

# STUDY NOTES ON EZEKIEL CHPT 17 FROM DAKES STUDY BIBLE

## Chapter 17

### Verse 1

a [And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying ...] The 24th prophecy in Ezekiel (Ezek 17:1-10, fulfilled). Next, Ezek 17:11.

Eight Predictions — Fulfilled:

1. A great eagle (Nebuchadnezzar) with great wings (longwinged, full of feathers which had diverse colors) came to Lebanon and took the highest branch of the cedar (Jehoiachin, Ezek 17:3; 2 Kings 24:6-16). He cropped off the top of his young twigs (princes and best of the people, 2 Kings 24:11-16), and carried them into the land of traffic (Babylon, 17:4,12; 2 Kings 24:15-16); and he set them down in the city of merchants (Babylon, 17:4; 2 Kings 24:15-16). He also took the seed of the land (Zedekiah and Judah) and planted it in a fruitful field (Ezek 17:5,12; 2 Kings 24:17-19). He placed it by great waters and set it as a willow tree (Ezek 17:5). It grew and became a vine of low stature whose branches turned toward him (Nebuchadnezzar), and the roots were under him (life was sustained through him) so that it brought forth branches, and shot forth sprigs (Ezek 17:6,14).

2. There was also another great eagle (Pharaoh) with great wings and many feathers. This vine (Zedekiah and Judah) did bend toward him (Pharaoh), and shot out branches toward him (trusted in Egypt for help against Babylon, Jer 37:6-11) that he might water it by the furrows (irrigation ditches) of her plantation (Ezek 17:7,15-21).

3. It was planted in a good soil by great waters (the Euphrates) that it might bring forth branches, bear fruit, and be a goodly vine (Ezek 17:8).
4. It will not prosper in turning its roots and branches toward him (Pharaoh). He (Nebuchadnezzar) will pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof that it may wither (Ezek 17:9,15-21).
5. It will wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof (Ezek 17:9,15-21).
6. It will not prosper in looking toward Egypt (Ezek 17:10,15-21).
7. It will utterly wither when the east wind (Babylon) touches it (Ezek 17:10).
8. It will wither in the furrows where it grew (Ezek 17:10,15-21).

### **Verse 3**

a [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] For the interpretation of this riddle and parable see Ezek 17:11-21; 2 Kings 24:6-25:7.

### **Verse 9**

a [Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? ... Yea, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? shall it not utterly wither, when the east wind toucheth it?] Questions 23-26. Next, Ezek 17:12.

## Verse 11

a [Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying ...]  
The 25 th prophecy in Ezekiel (Ezek 17:11-24; Ezek 17:11-21 fulfilled; Ezek 17:22-24 unfulfilled). Next, Ezek 20:33.

Ten Predictions — Fulfilled:

1. The king of Babylon has come to Jerusalem and taken Jehoiachin and the princes to Babylon (Ezek 17:21). He has taken the king's seed (Zedekiah) and made a covenant with him, and taken an oath of him; he has also taken the mighty of the land to Babylon, so that the kingdom might be base and not rebel, but keep the covenant (Ezek 17:13-14). But he (Zedekiah) rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar in sending ambassadors to Egypt to secure their help against Babylon. This alliance will not stand, because he has not kept his covenant with Nebuchadnezzar (Ezek 17:15-16).
2. Zedekiah will die in Babylon, in the land of the king whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he broke (Ezek 17:16).
3. Pharaoh and his great army will not save him from Babylon (Ezek 17:17).
4. He will not escape Babylon, because he has despised the oath by breaking the covenant with Nebuchadnezzar (Ezek 17:18).
5. The oath and the covenant that he has despised will be recompensed upon him (Ezek 17:9).
6. I will spread My net upon him, and he will be taken in a snare (Ezek 17:20).
7. I will bring him to Babylon and plead with him there for his sin.
8. All his fugitives with all his hands will fall by the sword (Ezek 17:21).

