

Jeremiah 32:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.

Analysis

I bought the field of Hanameel—Jeremiah's symbolic purchase of land in occupied territory enacts prophetic hope. While imprisoned and prophesying doom, he invests in Judah's future. The Hebrew *qanah* (buy/redeem) connects to God's redemption of Israel (*go'el*—kinsman redeemer).

Seventeen shekels of silver (שִׁבְעָה שֶׁקֶלִים וְעֶשְׂרֵה הֶכְסֶרֶף)—approximately 7 ounces, a modest sum reflecting the land's devaluation during siege. The precision demonstrates historical authenticity. This real estate transaction during enemy occupation seems absurd—like buying stock during a market crash—yet demonstrates radical faith in God's promise that 'houses and fields...shall be possessed again in this land' (v. 15). Jeremiah puts his money where his prophecy is, investing in God's future when circumstances scream hopelessness.

Historical Context

Levitical law required family land redemption (Leviticus 25:25-28, Ruth 4:1-6). As nearest kinsman, Jeremiah had obligation and right to redeem Hanameel's field in Anathoth (Jeremiah's hometown). The careful legal documentation (v. 10-12) follows ancient Near Eastern practice—similar legal tablets have been discovered archaeologically.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's land purchase model faith that acts on God's promises despite contrary circumstances?
2. What 'foolish' investments might God be calling you to make based on His promised future?
3. How does Christ as our kinsman-redeemer (go'el) fulfill the typology of Jeremiah redeeming family land?

Interlinear Text

וָאֶקֶנָה	אֶת	הַשָּׂדֶה	מֵאֵת	בְּנֵי	חֲנָמֵאֵל	בֶּן	דָּדִי	אֲשֶׁר
And I bought	H853	the field	H853	of Hanameel	son	my uncle's	H834	
H7069		H7704		H2601	H1121	H1730		
בְּעֵנֹת	וְהָיָה	וְאֶשְׁקָלָהּ	לּוֹ	אֶת	הַכֶּסֶף:	שִׁבְעָה	הַ	
that was in Anathoth		and weighed	H0	H853	him the money	even seventeen		
H6068		H8254			H3701	H7651		
שְׁקָלֵי	וְעֶשְׂרֵי	הַכֶּסֶף:						
shekels	H6235	him the money						
H8255		H3701						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 20:39 (Parallel theme): And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.

Esther 3:9 (Parallel theme): If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

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