

Jeremiah 39:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.

Analysis

In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up (הָעִיר הִבְקָעָה, ha'ir hovqea'ah)—The precise dating (July 18, 586 BC) underscores the historical reliability of Scripture and the exactness of God's prophetic timetable. The verb baqa (בָּקַע) means 'to split, breach, cleave'—Jerusalem's walls were literally ripped open after an 18-month siege. This fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecies (21:10, 32:28-29, 34:2) and Moses' covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:52).

Zedekiah's eleventh year parallels Nebuchadnezzar's nineteenth year (52:12), marking the end of the Davidic monarchy until Christ. The breach of Jerusalem's walls symbolizes the breach of covenant—Israel's protective hedge removed due to persistent rebellion against God's word through His prophets.

Historical Context

The siege began in January 588 BC (Jeremiah 39:1, 52:4) and lasted 18 months. Jerusalem's population faced starvation (Lamentations 4:9-10). The summer breach came during the month of Tammuz, later commemorated in Jewish fasting. Babylonian siege tactics involved building ramps and battering rams against fortified walls until structural collapse.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's precise fulfillment of prophecy strengthen your confidence in His promises?
2. What 'protective walls' in your life might God allow to be breached to bring you back to covenant faithfulness?
3. How does the fall of Jerusalem point forward to Christ as the true and final Temple (John 2:19-21)?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֶשְׂרִי	עֶשְׂרֵה הַ	שָׁנָה	לְצִדְקִיָּהוּ	לַח דָּשׁ
And in the eleventh	H6240	year	of Zedekiah	day of the month
H6249		H8141	H6667	H2320
הָרְבִיעִי	בְּתִשְׁעָה הַ	לַח דָּשׁ	הִבְקַעַה	הָעִיר:
in the fourth	the ninth	day of the month	was broken up	the city
H7243	H8672	H2320	H1234	H5892

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