

Jeremiah 32:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;

Analysis

Shall not escape (לֹא יִמָּאֵט, lo yimmalet)—emphatic negation. Despite Zedekiah's desperate measures, divine decree is inescapable. The phrase **mouth to mouth** and **his eyes shall behold his eyes** predicts personal confrontation—fulfilled precisely when Nebuchadnezzar forced Zedekiah to watch his sons' execution before blinding him (Jeremiah 39:6-7, 52:10-11).

This graphic prophecy demonstrates God's meticulous sovereignty over historical details. Zedekiah's final sight would be the Babylonian king's face—a haunting fulfillment of covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:34). The doubling of sensory language (mouth/mouth, eyes/eyes) emphasizes the personal, unavoidable nature of judgment. Yet even this horrific prophecy contains implicit call to repentance—knowing the inevitable, Zedekiah could have surrendered and lived (38:17-18).

Historical Context

This prophecy appeared contradictory to Ezekiel 12:13 ('he shall not see Babylon'), puzzling ancient interpreters. Both were literally fulfilled: Zedekiah was brought to Babylon but blind—he never 'saw' it. Such precise fulfillment of seemingly contradictory prophecies validates Scripture's divine origin.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed fulfillment of this prophecy strengthen confidence in unfulfilled biblical prophecies?
2. What does Zedekiah's fate teach about the consequences of resisting God's revealed will?
3. How might Zedekiah's life have differed had he surrendered to God's word through Jeremiah?

Interlinear Text

וְצִדְקִיָּה הוּא	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה	לֹא	יָמֹלֵט	בְּיַד	
And Zedekiah	king	of Judah	H3808	shall not escape	into the hand	
H6667	H4428	H3063		H4422	H3027	
הַכַּשְׂדִּים	כִּי	יִנָּתֵן	יִנָּתֵן	בְּיַד	מֶלֶךְ	בֶּן־לִמְלֶכֶת
of the Chaldeans	H3588	be delivered	be delivered	into the hand	king	of Babylon
H3778		H5414	H5414	H3027	H4428	H894
וְדִבֵּר	פִּי יוֹ	עִם	פִּי יוֹ	עֵינָיו	אֶת	עֵינָיו
and shall speak	to mouth	H5973	to mouth	and his eyes	H853	and his eyes
H1696	H6310		H6310	H5869		H5869
וְרָאָה:						
shall behold						
H7200						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 38:18 (Kingdom): But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

Jeremiah 38:23 (Kingdom): So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire.

Jeremiah 37:17 (Kingdom): Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.