

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 (שְׁמֵנָה עָשֶׂר כֹּעָבֶת)—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 (תְּבֻזֵּב)—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

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

בְּעֵת דָּבָר	שְׁמֵנֶה	עָשָׂר	אֶת	קָוָה
And concerning the pillars	was eighteen	H6240	cubits	the height
H5982	H8083		H520	H6967

אֲמָה הַעֲמָדָה	בְּאַפְתָּה	וְחַטְבָּה	שְׁתִים	עָשָׂר הַעֲשָׂרָה	H6240	cubits
And concerning the pillars	of one	and a fillet	of twelve			
H5982	H259	H2339	H8147			H520

did compass	it and the thickness	thereof was four	ingers	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.