

Ezekiel 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the kingdom might be base, that it might not lift itself up, but that by keeping of his covenant it might stand.

Analysis

'That the kingdom might be base, that it might not lift itself up'—God's remedial intent. 'Base' (Hebrew shaphal) means 'brought low,' not destroyed. Judah's humiliation would teach dependence on God rather than political power. 'By keeping of his covenant it might stand'—paradox: faithful submission to Babylon would demonstrate trust in God's sovereignty.

Historical Context

Exile's purpose: corrective, not merely punitive. The 70-year exile (Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10) would purge idolatry and teach faithfulness. Had Judah remained subject to Babylon, the temple would have stood and exile limited to 597 BC. Post-exilic Israel never again fell into systematic idolatry—showing the exile's effectiveness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God use humbling circumstances to teach dependence on Him?

2. When has submission to difficulty proven to be God's path to flourishing?

Interlinear Text

לְהִיּוֹת H1961	מִמְלָכָה H4467	שָׂפָלָה H8217	לְבִלְתִּי H1115	הַתִּנְשֵׁא H5375
	That the kingdom	might be base		that it might not lift itself up
לְשֹׂמְרֵי H8104	אֶת H853	בְּרִיתִי H1285	לְעֹמְדָהּ H5975	
but that by keeping		of his covenant	it might stand	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 29:14 (Kingdom): And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom.