city's coming captivity. Like Joseph, Daniel, and ultimately Christ, the righteous suffer unjustly under God's sovereign plan.

## Historical Context

The 'court of the prison' (distinct from the dungeon, 38:6) was a walled area within the royal palace complex where Jeremiah had limited freedom. Zedekiah's vacillation—imprisoning yet consulting Jeremiah (v. 3-5, 37:17-21)—reflects his weak character and the prophetic-political tension of the period.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why does faithfulness to God's word sometimes result in imprisonment rather than deliverance?
2. How does Jeremiah's suffering foreshadow Christ's rejection by the religious establishment?
3. What does Zedekiah's fear of both God's prophet and Babylonian power reveal about attempting to serve two masters?

## Interlinear Text

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יְרוּשָׁלָם עַל צָרִים בְּבֵבָל תַּלְגֵּן כִּי יְלִיא ז  
H227 army For then the king of Babylon's besieged H5921 Jerusalem  
H2428 H4428 H894 H6696 H3389

אֲשֶׁר בַּמְּטָבָה הַבְּחִזְקָה כְּלֹא בְּבַבְּבָבָי תִּרְמַמֵּה הוּא  
and Jeremiah the prophet H1961 was shut up in the court of the prison H834  
H3414 H5030 H3607 H2691 H4307

בֵּית לְגֵן יְהוּדָה  
house For then the king of Judah's  
H1004 H4428 H3063

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 37:21** (Kingdom): Then Zedekiah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city were spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

**Nehemiah 3:25** (Kingdom): Palal the son of Uzai, over against the turning of the wall, and the tower which lieth out from the king's high house, that was by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh.

**Jeremiah 33:1** (Parallel theme): Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

**Jeremiah 38:6** (Parallel theme): Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

**Jeremiah 32:8** (Parallel theme): So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

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