

Jeremiah 52:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And concerning the pillars, the height of one pillar was eighteen cubits; and a fillet of twelve cubits did compass it; and the thickness thereof was four fingers: it was hollow.

Analysis

The height of one pillar was eighteen cubits (שְׁמֹנֶה עָשָׂר אַמָּה)—approximately 27 feet. These bronze pillars, Jachin and Boaz, stood at Solomon's Temple entrance (1 Kings 7:15-22), symbolizing God's establishment (Jachin: 'He establishes') and strength (Boaz: 'In Him is strength'). Their destruction fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecies of Jerusalem's desolation.

It was hollow (נָבוֹה)—cast bronze, not solid. The pillars' hollow nature may symbolize Israel's spiritual emptiness—outward religious form without inward covenant faithfulness. Nebuchadnezzar broke them to carry the bronze to Babylon (v. 17), ending 400 years of Temple worship.

Historical Context

The pillars were crafted by Hiram of Tyre around 960 BC for Solomon's Temple. Their detailed measurements here (paralleling 2 Kings 25:17) emphasize the meticulous destruction of 586 BC, when Babylon systematically dismantled Judah's religious infrastructure.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do the names Jachin and Boaz remind you that true strength comes from God's establishment, not human religious structures?
2. What 'hollow pillars' might exist in your spiritual life—outward practices lacking inner covenant loyalty?
3. How does the precision of this destruction account emphasize God's justice in fulfilling His covenant warnings?

Interlinear Text

הַעֲמֹד	שְׁמֹנֶה	עֶשְׂרֵי	אַמָּה	קוֹמָה	
And concerning the pillars	was eighteen	H6240	cubits	the height	
H5982	H8083		H520	H6967	
הַעֲמֹד	הָאֶחָד	וְחֵט	שְׁתֵּי	עֶשְׂרֵי	אַמָּה
And concerning the pillars	of one	and a fillet	of twelve	H6240	cubits
H5982	H259	H2339	H8147		H520
יָסַב נֹו	וְעָבִי ו	אַרְבַּע	אֶצְבָּע	וְחֵט	נִבְּוֹב:
did compass	it and the thickness	thereof was four	fingers	it was hollow	
H5437	H5672	H702	H676	H5014	

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 25:17 (Parallel theme): The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the chapter upon it was brass: and the height of the chapter three cubits; and the wreathen work, and pomegranates upon the chapter round about, all of brass: and like unto these had the second pillar with wreathen work.