

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—**זָרוּעַ פְּרָעֹה (zěrôa' par'ôh, 'the arm of Pharaoh') symbolizes military power. שִׁבַּרְתִּי (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 (חֲתוּל, 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.

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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