

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—(הִנֵּנִי אֶל-פְּרָעָה—) 'behold, I am against Pharaoh'), the lawsuit formula. **And will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken**—God will break both זְרֹעָיו (zérō'ōtāyw, 'his arms'—plural): הַחֲזִקָה (hahăzāqāh, 'the strong one') and הַנִּשְׁבַּרְת (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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

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

בָּנִי	מִן	מִן	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	זֶרֶבֶل	הַ	פְּרָעֹם	הַ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	אֶמְּצָבֶן	אֶמְּצָבֶן	רְתִיָּה	רְתִיָּה
Son	of man		H853	the arm		H2220	of Pharaoh		king		of Egypt		I have broken	
H1121	H120						H6547		H4428		H4714		H7665	
לֹא	וְ	יְהִי	הַ	לְמַבְשֵׁל	הַ	לְתַתְּ	תַּתְּ	לְתַתְּ	תַּתְּ	וְ	רִפְאָה	וְ	לְשֵׁם	לְשֵׁם
H2009	H3808			and lo it shall not be bound up		H2280		H5414			to be healed		to put	
											H7499		H7760	
רְמַלְךָ	וְ	רְמַלְךָ	וְ	לְמַבְשֵׁל	הַ	לְפִזְקֵה	הַ	לְפִזְקֵה	הַ	לְתַפְּשֵׁה	לְתַפְּשֵׁה	בְּחִרְבָּה	בְּחִרְבָּה	
a roller	and lo it shall not be bound up			and lo it shall not be bound up		it to make it strong		it to make it strong		to hold		the sword		
H2848				H2280		H2388		H8610				H2719		

Additional Cross-References

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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