

Jeremiah 52:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were ninety and six pomegranates on a side; and all the pomegranates upon the network were an hundred round about.

Analysis

Ninety and six pomegranates on a side—96 visible from any direction, with **an hundred round about** total, suggesting four were at the corners or hidden. This precise enumeration in the midst of catastrophe shows Scripture's historical reliability and God's sovereignty over every detail, even in judgment.

The number 100 often symbolizes completeness in Scripture. The complete destruction of these complete decorations underscores the totality of God's judgment. Yet the meticulous recording suggests these details mattered to God—even in wrath, He remembers His house.

Historical Context

The discrepancy between 96 visible and 100 total pomegranates has been explained by architectural scholars as corner pomegranates positioned at 90-degree angles, visible from neither cardinal direction. This detail confirms eyewitness testimony in Scripture's historical accounts.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does God's attention to detail—even counting pomegranates during judgment—reveal about His character?
2. How does the completeness of the Temple's destruction (all 100 pomegranates destroyed) mirror the completeness of Judah's covenant unfaithfulness?
3. In what ways does God's sovereignty extend to the smallest details of your life, even in seasons of discipline?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיוּ H1961	וְהָיוּ יָם H7416	וְהָיוּ יָם H8673	וְהָיוּ יָם H8337	וְהָיוּ יָם H7307	וְהָיוּ יָם H3605
	and all the pomegranates	And there were ninety	and six	on a side	
	וְהָיוּ יָם H7416	וְהָיוּ יָם H3967	וְהָיוּ יָם H5921	וְהָיוּ יָם H7639	וְהָיוּ יָם H5439
	and all the pomegranates	were an hundred	upon the network	round about	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 7:20 (Parallel theme): And the chapiters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter.