

Ezekiel 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people.
Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?

Analysis

Zedekiah 'rebelled...in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people.' Seeking Egyptian military aid violated treaty and God's commands. Rhetorical questions expect negative answers. Hebrew parar ('break') suggests shattering what should bind. Covenant-breaking brings consequences, not deliverance.

Historical Context

Lachish letters (archaeological evidence) mention watching for signals during Babylonian siege, confirming the desperate situation. Letters reference officials going to Egypt, corroborating biblical accounts. Pharaoh Hophra's army briefly advanced (Jeremiah 37:5), causing temporary Babylonian withdrawal before returning with fury.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What modern 'Egyptian horses' tempt us to trust human solutions over God?
2. How does covenant-breaking in relationships demonstrate our theology of commitment?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּמְרֹד	בּוֹ	לְשַׁלְּחֵם	מִלְּאֲכָיו	מִצֶּרְיִם	
But he rebelled	H0	against him in sending	his ambassadors	into Egypt	
H4775		H7971	H4397	H4714	
לָתֵת	לּוֹ	סוֹסֵי־יָם	וְעַם	רַב	הַיִּצְלָח
that they might give	H0	him horses	people	and much	Shall he prosper
H5414		H5483	H5971	H7227	H6743
וְנִמְלֹט:	הָעֹשֶׂה	אֵלָּה	וְהִפָּרַר	בְּרִית	
and be delivered	that doeth	H428	such things or shall he break	the covenant	
H4422	H6213		H6565	H1285	
וְנִמְלֹט:					
and be delivered					
H4422					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 52:3 (Parallel theme): For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 38:18 (Parallel theme): But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

Jeremiah 34:3 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the

eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon.

Deuteronomy 17:16 (References Egypt): But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

Ezekiel 17:7 (Parallel theme): There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation.

2 Kings 24:20 (Parallel theme): For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

2 Chronicles 36:13 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 38:23 (Parallel theme): So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire.

Ezekiel 17:18 (Covenant): Seeing he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, when, lo, he had given his hand, and hath done all these things, he shall not escape.

Ezekiel 17:9 (Parallel theme): Say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof.