

Ezekiel 21:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.

Analysis

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high." God commands removing royal insignia—"diadem" (mitznefet, מִצְנֶפֶת) and "crown" (atarah, אֲתָרָה)—symbolizing monarchy's end. "This shall not be the same" indicates fundamental change. "Exalt him that is low, abase him that is high" describes reversal—the mighty fall, the humble rise. This pattern appears throughout Scripture (1 Samuel 2:7-8; Luke 1:52) and anticipates Christ's teaching about first being last (Matthew 20:16).

Historical Context

Zedekiah's capture and blinding represented the crown's removal. The Davidic throne sat empty for centuries. Yet the reversal promise had multiple fulfillments: lowly exiles eventually returned; Gentiles (considered low) were raised to covenant membership; ultimately, the lowly carpenter from Nazareth was exalted above every name (Philippians 2:6-11). God's reversals demonstrate that human hierarchies don't determine divine choices—He elevates whom He wills.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does removing the crown illustrate God's sovereignty over human authority structures?
2. What does divine reversal (exalting low, abasing high) teach about kingdom values?
3. In what ways does Jesus embody the ultimate reversal of human expectations?

Interlinear Text

כ ה	H3541	Thus saith	the Lord	H3068	Remove	the diadem	and take off
		H559	H136		H5493	H4701	H7311

הַקְרָבָה	זֶה אַתָּה	לֹא	זֶה אַתָּה
the crown	this shall not be the same	H3808	this shall not be the same

high	high	high	high
him that is low	exalt	and abase	him that is high

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 17:24 (References Lord): And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

Psalms 75:7 (References God): But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Jeremiah 13:18 (Parallel theme): Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Ezekiel 16:12 (Parallel theme): And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

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