

# Ezekiel 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar:

## Analysis

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The 'great eagle' represents Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Eagles symbolize swift, powerful military conquest throughout Scripture (Deuteronomy 28:49, Jeremiah 48:40). Lebanon's cedars represent nobility and kingship, particularly David's dynasty. This parable depicts Nebuchadnezzar taking Judah's king (Jehoiachin) to Babylon in 597 BC.

## Historical Context

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Nebuchadnezzar was ancient history's most successful military commander, conquering from Egypt to Persia. His 597 BC campaign took Jerusalem's king, nobles, and treasures, installing Zedekiah as puppet ruler.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do you recognize God's sovereignty even in the actions of pagan rulers and foreign powers?

2. What does this passage teach about God's control over international affairs and human history?

## Interlinear Text

אָמַר כֹּה	אָמַר רַ	אֲדַר י	יְהוָה ה	הַנְּשָׁר	גָּד וּל	גָּד וּל
And say	And say	the Lord	GOD	eagle	A great	A great
H559	H3541	H559	H136	H3069	H5404	H1419
וְכַנְפֵּי יוֹם	אֶרֶב רֶ	הָאֵרֶב	מָלֵא	הַנוֹצֹה ה	אֲשֶׁר	ל ו
wings		longwinged	full	of feathers		
H3671	H750	H83	H4392	H5133	H834	H0
הָרִקְמָה ה	בָּא	אֶל	הַלְבָּנוֹן	וָקַח	אֶת	
which had divers colours	came	H413	unto Lebanon	and took	H853	
H7553	H935		H3844	H3947		
צֶמֶחַ רֶתֶב	הָאֶרֶז:					
the highest branch	of the cedar					
H6788	H730					

## Additional Cross-References

**Jeremiah 48:40** (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD; Behold, he shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab.

**Hosea 8:1** (References Lord): Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.

**Ezekiel 17:7** (Parallel theme): There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation.

**Daniel 4:22** (Parallel theme): It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

