

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

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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does covenant solemnity teach about marriage vows, church membership, sacred commitments?
2. How should certainty of 'not escaping' shape our choices before making commitments?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה הַבְּרִית אֲלֵהֶךְ בְּרִית יְהֹוָה לְבִתְּפָרָה
Seeing he despised the oath by breaking the covenant H2009
H959 H423 H6565 H1285

לֹא עָשָׂה הַיְד אֶלָּה וְכֹל יְדֵי
when lo he had given his hand and hath done H3808
H5414 H3027 H6213

וְאַל תַּפְלִיט:
all these things he shall not escape H4422

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 29:24 (Kingdom): And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.

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