

Jeremiah 32:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.

Analysis

Until I visit him (עַד־פָּקְדִי אֹתוֹ, ad-pokdi oto)—The verb paqad means to attend to, visit, punish, or care for. Zedekiah would remain in Babylon until God 'visited' him—likely a euphemism for death (he died in captivity). The ambiguity reflects judgment and mercy: God doesn't abandon but will 'attend to' even in exile.

Though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper (לֹא תַצְלִיחוּ, lo tatzlichu—not succeed). Resistance is futile when fighting against God's decreed judgment. The warning echoes 2 Chronicles 13:12 ('fight ye not against the LORD'). This isn't military pragmatism but theological realism: success (tsalach) comes from God alone (Psalm 1:3, Joshua 1:8). Without divine blessing, human effort is vanity—a lesson Israel repeatedly forgot.

Historical Context

Zedekiah's alliance with Egypt (Jeremiah 37:5-7) temporarily lifted the siege, giving false hope. But as prophesied, the Babylonians returned and conquered (July 586 BC). Archaeological evidence shows massive destruction layers matching this period, with arrowheads and siege ramps confirming the biblical account.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When have you fought against God's clear direction and experienced the futility Jeremiah describes?
2. How does understanding that God sovereignly grants 'success' change your approach to work and ministry?
3. What's the difference between godly perseverance and stubborn resistance to God's revealed will?

Interlinear Text

עַד יְהוָה ה' וְשָׁמַ	צִדְקִי הוּא	אֶת יוֹלֵךְ	וְכָבֵל	
H5704	H1961	H8033	H6667	
Zedekiah				
תִּלָּחֲמוּ וְכִי יִהְיֶה ה'	נֹאמַר	אֵת וְ	פָּקֵד י'	
H3588	H3068	H5002	H6485	
though ye fight	the LORD	him saith	and there shall he be until I visit	
תִּצְלִיחוּ:	לֹא	הַכַּשְׂדִּים	אֶת	
H6743	H3808	H3778	H854	
ye shall not prosper		with the Chaldeans		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 27:22 (References Lord): They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place.

Jeremiah 39:7 (References Babylon): Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

Jeremiah 33:5 (Parallel theme): They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but it is to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city.

Ezekiel 17:15 (Parallel theme): But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?