

Ezekiel 17:1-24 **Parable of the Eagles and the vine**

Parable of the Eagles and the Vine

1 And the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel, 3 and say,

'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God):

"A great eagle with large wings and long pinions, Full of feathers of various colors, Came to Lebanon And took from the cedar the highest branch.

4 He cropped off its topmost young twig And carried it to a land of trade; He set it in a city of merchants.

5 Then he took some of the seed of the land And planted it in a fertile field; He placed it by abundant waters And set it like a willow tree.

6 And it grew and became a spreading vine of low stature; Its branches turned toward him, But its roots were under it. So it became a vine, Brought forth branches, And put forth shoots.

7 "But there was another great eagle with large wings and many feathers; And behold, this vine bent its roots toward him, And stretched its branches toward him, From the garden terrace where it had been planted, That he might water it.

8 It was planted in good soil by many waters, To bring forth branches, bear fruit, And become a majestic vine."

9 "Say, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God):

"Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots, Cut off its fruit, And leave it to wither? All of its spring leaves will wither, And no great power or many people Will be needed to pluck it up by its roots.

10 Behold, it is planted, Will it thrive? Will it not utterly wither when the east wind touches it? It will wither in the garden terrace where it grew.'"

Explanation of the Parable

11 Moreover the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,

12 "Say now to the rebellious house: 'Do you not know what these things mean?' Tell them, 'Indeed the **king of Babylon** went to Jerusalem and took its king and princes, and led them with him to Babylon.

13 And he took the king's offspring, made a covenant with him, and put him under oath. He also took away the mighty of the land, 14 that the kingdom might be brought low and not lift itself up, but that by keeping his covenant it might stand.

15 But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to **Egypt**, that they might give him horses and many people. [Jeremiah 37:5, 11] Will he prosper? Will he who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and still be delivered?

16 'As I live,' says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), 'surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke — with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die.

17 Nor will Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company do anything in the war, when they

heap up a siege mound and build a wall to cut off many persons.

18 Since he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, and in fact gave his hand and still did all these things, he shall not escape."

19 Therefore thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "As I live, surely My oath which he despised, and My covenant which he broke, I will recompense on his own head.

20 I will spread My net over him, and he shall be taken in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon and try him there for the treason which he committed against Me.

21 All his fugitives with all his troops shall fall by the sword, and those who remain shall be scattered to every wind; and you shall know that I, Yahweh (the Lord), have spoken."

Israel Exalted at Last (cf. Ezekiel 31:1-9)

22 Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain.

23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell.

24 And all the trees of the field shall know that I, Yahweh (the Lord), have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, Yahweh (the Lord), have spoken and have done it."

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Facts Revealed:

Parable of the Eagles and the Vine with Explanation [Ezekiel 17:1-21]

- ✧ Yahweh spoke parables in the Old Testament, just as Jesus did in the New Testament.
- ✧ This one is both a riddle and a parable.
- ✧ Two great Eagles representing **Babylon** and **Egypt**.
 - ◇ The setting is when Babylon carried Jehoiachin to Babylon and made Zedekiah king of Judah making an oath and covenant with him. [2 Kings 24:10-17, 2 Chronicles 36:13]
 - ◇ Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. [2 Kings 24:20, 2 Chronicles 36:13, Ezekiel 17:11-15]
 - ◇ Egyptian armies came up and the Babylonians left the siege of the city. [Jeremiah 37:5, 11]
 - ◇ Because Zedekiah rebelled and broke his covenant with the king of Babylon, Adoney Yahweh declared Zedekiah would be carried to Babylon and die there. [Ezekiel 17:16-18 Jeremiah 39:6-7, 52:1-11, 2 Kings 25:7]
 - ◇ Pharaoh's mighty army and great company will do nothing at that time. [Ezekiel 17:17]
 - ◇ Because Zedekiah despised Yahweh's covenant, he was carried to Babylon and tried for treason.
 - ◇ His troops fell by the sword and the remnant was scattered to every wind.

Israel Exalted at Last (cf. Ezekiel 31:1-9) [Ezekiel 17:22-24]

- ✧ Yahweh promised a restoration of the remnant of Israel is still ahead.
- ✧ At that time, all nations will know that Yahweh has done it and that Yahweh is a God of His word who does everything He says, both in Judgment and in Restoration.