

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

אָנָּה תְּדַבֵּר יְהֹוָה	כִּי מִצְבֵּה יְהֹוָה	וְשָׁבֵת כָּל אֶזְרָחָה	וְשָׁבֵת כָּל אֶזְרָחָה	וְשָׁבֵת כָּל אֶזְרָחָה
shall know	H3605	And all the inhabitants	of Egypt	H3588
H3045		H3427	H4714	H589
that I am the LORD	H3282	H1961	because they have been a staff	H4938
H3068				H7070
לְבַיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל:		מִשְׁעָן נָתָת	לְבַיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל:	
to the house		because they have been a staff	of reed	
H1004		H4938	H7070	
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.