

Luke 19:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

Analysis

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side (χάρακά σοι...περικυκλώσουσίν σε καὶ συνέξουσίν σε πάντοθεν, charaka soi...perikyklōsousin se kai synexousin se pantothen). Jesus prophesies Jerusalem's destruction with harrowing specificity. Cast a trench (χάρακα, charaka) refers to a siege rampart or palisade; compass round (περικυκλόω, perikyklōō) means to encircle completely; keep thee in (συνέχω, synechō) means to hold in a stranglehold. This precisely describes Rome's siege tactics in AD 70 under Titus.

This verse follows Jesus's weeping over Jerusalem (v. 41-42). His tears demonstrate that judgment brings Him no pleasure—God 'weeps' over those who reject His visitation. The days shall come warns of divine patience reaching its limit. Forty years later, Titus's legions did exactly this: built a siege wall (circumvallation), starving Jerusalem into submission. Josephus records that 1.1 million Jews died, fulfilling Jesus's prophecy in horrifying detail.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words around AD 30; Jerusalem fell in AD 70. The Roman general (later emperor) Titus besieged Jerusalem for five months, constructing a siege wall around the entire city. Josephus, the Jewish historian who witnessed the siege, describes mass starvation, cannibalism, and brutal infighting among Jewish

factions. The Temple was destroyed on the 9th of Av (Tisha B'Av), the same date Babylon destroyed Solomon's Temple in 586 BC.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's weeping over Jerusalem challenge notions of divine judgment as cold or vindictive?
2. What does the forty-year gap between prophecy and fulfillment teach about God's patience before judgment?
3. In what ways might Christ 'weep over' modern churches or nations that don't recognize 'the time of their visitation'?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	ἔξουσιν	ἡμέραι	ἐπὶ	σε	καὶ	περιβαλοῦσιν	οἱ
For	shall come	the days	upon	thee	and	about	G3588
G3754	G2240	G2250	G1909	G4571	G2532	G4016	

ἐχθροί	σου	χάρακά	σοι	καὶ	περικυκλώσουσίν	σε	καὶ
enemies	thine	a trench	thee	and	compass	thee	and
G2190	G4675	G5482	G4671	G2532	G4033	G4571	G2532

συνέξουσίν	σε	πάντοθεν
in	thee	on every side
G4912	G4571	G3840

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 26:8 (Parallel theme): He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee.

Ezekiel 4:2 (Parallel theme): And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about.

Isaiah 37:33 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

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