

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

וְכָחַ:	זֶרַע	הַמֶּלֶךְ הַ	וַיַּכֵּר ת	אֶת ו	בְּרִית
And hath taken	seed	of the king's	and made	H854	a covenant
H3947	H2233	H4410	H3772		H1285
וְכָח א	אֶתוֹ	בְּאֵל הַ	וְאֶת	אֵיל י	הָאֵל רֶץ
with him and hath taken	H853	an oath	H853	the mighty	of the land
H935		H423		H352	H776
וְכָחַ:					
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.