

Ezekiel 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

This verse introduces the second great eagle in Ezekiel's parable, representing Egypt under Pharaoh Hophra. The vine (Judah/Zedekiah) treacherously 'bent her roots' toward Egypt, violating the covenant with Babylon. The Hebrew verb *shathal* ('transplant' or 'shoot forth') emphasizes active, deliberate action—Zedekiah wasn't passively drifting but actively seeking Egyptian alliance. This political maneuvering directly violated both the Babylonian vassal treaty and God's command through Jeremiah not to seek Egyptian help (Jeremiah 37:7-10). The theological principle: turning from God's ordained path to human alliances demonstrates lack of faith and brings divine judgment.

Historical Context

This prophecy dates to approximately 591-590 BC, after Zedekiah's accession as Babylon's puppet king (597 BC) but before Jerusalem's final siege (588-586 BC). Egyptian Pharaoh Hophra (589-570 BC) encouraged Palestinian states to rebel against Babylon. Zedekiah allied with Egypt despite Jeremiah's warnings, triggering Nebuchadnezzar's devastating response.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When have you sought 'Egyptian' help—human solutions—instead of trusting God's provision?
2. How does this passage challenge our tendency to hedge spiritual commitments with worldly backup plans?

Interlinear Text

וְיֵה יִ	נֶשֶׁר	אֶחָד	גָּד וּלְ	גָּד וּלְ	כַּנְּפֵי יָם	וְרַב
H1961	eagle	There was also another	great	great	wings	and many
	H5404	H259	H1419	H1419	H3671	H7227
נוֹצַה	וַהֲנֶה	הִנֵּה פֶן	הִזְאת	כָּפְנָה	שְׁרָשֶׁי יָהּ	עַל יוֹ
feathers		and behold this vine		did bend	her roots	
H5133	H2009	H1612	H2063	H3719	H8328	H5921
וְדִלּוֹתֶיהָ		שָׁלְחָה	לִי		לְהִשָּׁק וְתִ	
her branches	toward him and shot forth		H0	toward him that he might water		
H1808		H7971		H8248		
אוֹתָהּ	מִעֲרָג וְתִ	מִטְעָהּ:				
H853	it by the furrows	of her plantation				
	H6170	H4302				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 31:4 (Parallel theme): The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.

Ezekiel 17:15 (Parallel theme): But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?

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