

Ezekiel 30:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down—Repetition from verse 22 emphasizes the contrast. **זרעִי** (zérō'ôt, 'arms') of Babylon strengthened; **פָּרָעָה** (par'ōh, Pharaoh's) **תַּפְלִתָּה** (tippōlēnāh, 'shall fall/drop down')—image of lifeless limbs hanging useless.

And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon—The recognition formula again. When Babylon conquers Egypt wielding YHWH's sword, both nations will acknowledge God's sovereignty. Egypt will know YHWH through defeat; Babylon will know (though not acknowledge) that her victories come from Israel's God, not Marduk. God's control of history produces knowledge of His person.

Historical Context

This prophecy was given during Jerusalem's siege (587 BC), before Egypt's invasion (568/567 BC). When it occurred exactly as predicted—Babylon strengthened, Egypt defeated—the prophetic word was vindicated. Ezekiel's credibility, established when Jerusalem fell (33:21-22), was confirmed again when Egypt fell. Fulfilled prophecy authenticates God's word and messenger.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does God repeat the 'arms' imagery multiple times?
2. How does fulfilled international prophecy differ from general religious claims?
3. What does 'my sword' in Babylon's hand teach about God's use of pagan powers?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה And I will strengthen	H2388	זָרָע arms	H2220	וְתַּזְקִין of the king	H4428	לְבָבָךְ of Babylon	H894	בְּבָבָךְ and put	H5414	אַתָּה H853
מִרְבָּבָךְ my sword	H2719	בְּבָבָךְ in his hand	H3027	וְשִׁבְרָתִי but I will break	H7665	פְּרָעָה arms	H2220	הַזָּרָע Pharaoh's	H6547	הַזָּרָע H853
וְיָאַגֵּן and he shall groan	H5008	וְנִגְרַבֵּן him with the groanings	H5009	וְנִגְרַבֵּן of a deadly wounded	H2491	לִפְנֵי before	H6440	לִפְנֵי H6440		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 30:25 (Kingdom): But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the LORD,

when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt.

Zephaniah 2:12 (Word): Ye Ethiopians also, ye shall be slain by my sword.

Isaiah 45:5 (Parallel theme): I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 45:1 (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Nehemiah 6:9 (Parallel theme): For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

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