

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

Psalms 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

שְׂתוּלָהּ	הָיָא	רַב־יָם	מֵי־אֵל	טוֹב	שֶׁ־דָּהָא	אֵל
	H1931		H413		H413	
It was planted		by great	waters	in a good	soil	
H8362		H7227	H4325	H2896	H7704	
לְגִפְּן	לְהִי־וֹת	פֶּ־רִי	וְלִישׁ־אֶת	עֲנָף	לְעֵשׂ־וֹת	
	H1961					
vine	fruit	and that it might bear	branches	that it might bring forth		
H1612	H6529	H5375	H6057	H6213		
					אֲדָרְתִּי:	
					that it might be a goodly	
					H155	