

# 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

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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

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אָתָּה בְּלֹא אָמַר כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים  
Say H3541 Say H559 the Lord H136 GOD H3069 Shall it prosper H6743  
H559 H559 H136 H3069 H6743

תַּשְׁלַׁח מִשְׁרְשֵׁיכֶן בַּתְּקַנְתְּךָ וְאַתָּה פְּרִי הַנֶּגֶד יִקְרַב סְבִבָּה שְׁתִּיבְשֶׁת  
by the roots shall he not pull up H853 the fruit thereof and cut off it shall wither H3001  
H8328 H5423 H6529 H7082 H3001

כָּל בְּזִרְעָנֶיךָ וְלֹא צְמַח טְרַפְּתִּי  
in all the leaves of her spring it shall wither H3808 power H2220  
H3605 H2964 H6780 H3001 H3808

גְּדוֹלָה מִשְׁרְשֵׁיכֶן אָוֹת הַלְּמַשְׁא וְתַּבְּעֵם  
even without great people or many to pluck it up H853 by the roots H8328  
H1419 H5971 H7227 H5375 H853 H8328

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