

# Ezekiel 17:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Comprehensive guilt: 'he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, when, lo, he had given his hand.' 'Given his hand' refers to clasping hands to seal agreements (Ezra 10:19, 2 Kings 10:15). 'Lo' (Hebrew *hinneh*)—'behold!'—emphasizes shocking treachery. 'He shall not escape' reinforces judgment's certainty. Covenant-breaking brings inescapable consequences.

## Historical Context

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Hand-clasping was standard in ancient treaty-making. Nebuchadnezzar's 'giving of the hand' formalized the vassal relationship. Contemporary Mesopotamian texts and reliefs depict such ceremonies. Oaths were sworn before both parties' gods—Babylonian deities and Yahweh—making violation sacrilege.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

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