

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

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|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|
| וְפִרְשַׁת | רֶשֶׁת | עַלְיוֹן | וְנִתְפַּשׁ | שָׁ | בְּמִצְדָּת | בְּ |
| And I will spread | my net | upon him and he shall be taken | in my snare | | | |
| H6566 | H5921 | H7568 | H8610 | | | H4686 |
| וְבָיאוֹת יְהוָה | וְנִשְׁפְּתַת | בְּבָבָלָן | אַתָּה | שְׁמַע | | |
| and I will bring | him to Babylon | and will plead | H854 | H8033 | | |
| H935 | H894 | H8199 | | | | |
| מַעַל | אֲשֶׁר | מַעַל | | | | |
| with him there for his trespass | H834 | that he hath trespassed | H0 | | | |
| H4603 | | H4604 | | | | |

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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