

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

גָּדָּל	וְלֹא	גָּדָּל	וְלֹא	כִּי	אָמַר	רַא	כִּי	אָמַר	רַא	אָמַר	רַא
And say	H3541	And say	H559	the Lord	H136	GOD	H3069	eagle	H5404	A great	H1419
	H559		H559		H136		H3069		H5404		H1419
וְלֹא	אָשֶׁר	הַפְּנַצְתָּה	מְלָא	אָשֶׁר	הַפְּנַצְתָּה	מְלָא	אָשֶׁר	הַפְּנַצְתָּה	מְלָא	וְלֹא	
wings	H750	longwinged	H83	full	H4392	of feathers	H5133		H834		H0
	H3671		H83		H4392		H5133		H834		H0
אֶל	בְּ	אֶל	בְּ	בְּ	אֶל	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	אֶל	בְּ
which had divers colours	H7553	came	H935	unto Lebanon	H413	and took	H3844	unto Lebanon	H3947	and took	H853
	H7553		H935		H413		H3844		H3947		H853
בְּאֵלֹת		בְּאֵלֹת		בְּאֵלֹת		בְּאֵלֹת		בְּאֵלֹת		בְּאֵלֹת	
the highest branch	H6788	of the cedar	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.

