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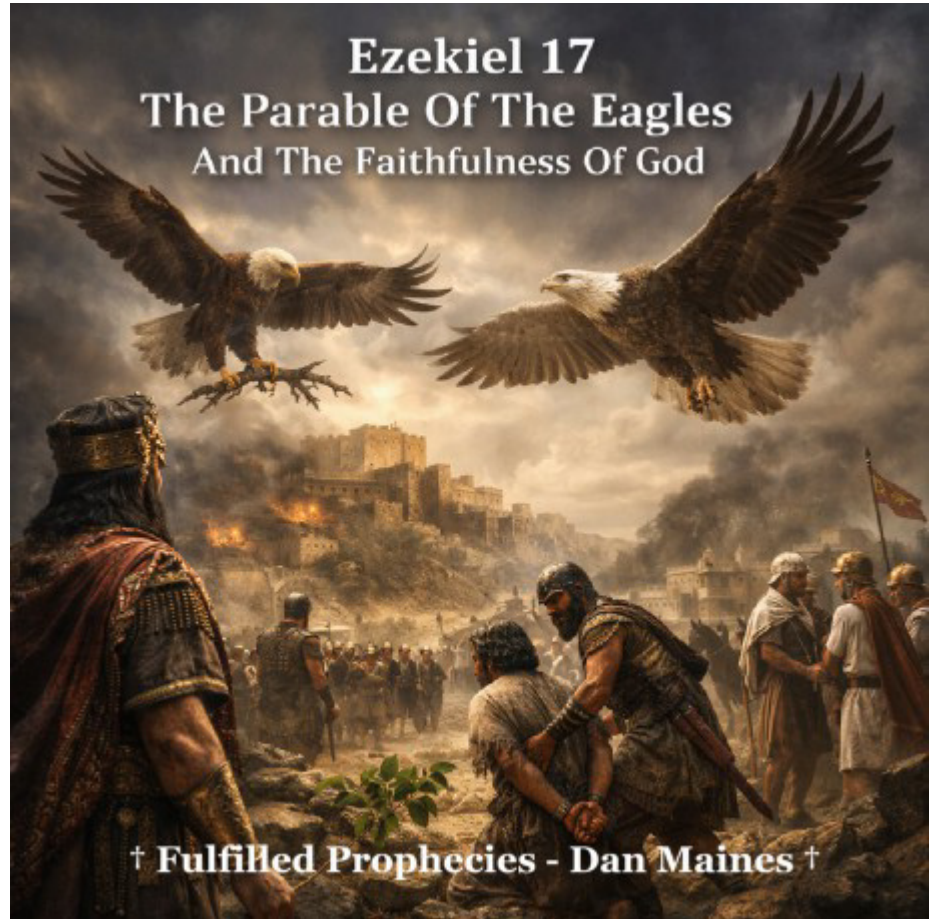
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Ezekiel 17 The Parable Of The Eagles And The Faithfulness Of God



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 17 The Parable Of The Eagles And The Faithfulness Of God

Introduction

† Ezekiel 17 presents a parable that Israel would have clearly understood, but they refused to accept its meaning because it exposed their rebellion. (Ezekiel 17:1)

† God uses imagery of eagles, a vine, and a cedar to reveal what Judah had done politically and spiritually. (Ezekiel 17:2-3)

† This chapter shows that their alliances were not just political mistakes, they were covenant unfaithfulness against God. (Ezekiel 17:12-15)

Scripture

Ezekiel 17:1-2

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, pose a riddle and tell a parable to the house of Israel,

† God is speaking directly, this isn't Ezekiel's idea, it's divine revelation. (Ezekiel 17:1)

† Israel is being addressed as a whole, showing the responsibility of the nation. (Ezekiel 17:2)

† The parable form shows that truth was being given, but only those willing to hear would understand. (Ezekiel 17:2)

Ezekiel 17:3-4

saying, This is what the Lord God says: A great eagle with great wings, long pinions, and a full plumage of many colors came to Lebanon and took away the top of the cedar. He plucked off the topmost of its young twigs and brought it to a land of merchants; he set it in a city of traders.

† The eagle represents Babylon, specifically Nebuchadnezzar taking the king of Judah. (Ezekiel 17:12)

† The cedar represents the royal house of David, showing the removal of leadership. (Ezekiel 17:3)

† This was God's judgment, not just a political takeover. (Ezekiel 17:12)

Ezekiel 17:5-6

He also took some of the seed of the land and planted it in fertile soil. He placed it beside abundant waters; he set it like a willow. Then it sprouted and became a low, spreading vine, with its branches turned toward him, but its roots remained under it. So it became a vine and yielded shoots and sent out branches.

