

Jeremiah 37:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire.

Analysis

And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire—this prophecy contains four certainties, each expressed as accomplished fact. Shuv (שׁוב, come again/return) guarantees Babylon's return after dealing with Egypt. Nilcham (נִלְחָם, fight) indicates resumed siege warfare. Lakad (לְקָדַד, take/capture) declares Jerusalem's inevitable fall. Sarap ba'esh (שָׁרַב בְּאֵשׁ, burn with fire) specifies total destruction.

This unflinching prophecy left no room for false hope. Egypt's intervention was merely an interruption, not deliverance. Jerusalem's fate was sealed—not by Babylonian might but by divine decree in response to covenant unfaithfulness. The certainty of these declarations reveals God's sovereign control over history. Nebuchadnezzar was God's instrument of judgment (25:9; 27:6; 43:10).

Jeremiah's unwavering proclamation of doom made him seem unpatriotic, even traitorous (38:4). Yet true faithfulness to God sometimes requires speaking unpopular truth. The prophet's message aligned with earlier warnings: persistent covenant breaking would result in exile and Jerusalem's destruction (Leviticus 26:27-33; Deuteronomy 28:49-52). God's word is trustworthy—both His promises and His warnings.

Historical Context

This prophecy was fulfilled exactly. After Egypt's retreat, Babylon resumed the siege with intensified ferocity. In 586 BC, after 18 months of siege, Jerusalem's walls were breached (39:2; 52:6-7). The city was systematically destroyed, the temple burned, walls demolished, and the population either killed or deported (2 Kings 25:8-21). Archaeological excavations in Jerusalem reveal destruction layers from this period—ash, arrowheads, and collapsed structures confirming the biblical account. The Babylonian Chronicle also records Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns against Judah, providing extrabiblical confirmation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should we respond when God's word contradicts what we desperately want to be true?
2. What distinguishes genuine prophetic warning from defeatism or lack of faith in God's power to deliver?
3. Why is it sometimes more faithful to declare hard truth than to offer false comfort?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבָן	וְנִגְלַתְמָן	וְפָכַשְׁדִּים	וְעַל	בְּעֵיר	בְּזָאת
shall come again	And the Chaldeans	and fight	H5921	against this city	H2063
H7725	H3778	H3898		H5892	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 38:23 (Parallel theme): 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.

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