

Ezekiel 17:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It was planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine.

Analysis

God's rhetorical question emphasizes the vine's already favorable position—it was 'planted in a good soil by great waters.' Babylon had treated Judah reasonably well as a vassal state. The vine could become 'a goodly vine,' bearing fruit for God even in subjugation. This reveals: God's purposes can be fulfilled under difficult circumstances. Zedekiah's rebellion stemmed from pride, not oppression. The passage challenges the assumption that political independence equals spiritual faithfulness.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar had been relatively lenient after the 597 BC deportation, leaving the temple intact and maintaining the Davidic line through Zedekiah. Archaeological evidence shows continued economic activity in Judah. Zedekiah's rebellion was a calculated political gamble, not desperate response to oppression.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can we faithfully serve God in circumstances we didn't choose?
2. What does 'blooming where you're planted' mean while maintaining spiritual integrity?

Interlinear Text

שָׁתַול	ה	הִיא	בְּבָיִם	מֵימָן	טַוְבָּה	שְׁדָה	אֶל	שָׁתַול	ה	הִיא	בְּבָיִם	מֵימָן	טַוְבָּה	שְׁדָה	אֶל
H413	soil	in a good	H413	waters	by great	H1931	It was planted	H704	H2896	H4325	H7227	H1931	H8362		
לְעֵשׂ	וְתַ	עֵנֶנֶּה	וְלִישָׁ	אֲת	רִי	לְגָפָן	לְהִיּ	וְתַ	פָּרִי						
that it might bring forth		branches	and that it might bear		fruit	H1961	vine								
H6213		H6057	H5375		H6529		H1612								
אֶדוֹתָהּ															
that it might be a goodly															
H155															

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