

Ezekiel 17:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof.

Analysis

God's questions demand contemplation of rebellion's futility: 'Shall it prosper?' The answer: emphatic no. Judgment is comprehensive—Babylon 'shall pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof.' The Hebrew yabesh ('wither') denotes complete death. Critically, this destruction requires no 'great power'—Babylon's victory is divinely decreed. The principle: resisting God's sovereign purposes brings inevitable judgment.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem (588-586 BC) after learning of the Egyptian alliance. Egyptian forces briefly appeared but retreated (Jeremiah 37:5-11). The city fell in 586 BC; Zedekiah was captured, his sons executed before his eyes, and he was blinded and taken to Babylon (2 Kings 25:1-7).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What modern 'rebellions' against God's will appear to prosper but are doomed?
2. How should certainty of God's judgment affect our choices today?

Interlinear Text

אֵת הַלֹּאֵל	תִּצְלַח	יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	אֱמַר	כֹּה	אֱמַר
H3808	H6743	H3069	H136	H559	H3541	H559
	Shall it prosper	GOD	the Lord	Say		Say
תִּיבֹשׁ	יִקֹּוס	פְּרִי הָאֵץ	וְאֵת	יִנְתֵּן	מִשְׁרָשִׁיָּהּ	
H3001	H7082	H6529	H853	H5423	H8328	
it shall wither	thereof and cut off	the fruit		shall he not pull up	by the roots	
בְּזֶרַע	וְלֹא	תִיבֹשׁ	צִמְחָהּ	טֶרֶף	כָּל	
H2220	H3808	H3001	H6780	H2964	H3605	
power		it shall wither	of her spring	in all the leaves		
מִשְׁרָשִׁיָּהּ	אוֹתָהּ	לְמִשָּׂא	כִּי	וּבָעַם	גְּדוֹלָה	
H8328	H853	H5375	H7227	H5971	H1419	
by the roots		to pluck it up	or many	people	even without great	

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