

Jeremiah 32:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

When Hanamel arrives exactly as God predicted, Jeremiah recognizes this as confirmation: 'Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.' God's word proved reliable; the prophecy was fulfilled precisely. This confirmation strengthened Jeremiah's faith to proceed with the seemingly foolish purchase. The phrase 'in the court of the prison' reminds us that Jeremiah was confined for his faithfulness—yet even imprisonment couldn't prevent God's purposes from being fulfilled.

This pattern—God speaks, events unfold as predicted, faith is confirmed—recurs throughout Scripture. When God told Abraham his descendants would be enslaved 400 years then delivered (Genesis 15:13-14), Abraham believed God. When it happened exactly as predicted, Israel's faith was confirmed. When Jesus predicted His death and resurrection (Mark 8:31), the disciples struggled to believe. When it happened as He said, their faith was established (John 20:8).

The confirmatory nature of fulfilled prophecy is crucial to Christian faith. We believe the Bible is God's word partly because its predictions have proven reliable. Prophecies about Christ's first coming were fulfilled in detail. This gives confidence that prophecies about His second coming will likewise be fulfilled. Our

faith is not blind leap into the unknown but trust in the God who has proven faithful to His word throughout history.

Historical Context

The court of the prison (likely the guardhouse) allowed Jeremiah limited freedom and visitors while preventing his escape or continued public prophesying. Though confined, he could still conduct business transactions like this land purchase. God's purposes are not thwarted by human attempts to silence His messengers. Truth may be imprisoned, but it cannot be killed.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the fulfillment of God's predictions strengthen our faith and willingness to obey even difficult commands?
2. What does it mean that Jeremiah was imprisoned yet still able to fulfill God's purposes—how does this encourage us when circumstances restrict our freedom?
3. How should the Bible's track record of fulfilled prophecy affect our confidence in its promises that have not yet been fulfilled?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------|--|--|--|
| אָ | אָ | לִי | חַנְמֵאֵל | בֶּן | דִּדְי | דְּבַר | | | | |
| came | H935 | H413 | So Hanameel | son | mine uncle's | according to the word | | | | |
| | | | H2601 | H1121 | H1730 | H1697 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| וְהָיָה | אֵל | חֲצֵר | הַמִּטְכָּה | וַיֹּאמֶר | אֵל | קִנְיָה | | | | |
| of the LORD | H413 | to me in the court | of the prison | and said | H413 | is thine buy | | | | |
| | | H2691 | H4307 | H559 | | H7069 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| אֶת | שְׂדֵי | אֲשֶׁר | בְּעֵנֹת וְהָיָה | | | אֶשְׁרָא | | | | |
| H4994 | H853 | my field | H834 | I pray thee that is in Anathoth | | | H834 | | | |
| | | H7704 | | H6068 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| בְּאֶרֶץ | בְּנִימִן | | כִּי | לְבָב | מִשְׁפַּח | הִירְשָׁה | | | | |
| which is in the country | of Benjamin | | H3588 | H0 | for the right | of inheritance | | | | |
| | H776 | | H1144 | | H4941 | H3425 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| וְלָב | הַגְּאֹלָה | | קִנְיָה | לָהּ | וַאֲדָע | | | | | |
| H0 | is thine and the redemption | | is thine buy | H0 | it for thyself Then I knew | | | | | |
| | H1353 | | H7069 | | H3045 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| כִּי | דְּבַר | | וְהָיָה | | הוּא: | | | | | |
| H3588 | according to the word | | of the LORD | | H1931 | | | | | |
| | H1697 | | H3068 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:7 (Redemption): Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.

Jeremiah 32:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 33:1 (Word): 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,

1 Kings 22:25 (Parallel theme): And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

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