

Ezekiel 29:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the LORD, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel.

Analysis

The metaphor shifts: Egypt was a 'staff of reed' (weak, unreliable support) to Israel. Reed staffs appear strong but collapse under weight, piercing the hand that leans on them. This perfectly describes Egypt's political unreliability—promising help but failing in crisis. The covenant formula 'they shall know that I am the LORD' shows even judgment serves revelatory purposes.

Historical Context

Israel had leaned on Egypt multiple times—during Assyrian threats (2 Kings 17:4), Babylonian invasion (Jeremiah 37:5-7), and after Jerusalem's fall (Jeremiah 42-44). Every time, Egypt proved unreliable. Historical experience validated prophetic warning.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What 'reed staffs' (unreliable supports) are you leaning on that will collapse under life's weight?
2. How has God used painful experiences with unreliable 'helps' to teach you to depend solely on Him?

Interlinear Text

וְיָדְעוּ shall know H3045	כָּל H3605	יֹשְׁבֵי י And all the inhabitants H3427	מִצְרַיִם of Egypt H4714	כִּי H3588	אֲנִי H589
יְהוָה ה that I am the LORD H3068	אֶנִּי H3282	הָיוֹתָם H1961	מִשְׁעָנָת because they have been a staff H4938	הָעֵץ of reed H7070	
לְבַיִת to the house H1004	יִשְׂרָאֵל: of Israel H3478				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 36:6 (References Egypt): Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him.

2 Kings 18:21 (References Egypt): Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.