

Ezekiel 30:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Analysis

In the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month— April 587 BC, during Jerusalem's siege. **The word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt—** צְרוּעַת פְּרָעָה (zérôa' par'ōh, 'the arm of Pharaoh') symbolizes military power. שָׁבַרְתִּי (shābartî, 'I have broken') is past tense—already accomplished.

This refers to Pharaoh Hophra's failed attempt to relieve Jerusalem (Jeremiah 37:5-7). Egypt marched to help Judah but retreated when Babylon turned to face them. God 'broke Egypt's arm'—shattered her military strength and will to fight. **And, lo, it shall not be bound up to be healed, to put a roller to bind it, to make it strong to hold the sword—** No healing (רָפָא, rāpā), no bandage (חִטּוֹל, hittûl), no strength to wield weapons. Egypt's power was permanently crippled.

Historical Context

Pharaoh Hophra (Apries, 589-570 BC) promised to help Judah against Babylon. When Egypt's army approached in 588 BC, Babylon temporarily lifted Jerusalem's siege to face them (Jeremiah 37:5). Egypt retreated without battle—humiliated. Jeremiah mocked Egypt's impotence (Jeremiah 46:17). This 'broken arm' ensured Egypt could never again challenge Babylon, leaving Jerusalem to fall alone in 586 BC.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'breaking' Egypt's arm demonstrate His control over international politics?
2. What does Egypt's inability to help Jerusalem teach about trusting human alliances?
3. How did this broken military power affect Judah's fate and Ezekiel's message?

Interlinear Text

וְיֻהַי	בְּאַמְתָּה	בְּרָאֵשׁ וְיָמָן הַשְׁנִינָה
H1961	And it came to pass in the eleventh	H6240
	H259	year
		H8141
		in the first
		H7223
בְּשְׁבָעַת הַיּוֹם	לְיָמֵן דָּשֶׁן	לִבְרָאֵשׁ וְיָמָן הַיּוֹם
month in the seventh	day of the month	H1961
H7651	H2320	H1697
		that the word
		H1697
		of the LORD
		H3068
		H413
לִאמְרָה:		אָלָה יְהֹוָה
came unto me saying		
H559		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 29:17 (Word): And it came to pass in the seven and twentieth year, in the first month, in the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 26:1 (Word): And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 29:1 (Word): In the tenth year, in the tenth month, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

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