

Ezekiel 17

King James Version (KJV)

(This chapter is about Babylon – which means confusion)

17 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

²Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel;

³And say, Thus saith the Lord God; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar: (Nebuchadnezzar is the eagle)

(King Jehoachin was the highest branch in Judah. He ruled Judah for 3 months; then was taken captive by Babylon)

⁴He cropped off the top of his young twigs, and carried it into a land of traffick; he set it in a city of merchants. (Babylon – Iraq, today)

⁵He 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. (A willow tree put by water grows quickly and healthily. Zedekiah was this vassal king. He was put in charge of Jerusalem, by Nebuchadnezzar)

(Had Zedekiah honored his oath to Nebuchadnezzar, the people of Judah would have live in peace. But, Zedekiah failed miserably and the people were all taken captive)

⁶And it grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature, whose branches turned toward him, and the roots thereof were under him: so it became a vine, and brought forth branches, and shot forth sprigs.

(Jerusalem was allowed to prosper under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar and under the stewardship of Zedekiah <as a vassal king>)

⁷There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation. (The second eagle is Pharaoh of Egypt)

(After Zedekiah was made vassal king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar; he betrayed his oath to Babylon and to God. He was a traitor. He sought out Egypt to help him free Judah from Babylon. This was

against God's command that Judah would be captive for a period of 70 years of captivity)

⁸ It was planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine. (The Nile River)

⁹ Say thou, Thus saith the Lord God; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof. (Will God allow Zedekiah to go against His plan? No. Both Zedekiah and Egypt will fail for this treachery)

¹⁰ Yea, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? shall it not utterly wither, when the east wind toucheth it? it shall wither in the furrows where it grew. (Even though it was planted in good soil, watered by the Nile – It won't prosper because it goes against God's will)

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

¹² Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon; (Ezekiel was trying to warn Zedekiah not to go against God. He refused to listen)

(His sons were later killed by the Babylonians for it. His daughters were spared) See Jeremiah-52:10, 2Kings-25:7

¹³ And hath taken of the king's seed, and made a covenant with him, and hath taken an oath of him: he hath also taken the mighty of the land:

¹⁴ That the kingdom might be base, that it might not lift itself up, but that by keeping of his covenant it might stand. (Under Babylon, they would not have been great, but they could have lived in peace through the 70 year captivity, under the rule of the vassal king)

(Nebuchadnezzar had no wish to destroy Judah. He was sent by God to correct Judah for a period of 70 years) Jeremiah-27:6-8

¹⁵ But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper?

shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered? (Zedekiah rebelled against his oath to Babylon and to God. He hired Egyptians as mercenaries to fight for him, against Babylon)

(Mercenaries have no loyalty. They'll run at the first sign of trouble)

¹⁶ As I live, saith the Lord God, surely in the place where the king dwelleth that made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he brake, even with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die. (And so he did)

¹⁷ Neither shall Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company make for him in the war, by casting up mounts, and building forts, to cut off many persons: (Pharaoh shall also be punished to aiding Judah against God's will)

¹⁸ Seeing he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, when, lo, he had given his hand, and hath done all these things, he shall not escape. (Zedekiah went to Egypt for help; after he had given his word to be loyal to the king of Babylon and to live in peaceful captivity)

¹⁹ Therefore thus saith the Lord God; As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head. (Judgment on Zedekiah)

²⁰ And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me. (Zedekiah trespassed against God; after he had taken an oath to obey God's will)

²¹ And all his fugitives with all his bands shall fall by the sword, and they that remain shall be scattered toward all winds: and ye shall know that I the LORD have spoken it. (Zedekiah, his sons and all of his guard were captured and killed)

History: (Zedekiah's daughters went with Jeremiah to Egypt, and later to the British Isles. One daughter <Scota> founded Scotland, and her sister ruled as queen in England)

(Their lineage led to King James of England. He commissioned the translating the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts into English. This is the King James Bible of 1611. The people of all 12 tribes were scattered throughout Europe, and later to America)

²² Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent: (The high twig and the high branch is our Lord Jesus Christ. The high mountain is Mount Zion) spoken of in Isaiah-53:2

(Beginning at the Millennium, Jesus will return as King of kings, Lord of lords. HE will set the world straight again, and He will rule forever)

²³ In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell. (Who so-ever will believe in Him will be saved. We are the Christians of the world; and Jesus is out Lord and Savior)

²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it. (Jesus <God with us> is immortal. They killed His flesh body <the green tree>, and He resurrected 3 days later <the dry tree>. Death has no power over Almighty God. Nothing can stop God or His plan) see Luke-23:28-31