

Ezekiel 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And hath taken of the king's seed, and made a covenant with him, and hath taken an oath of him: he hath also taken the mighty of the land:

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar 'took of the king's seed' (Zedekiah), 'made a covenant' (vassal treaty), and 'hath taken an oath.' The Hebrew berith ('covenant') indicates formal, binding agreement. Ancient treaties were sworn before deities, making later rebellion oath-breaking before God. Deporting leaders decapitated Judah's rebellion capacity.

Historical Context

Vassal treaties followed standard formats: historical prologue, stipulations, divine witnesses, curses. The Babylonian-Zedekiah treaty invoked both Babylonian deities and Yahweh. Archaeological discoveries show typical clauses forbidding third-party alliances—exactly what Zedekiah violated by seeking Egyptian help.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How seriously do we take oaths and commitments made before God?
2. What does Zedekiah's oath-breaking teach about word-keeping and spiritual integrity?

Interlinear Text

לְקַחַן	בְּרִית	אֶת	וַיַּכְרֵת	פְּמַלְכֵךְ	הַמֶּלֶךְ	בְּעֵ	לְקַחַן
And hath taken	seed	of the king's	and made			H854	a covenant
H3947	H2233		H4410		H3772		H1285
לְקַחַן	בְּרִית	אֶת	וַיַּכְרֵת	פְּמַלְכֵךְ	הַמֶּלֶךְ	בְּעֵ	לְקַחַן
with him and hath taken							
H935		H853		H853		H352	H776
לְקַחַן	בְּרִית	אֶת	וַיַּכְרֵת	פְּמַלְכֵךְ	הַמֶּלֶךְ	בְּעֵ	לְקַחַן
And hath taken							
H3947							

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 36:13 (Kingdom): And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

Ezekiel 17:5 (Parallel theme): He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree.

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