

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

And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon—While Egypt's arms are broken, Babylon's are strengthened (חִזַּקְתִּי, *hizzaqtî*, 'I will make strong') God's זְרָעוֹת (*zērō'ôt*, 'arms'). **And will put my sword in his hand**—God arms Babylon with חֶרְבִּי (*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—נֶאְקֹת הָלָל (nē'āqôt ḥālāl, '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

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.

Additional Cross-References

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.