

Ezekiel 17:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me.

Analysis

'I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare.' God as divine hunter, actively pursuing Zedekiah. 'Net' and 'snare' metaphors describe inescapable judgment (Ezekiel 12:13). No human strategy evades God's purposes. 'I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there'—both physical deportation and divine confrontation. 'Plead' (Hebrew shaphat): 'to judge'—prosecute, present evidence, pronounce sentence.

Historical Context

Fulfilled in 2 Kings 25:5-7, Jeremiah 52:8-11. Zedekiah captured in Jericho plains attempting to flee. Brought before Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah (Syria), where his sons were executed before him, then blinded and taken to Babylon in chains. The Riblah confrontation fulfilled God's promise to 'plead with him' through Babylon's king.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that sins are ultimately 'against God' (Psalm 51:4) change repentance?
2. What does God's active pursuit teach about both His justice and determination?

Interlinear Text

וּפְרֹשֶׁתִי י	רֶשֶׁתִּי י	עָלָיו	וְנִתַּפּ ש	בְּמִצְוֹדָתִי י
And I will spread	my net	upon him and he shall be taken	in my snare	
H6566	H5921 H7568	H8610	H4686	
וְהִבֵּיאוּתִי יְהוָה	בְּךָ לָהּ	וְנִשְׁפָּטְתִּי י	שָׁמָּה אֶתּוֹ	
and I will bring	him to Babylon	and will plead		
H935	H894	H8199	H854 H8033	
מֵעַל ו	אֲשֶׁר ר	מֵעַל	כִּי:	
with him there for his trespass	that he hath trespassed			
H4603	H834 H4604		H0	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 12:13 (References Babylon): My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.

Jeremiah 2:35 (Parallel theme): Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

Ezekiel 32:3 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will therefore spread out my net over thee with a company of many people; and they shall bring thee up in my net.

Ezekiel 38:22 (Parallel theme): And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many

people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

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