

Ezekiel 31:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.

Analysis

The cedar grew 'higher than all the trees of the field'—Assyria surpassed all nations in power and glory. The source: abundant waters (God's provision). Yet height and prosperity contain seeds of pride. The 'boughs multiplied' and 'branches became long' depict expansionism and imperialism. Unchecked growth without accountability to God leads to overreach and fall.

Historical Context

Assyria's empire at its height (circa 660 BC under Ashurbanipal) extended from Egypt to Persia, from Anatolia to the Persian Gulf. This unprecedented reach made them the ancient world's superpower—until God determined their time was finished.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can success and growth become spiritual dangers if they lead to pride and self-sufficiency?
2. What safeguards do you have in place to maintain humility and God-dependence during seasons of blessing?

Interlinear Text

עַל H5921	כֵּן H3651	גָּבַהַּ א H1361	קָמַת ו H6967	מִכָּל H3605	עֵץ י H6086
		was exalted	Therefore his height		above all the trees
הַשָּׂדֶה H7704	וַתִּרְבַּ יָּנָה H7235	סְרַעֲפֹתָ יו H5634	וַתֵּאָבַר כָּנָה H748	פִּאֲרֹתָ ו H6288	
of the field	were multiplied	and his boughs	became long	and his branches	
מִמֵּי H4325	רַב יָם H7227	בְּשִׁלְחוֹ H7971			
of waters	because of the multitude	when he shot forth			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 4:11 (Parallel theme): The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

Ezekiel 17:5 (Parallel theme): He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree.