

# Ezekiel 30:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; 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.

## Analysis

**Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt**—הִנְנִי אֶל־פַּרְעֹה (hinnēnî 'el-par'ōh, 'behold, I am against Pharaoh'), the lawsuit formula. **And will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken**—God will break both זְרֻעָתָיו (zērō'ōtāyw, 'his arms'—plural): הַחֲזָקָה (haḥzāqāh, 'the strong one') and הַנִּשְׁבָּרָה (hannishbāret, 'the already broken one').

This intensifies the judgment: Egypt's one remaining 'good arm' will also be broken. **And I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand**—Total disarmament; inability to fight. The imagery is devastating: a warrior whose first arm is broken, then his second arm is broken, and finally his sword falls from his useless hands. Complete military impotence. Egypt, which prided itself on military strength, would be utterly defenseless before Babylon.

## Historical Context

After retreating from Babylon in 588 BC ('broken arm'), Egypt attempted no further major military campaigns against Babylon. When Nebuchadnezzar finally invaded Egypt directly (568/567 BC), resistance was minimal. Egypt's 'both arms broken' left her unable to wield the sword. Her era as a military power ended, fulfilling Ezekiel's vivid imagery exactly.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does breaking 'both arms' (total disarmament) teach about comprehensive judgment?
2. How does the progressive imagery (one arm, both arms, sword falls) intensify the message?
3. What modern 'arms' (sources of strength) might God break to humble prideful nations?

## Interlinear Text

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בֶּן	אָדָם	אֶת	זֶרַע	הַ	פַּרְעֹה	הַ	מֶלֶךְ	מִצְרַיִם	שָׁבִי רַחֲמֵי
Son	of man	H853	the arm	of Pharaoh	king	of Egypt	I have broken		
H1121	H120		H2220	H6547	H4428	H4714	H7665		
וְהָיָה	לֹא		לְחֹבֶשׁ	הַ	לְתִת	וְ	רָפָא	וְ	לָשׁוּם
H2009	H3808		and lo it shall not be bound up		H5414		to be healed		to put
			H2280				H7499		H7760
חֹתָל		לְחֹבֶשׁ	הַ	לְחֹזֶק	הַ	לְתַפּוֹשׁ		בְּחֹבֶב:	
a roller		and lo it shall not be bound up		it to make it strong		to hold		the sword	
H2848		H2280		H2388		H8610		H2719	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 30:13** (Parallel theme): There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.

**Jeremiah 48:25** (Parallel theme): The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 46:11** (References Egypt): Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured.

**Psalms 10:15** (Parallel theme): Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none.

**Psalms 37:17** (Parallel theme): For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

**Ezekiel 30:24** (Kingdom): And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded man.

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