9. They that remain shall be scattered toward all winds.

10. You will know that I the Lord have spoken it.

Six Predictions — Unfulfilled:

1. I will take the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it (Ezek 17:22).

2. I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender One, and will plant it upon a high and eminent mountain.

3. In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it (Ezek 17:23).

4. It will bring forth boughs, bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar.

5. Under it will dwell all fowl of every kind.

6. All the trees of the field will 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 (Ezek 17:24).

## **Verse 12**

a [Know ye not what these things mean?] Question 27. Next, Ezek 17:15.

b [king thereof] Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:6-16).

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Ezekiel 17:12; Ezekiel 17:13; Ezekiel 17:15; Ezekiel 17:19;  
Ezekiel 17:22; Ezekiel 17:23; Ezekiel 17:24;

### **Verse 13**

a [the king's seed] Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:17-25:7).

b [made a covenant with him, and hath taken an oath of him: he hath also taken the mighty of the land] Zedekiah freely agreed by covenant to rule Judah under Nebuchadnezzar. He took an oath to obey him, but rebelled after serving for several years (Ezek 17:13-14). He turned to Egypt for help and for this God cursed him (Ezek 17:15-21).

### **Verse 15**

a [Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?] Questions 28-30. Next, Ezek 18:2.

### **Verse 19**

a [surely mine oath that he hath despised, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head] God considered the oath made to Nebuchadnezzar as one made to Him; it was no doubt made in the name of Jehovah and He expected Zedekiah to keep it as one made with Him. God was lowered in the eyes of Nebuchadnezzar when the oath made in His name was broken. Man is expected to keep his oaths even to his own hurt (Ps 15:4).

### **Verse 22**

a [highest branch of the high cedar] "The highest branch" stands for the restoration of the kingdom of Israel and of David in the Messiah who will come again to rebuild the tabernacle of

David which is fallen down, to set it up and rule over the kingdom of David and the house of Jacob forever (Isa 9:6-7; Jer 30:9; Hos 3:4-5; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 14:13-18; Rev 11:15; 20:1-10). Christ is called "the Branch of the Lord" (Isa 4:2; 11:1; Jer 23:5-6; 33:15; Zech 3:8; 6:12).

b [a tender one] Christ (not Zedekiah's daughter) is the tender One, the offshoot from the root of Jesse (Isa 11:1; 53:1-2). It is the Messiah's kingdom which will be in the height of Israel. See The Anglo-Saxon Theory .

c [high mountain] This refers to the mountain of the house of the Lord into which all nations will flow during the Millennium (Isa 2:1-4; 54; Mic 4).

## **Verse 23**

a [In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it] In the highest mountain of Israel this kingdom will be placed. This does not mean that it will be some present high mountain in Israel; it refers to the highest one in Israel at the second coming of Christ. The Mount of Olives will be removed and great changes in the physical surface of Palestine will be made (Zech 14:1-5). Even the Dead Sea will be raised, and it will become fresh water for fish (Ezek 47). The deserts will blossom as a rose and many other changes will take place at that time (Isa 35).

b [it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing] This tender Branch will grow to become a great tree, "bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar." Under it will be sheltered all the birds and other creatures of earth (Ezek 17:23-24). Thus the eternal kingdom of the Messiah is likened to a great tree. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom is also spoken of as a tree sheltering all creatures (Dan 2:37-38; 4).

## **Verse 24**

a [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] If the one tree is symbolic of the kingdom of Messiah, then all the other trees refer to the other kingdoms of the world. They shall know four works of Jehovah:

1. Jehovah has brought down the high tree (Ezek 17:24; Dan 4; Luke 1:52).
2. Jehovah exalted the low tree (Ezek 17:24). This no doubt refers to the tree of Ezek 17:23.
3. Jehovah dried up the green tree (the present kingdom of Babylon, Ezek 17:24).
4. Jehovah made the dry tree to flourish (again referring to the kingdom of the Messiah of Ezek 17:23-24).

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