

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

וְאֵת	נָשָׁר	אָקָד	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	כַּפְפָּה	וְמַ	וְכַפְפָּה	וְכַפְפָּה
H1961	eagle	There was also another	great	great	wings		and many	
H5404		H250	H1410	H1410	H2671		H7227	

נָאֵץ ה	וְהַבָּה	בְּאֵפָה	בְּזַעַת	בְּפַנֵּי ה	בְּשַׁרְשָׁה יְהֹוָה	אֶל יְהֹוָה
feathers	H2009	and behold this vine	H2063	did bend	her roots	H5921
H5133		H1612		H3719	H8328	

לְפָשָׁק וְתַּלְיֹתָיו שְׁלַחָה לְזַהֲרָה

מִטְעָה: מַעֲרָה וְתַּחַת אֹתָהּ 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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