

Ezekiel 21:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also, thou son of man, appoint thee two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come: both twain shall come forth out of one land: and choose thou a place, choose it at the head of the way to the city.

Analysis

'Also, thou son of man, appoint thee two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come: both twain shall come forth out of one land: and choose thou a place, choose it at the head of the way to the city.' Ezekiel must diagram Nebuchadnezzar's decision-making—two possible invasion routes from Babylon, both leading from 'one land.' 'Choose thou a place...at the head of the way to the city' depicts a crossroads where direction will be chosen. This sets up the divination scene in the next verses.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings used divination to make military decisions. Nebuchadnezzar could attack either Ammon (Rabbah) or Judah (Jerusalem). The prophet visually depicts this decision point, showing that even pagan divination serves God's sovereign purposes.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty work through even pagan decision-making processes?
2. What does this teach about the relationship between human choices and divine control?

Interlinear Text

דָּרְךָ שְׁנֵי מִלְּבָד | שִׁים אֶת מִן בְּנֵי אֶת הָאָתָּה
H859 Also thou son of man appoint H0 both twain of the way
H1121 H120 H7760 H8147 H1870

לְבוֹא אֶת דָּמָא כִּי בְּלַד מֶלֶךְ כִּי רַב מֶלֶךְ לְבוֹא
may come that the sword of the king of Babylon land out of one
H935 H2719 H4428 H894 H776 H259

דָּרְךָ בָּרֶאשֶׁת שְׁנֵי מִלְּבָד יְצַא אֶת בְּרָאָה וְלֹא תְּבִרְאָה
shall come forth both twain thou a place and choose it at the head of the way
H3318 H8147 H3027 H1254 H7218 H1870

בְּרָאָה עַד יְרֵא
to the city and choose
H5892 H1254

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:10 (Kingdom): See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.