

# Ezekiel 30:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand.

## Analysis

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**And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon**—While Egypt's arms are broken, Babylon's are strengthened (חִזְקָתִי, *ḥizzaqtî*, 'I will make strong') God's **לוֹעֵד זֶרֶוֹת** (*zérō'ôt*, 'arms'). **And will put my sword in his hand**—God arms Babylon with **חַרְבִּי** (*ḥarbî*, 'my sword'). Though Babylon is pagan, the sword she wields belongs to YHWH—it executes His judgment.

**But I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded man**—(*נְאָקָוֹת חַלֵּל* (*nē'āqôt ḥâlâl*, 'the groaning of one mortally wounded')). This graphic imagery depicts Pharaoh as a dying soldier groaning in agony. The contrast is absolute: Babylon strengthened, Egypt broken; Babylon armed, Egypt disarmed; Babylon victorious, Egypt dying. God sovereignly distributes power among nations according to His purposes.

## Historical Context

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Nebuchadnezzar's strength was indeed YHWH's doing. Babylon conquered: Assyria (612 BC), Egypt (605 BC at Carchemish), Judah (586 BC), Tyre (573 BC), Egypt again (568/567 BC). Then, when God's purposes were accomplished, Babylon fell to Persia (539 BC). God raises and lowers nations—Babylon's dominance demonstrated His sovereignty, not Marduk's power.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can God righteously give 'His sword' to a pagan nation?
2. What does the contrast (strengthening Babylon, breaking Egypt) teach about God's sovereignty?
3. How should we understand God using ungodly nations as judgment instruments?

## Interlinear Text

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אַל הַנְּבִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים רַא כֹּה לְכָךְ |  
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith H559 the Lord H136 GOD H2005 H3069 H413

אֶת בְּנֵשֶׁב רַת מִלְּגָד מִצְבָּה יְמִינָה פַּרְעָע הַמֶּלֶךְ  
H853 Behold I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt and that which was broken H6547 H4428 H4714 H7665

אֶת וְהַפְּלַת יְמִינָה בְּנֵשֶׁב רַת אֶת זָר עַתְּ דָי  
H853 his arms the strong H853 and that which was broken to fall H2220 H2389 H7665 H5307

מִלְּגָד כְּבָנָה  
and I will cause the sword out of his hand  
H2719 H3027

## Additional Cross-References

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

**Jeremiah 37:7** (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to enquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh's army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land.

**Ezekiel 29:3** (Kingdom): Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.

**2 Kings 24:7** (Kingdom): And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

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