

# Jeremiah 52:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans were by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain.

## Analysis

**Then the city was broken up** (וַתִּבְּקַע הָעִיר, vatibbaqa ha'ir)—the Hebrew baqa means to split, breach, or burst open, describing the catastrophic moment when Babylon's siege engines finally penetrated Jerusalem's walls after 30 months (52:4-6). **All the men of war fled** reveals the collapse of Judah's last military resistance. King Zedekiah and his warriors escaped **by night by the way of the gate between the two walls**, likely a secret passage near the Kidron Valley, **which was by the king's garden**—a desperate nighttime flight from the doomed city.

The parenthetical note **(now the Chaldeans were by the city round about)** emphasizes the impossibility of escape—Babylon's army encircled Jerusalem completely, yet Zedekiah attempted to flee anyway. **They went by the way of the plain** (הָעֲרָבָה, ha'aravah) toward the Jordan valley, heading east toward Jericho. This cowardly flight fulfilled Jeremiah's repeated warnings that resistance was futile and that surrender to Babylon was God's will (Jeremiah 21:8-10, 38:17-23). Zedekiah's refusal to heed God's prophet led to Jerusalem's destruction and his own capture. This verse illustrates that human schemes cannot circumvent divine judgment—fleeing God's appointed discipline only compounds the tragedy.

## Historical Context

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This event occurred in July 586 BC (the fourth month, ninth day—52:6-7), marking the end of the Davidic monarchy's rule in Jerusalem and the destruction of Solomon's temple. Nebuchadnezzar's forces had besieged Jerusalem since January 588 BC, creating horrific famine conditions described in Lamentations 4:3-10. Zedekiah was Judah's last king, a weak ruler who vacillated between trusting Egypt and submitting to Babylon, ultimately rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar despite sworn allegiance (Ezekiel 17:11-21). Archaeological evidence from the City of David shows massive destruction layers from this period, with arrowheads and burn marks confirming the violence. The 'gate between the two walls' likely exploited a vulnerable point in Jerusalem's eastern defenses. Zedekiah's attempted escape toward the wilderness of Judah shows he hoped to reach territory beyond Babylon's immediate control, possibly to regroup or flee to Egypt—a futile plan that ended in disaster within hours.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Zedekiah's attempted escape demonstrate the futility of fleeing from God's ordained judgment?
2. What does this verse teach about the consequences of rejecting prophetic warnings and trusting in human schemes?
3. In what ways might we today attempt to 'flee' from God's corrective discipline rather than submit to His purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתִּבָּקַע ע      הָעִיר      וְכָל      אַנְשֵׁי י      הַמִּלְחָמָה ה      וַיִּבְרְחוּ  
was broken up    Then the city    H3605    H376    of war    fled  
H1234    H5892    H4421    H1272

וַיֵּצֵא ו      הָעִיר      לַיְלָה      דֶּרֶךְ      שֶׁעַר      בֵּין  
and went forth    Then the city    by night    by the way    of the gate    H996  
H3318    H5892    H3915    H1870    H8179

הַחֲמֹמֶת ים      אֲשֶׁר      עַל      גַּן      הָמֶלֶךְ לָהּ  
between the two walls    H834    H5921    garden    which was by the king's  
H2346    H1588    H4428

וְכַשְׁדִּי יָם      עַל      הָעִיר      סָבִיב      וַיֵּלֶךְ ו      דֶּרֶךְ  
now the Chaldeans    H5921    Then the city    round about    H1980    by the way  
H3778    H5892    H5439    H1870

הָעֲרָבָה:  
of the plain  
H6160

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 51:32** (Parallel theme): And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted.

**2 Kings 25:4** (Kingdom): And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.