

Ezekiel 29:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand.

Analysis

This verse elaborates the reed-staff metaphor: when Israel leaned on Egypt, it broke and tore their shoulder, making them unstable ('made all their loins to be at a stand'—paralyzed their strength). False dependencies don't just fail—they actively harm. Every reliance on creature-help rather than God compounds problems. Only God provides reliable support.

Historical Context

When Pharaoh Hophra withdrew support in 588 BC, Jerusalem faced Babylon alone. Far from helping, Egypt's involvement intensified Babylon's anger and Jerusalem's suffering. Trust in Egypt brought worse consequences than facing Babylon with faith in God.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How have false dependencies not merely failed but actually made your situation worse?
2. What does it mean to make God your sole sufficiency rather than seeking backup securities?

Interlinear Text

וְתַחַזֵּךְ	מִ	בְּתַפְשֵׁךְ	מִ	בְּ	בְּכַפְּךְ	רִ	תִּרְאֶךְ	וְ	תִּרְשַׁבְתָּךְ	וְתַקְרַבְתָּךְ
When they took hold	H0	of thee by thy hand	H3709	thou didst break	H7533	and rend	H1234			
H8610										
עַל יְ	רִ	וְבַהֲשַׁעַת	מִ	כִּתְ	רִ	כִּל לְ	רִ	עַל יְ	רִ	וְתַקְרַבְתָּךְ
H0	H3605	all their shoulder	H3802	and when they leaned	H8172			H5921		
תַּשְׁבֵּךְ	רִ	וְעַמְדֵּת	מִ	כִּל לְ	רִ	מִתְנַנִּים:				
upon thee thou brakest	H7665	to be at a stand	H5976	H0	H3605	and madest all their loins	H4975			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 36:6 (Parallel theme): 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.