

Ezekiel 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree.

Analysis

The 'seed of the land' represents Zedekiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar installed as vassal king. Like a plant in rich soil, Zedekiah was given opportunity to thrive under Babylonian oversight. This arrangement could have brought stability, but Zedekiah's rebellion destroyed it. God's sovereignty doesn't eliminate human responsibility.

Historical Context

Zedekiah, Josiah's youngest son, became king at 21 when Nebuchadnezzar bypassed Jehoiachin's infant son. His reign (597-586 BC) was marked by weak leadership, false prophets, and foolish rebellion against Babylon despite Jeremiah's warnings.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to God's providential arrangements in your life—with submission or rebellion?

2. What opportunities has God given you that require faithful stewardship rather than selfish ambition?

Interlinear Text

קָח	אֶל	הָאֲרֶץ	וַיִּטֵּן הוּא	בְּשָׂדֶה	אֶל
He took	also of the seed	of the land	and planted	field	also of the seed
H3947	H2233	H776	H5414	H7704	H2233
קָח	עַל	מַיִם	רַבִּי	צִפְצָפָה	שָׁמוֹ:
He took	H5921	waters	it by great	it as a willow tree	and set
H3947		H4325	H7227	H6851	H7760

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 44:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.