

Jeremiah 33:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword;

Analysis

The houses of this city, and the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down (הַנְּתַזְזֹת, hannetutzot, torn down, demolished)—God acknowledges the brutal reality: defensive **mounts** (סֹלְלֹת, solelot, siege ramps) and **the sword** (כֶּרֶב, cherev) have demolished even royal palaces. Homes were dismantled to fortify walls against Babylonian siege engines—a desperate, futile defense.

This verse doesn't minimize judgment's severity. The passive participle 'thrown down' depicts completed destruction. Yet God speaks of these ruins in a promise of restoration (v. 6-7), proving His grace rebuilds what His justice demolished. Romans 11:22 balances this: 'Behold the goodness and severity of God.'

Historical Context

During the Babylonian siege (588-586 BC), Jerusalem's defenders tore down houses to build defensive positions and obtain materials for wall repairs. The city consumed itself trying to survive. Royal houses weren't spared—even privilege couldn't escape judgment. Archaeological evidence from the destruction layer confirms this catastrophic dismantling.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's honest acknowledgment of devastation (rather than minimizing it) prepare you to receive His restoration promises?
2. What 'houses' in your life have been torn down by consequences of sin—personal or corporate?
3. How does the fact that God's judgment fell even on 'the houses of the kings' speak to the impartiality of divine justice?

Interlinear Text

עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֱלֹהִים	יְהוָה	אָמַר	כִּי	כִּי	אָמַר	כִּי	אָמַר	כִּי	אָמַר	כִּי	
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	the LORD	the God	H559	H3068	H430	H3478	of Israel	H5921			
בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	בְּתִים	
and concerning the houses	of this city	and concerning the houses	of this city	and concerning the houses									
H1004	H5892	H2063	H5921	H1004									
מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	
of the kings	of Judah	which are thrown down	by the mounts	and	the	the	the	the	the	the	the	the	the
H4428	H3063	H5422	H413	H413	H5550								
חֶרְבָּה:													
and by the sword													
H2719													

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:24 (Word): Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it.

Ezekiel 4:2 (Parallel theme): And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about.

Habakkuk 1:10 (Kingdom): And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

Ezekiel 21:22 (Parallel theme): At his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, to appoint captains, to open the mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to appoint battering rams against the gates, to cast a mount, and to build a fort.

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