

# Ezekiel 17:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head.

## Analysis

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'He hath despised mine oath, and hath broken my covenant.' What appeared merely political was actually oath to God. When Zedekiah swore before Yahweh as witness, he bound himself to God, not just Nebuchadnezzar. 'I will even bring it upon his head'—covenant curse language. God takes personal responsibility: 'I will...' His reputation is at stake.

## Historical Context

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Ancient treaties invoked deities as witnesses and enforcers. The Babylon-Judah treaty explicitly named Yahweh. Breaking this oath defied God Himself. This explains judgment's intensity—not merely political but covenant curses. Deuteronomic covenant (Deuteronomy 28-30) specified curses for disobedience: conquest, exile, royal humiliation.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that commitments before others are ultimately to God change our view?
2. What areas have we compartmentalized as 'secular' when God views them as sacred?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	אִם	אֲנִי	חִי	יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	אֲמַר	כֹּה	לֵכֵן
H3808	H518	H589	H2416	H3069	H136	H559	H3541	H3651
			As I live	GOD	the Lord	Therefore thus saith		
אֲשֶׁר	וּבְרִיתִי	בְּזֶה	אֲשֶׁר	אֶלַּתִּי				
H834	H1285	H959		H423				
	and my covenant	that he hath despised		surely mine oath				
בְּרֹאשׁוֹ	וְנָתַתִּי	יָפָה יֵר						
H7218		H6331						
upon his own head	even it will I recompense	that he hath broken						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 5:9** (References Lord): Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

**Jeremiah 5:2** (References Lord): And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely.

**Deuteronomy 5:11** (References God): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.