† The new king was set up by Babylon, showing dependence and submission. (Ezekiel 17:13)

† The vine was meant to remain low, meaning Judah was to stay under Babylon's authority. (Ezekiel 17:6)

† God had allowed this arrangement for their preservation, not destruction. (Ezekiel 17:5)

Ezekiel 17:7-8

But there was another great eagle with great wings and much plumage; and behold, this vine bent its roots toward him and sent out its branches toward him from the beds where it was planted, so that he might water it. It was planted in good soil beside abundant waters, so that it would produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid vine.

† The second eagle represents Egypt, whom Judah turned to for help. (Ezekiel 17:15)

† This shows rebellion against the authority God had established. (Ezekiel 17:7)

† Instead of trusting God's discipline, they sought worldly alliances. (Ezekiel 17:8)

Ezekiel 17:9-10

Say, This is what the Lord God says: Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots and cut off its fruit so that it withers, so that all its sprouting leaves wither? And neither by great strength nor by

many people can it be raised from its roots again. Behold, though it is planted, will it thrive? Will it not completely wither as soon as the east wind strikes it, wither on the beds where it grew?

† God makes it clear, rebellion will not succeed. (Ezekiel 17:9)

† The east wind represents judgment coming from Babylon again. (Ezekiel 17:10)

† Their political strategy cannot override God's decree. (Ezekiel 17:9)

Ezekiel 17:11-14

Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Say now to the rebellious house, Do you not know what these things mean? Say, Behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, took its king and officials, and brought them to him in Babylon. He also took one of the royal family and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath. He also took away the mighty of the land, so that the kingdom would be in subjection, not exalting itself, but keeping his covenant so that it might stand.

† God removes all mystery, He explains the parable plainly. (Ezekiel 17:12)

† The covenant made with Babylon was binding, breaking it was sin. (Ezekiel 17:13)

† Stability depended on obedience, not independence. (Ezekiel 17:14)

Ezekiel 17:15-16

But he rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt so that they might give him horses and many troops. Will he succeed? Will he who does such things escape? Can he indeed break the covenant and escape? As I live, declares the Lord

God, surely in the country of the king who put him on the throne, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke, in Babylon he shall die.

† Breaking the covenant was not just political betrayal, it was rebellion against God. (Ezekiel 17:15)

† God swears by Himself, showing the certainty of judgment. (Ezekiel 17:16)

† Zedekiah's fate was sealed because of this rebellion. (Ezekiel 17:16)

Ezekiel 17:17-18

Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in the war, when they cast up siege ramps and build siege walls to cut off many lives. He despised the oath by breaking the covenant, and behold, he pledged his allegiance, yet did all these things; he shall not escape.

† Egypt cannot save what God has judged. (Ezekiel 17:17)

† The oath was serious, this wasn't a small matter. (Ezekiel 17:18)

† Human alliances cannot undo divine judgment. (Ezekiel 17:17)

Ezekiel 17:19-21

Therefore this is what the Lord God says: As I live, surely My oath which he despised and My covenant which he broke, I will inflict on his head. I will spread My net over him, and he will be caught in My snare. Then I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there regarding the unfaithful act which he has committed against Me. All the choicest of his troops will fall by the sword, and the survivors will be scattered to every

wind; and you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken.

† God calls it His covenant, showing His authority over the situation. (Ezekiel 17:19)

† Judgment is described as a trap, unavoidable and precise. (Ezekiel 17:20)

† The purpose is recognition, they will know that God has spoken. (Ezekiel 17:21)

Ezekiel 17:22-24

This is what the Lord God says: I will also take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and set it out; I will pluck from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it, that it may bring forth branches and bear fruit and become a majestic cedar. And birds of every kind will nest under it; they will nest in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the field will know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, exalt the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I, the Lord, have spoken and I will do it.

† God shifts to restoration, pointing to the Messiah from David's line. (Ezekiel 17:22)

† This kingdom will include all nations, shown by the birds dwelling in it. (Ezekiel 17:23)

† God reverses everything, He humbles and exalts according to His will. (Ezekiel 17:24)

Historical References

† Josephus records the fall of Jerusalem and the consequences of Zedekiah's rebellion, confirming this historical fulfillment.

† Eusebius notes the continuity of God's plan through Christ as the fulfillment of the Davidic promise.

† Irenaeus speaks of Christ as the true planting of God, fulfilling the prophetic imagery of restoration.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We see that God is in control of nations and leadership, nothing happens outside His authority.

† Trusting in worldly systems instead of God always leads to failure.

† God's promises stand, even when man fails, He fulfills His plan through Christ.

Q & A Appendix

Q Did Judah's alliance with Egypt succeed

A No, Ezekiel 17:15-17 shows they would not prosper and Egypt would not deliver them

Q Who does the first eagle represent

A Babylon, Ezekiel 17:12 explains it clearly

Q What was the covenant that was broken

A The oath made with the king of Babylon, Ezekiel 17:13-18

Q What does the tender twig represent

A The Messiah from David's line, Ezekiel 17:22-23

Q What is the main lesson of this chapter

A God brings down the proud and exalts the low, Ezekiel 17:24

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 17

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews Book 10; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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