### Ezekiel

## Chapter 17

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 2‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Tell this story and sing it as a song  
 Before the house of IsraEl…  
 3Tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘There was a great eagle with very great wings  
 Whose claws were long and outstretched.  
 To Lebanon, He was then led,  
 Where He perched on the choicest of cedars.  
  
 4‘The most tender tips, He plucked off,  
 And to the land of CanaAn, He took them;  
 Then He placed them in a city with walls.  
  
 5‘He also took a seed from that land  
 And planted it in ground fit for sowing  
 A place with plenty of water,  
 And He arranged for it to be tended.  
  
 6‘Thereafter, [the seed] grew into a vine,  
 Which proved that it would be great.  
 Above, it grew many branches of vines,  
 As its roots [spread out] underneath it…  
 It became a vine with layers of vines,  
 And its tendrils kept spreading abroad.  
  
 7‘There was also another great eagle  
 That had large wings and [long] claws.  
 So {Look!} the grapevine then twisted towards him,  
 As did its roots and its branches.  
  
 ‘[The vine] reached towards [the eagle] from her water,  
 Which pulled her from her place in the sun…  
 8Even though the soil in which she was planted was good,  
 And even though she had plenty of water.  
 For, she was fat and putting out buds,  
 And as a great vine, was bearing much fruit.’  
  
 9‘Then Jehovah asked:  
  
 ‘So, will she continue to prosper?  
 Will she continue to have tender roots?  
 Won’t all her fruits start to rot?  
  
 ‘Yes, those early shoots will all dry,  
 But not because of some great mighty arm  
 Or because an army had pulled up her roots.  
  
 10‘{Look!} This fat one will no longer prosper  
 Because she’ll be touched by hot winds  
 And she will be dried up by drought.  
 Yes, when the east winds blow, she will shrivel!’  
  
11Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 ‘Ask the rebellious house what all of this meant…  
 Yes, [go ahead and just] ask them!  
  
 12‘{Look!} Babylon’s king will come to JeruSalem  
 And capture her king and her rulers;  
 Then, they’ll be taken to Babylon.  
  
 13‘Yes, he’ll take the offspring of the kingdom,  
 Then force him to swear an oath of allegiance…  
 As he carries the rulers away from their land.  
  
 14‘So the kingdom will then be so weak  
 That it won’t be able to lift itself up.  
 And in order for them to survive,  
 They’ll have to keep their treaty with him.  
  
 15‘But [the king] will thereafter revolt  
 And send his envoys to Egypt  
 To beg them for horses and soldiers.  
  
 ‘Will he succeed?  
 Will the one who disobeyed be preserved?  
 Will the one who broke his oath then be saved?  
  
 16‘As I live,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘Surely, here in the place of the king,  
 He’ll disgrace the One who allowed him to rule  
 And he’ll break the oath of his treaty.  
 So to Babylon, he will be taken,  
 And there is where he will die!  
  
 17‘No, he won’t succeed despite his great power  
 Or because of the [strength] of his [army].  
 For although PharaOh will join him in war  
 And build many weapons and siege mounds,  
 Which will bring many lives to an end;  
 18Because [the king] will have disgraced his oath  
 – The one which he’ll swear before Me,  
 When he breaks the agreement he made...  
 {Look!} The one over which he held up his hand!  
 For this, he will not escape.  
  
 19‘So, tell him that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘As I live… You will be disgraced  
 For breaking the agreement you made before Me.  
 So upon your head, I’ll lay this:  
  
 20‘Over you, I’ll spread out My net,  
 And in it, you’ll be wrapped up and captured…  
 Then off to Babylon, you will be led,  
 Where I’ll judge you for your sins against Me.  
  
 21‘Then your armies that are ready for battle  
 Will all be cut down by swords,  
 And the survivors will be scattered to the [four] winds…  
 Then they’ll know that I, Jehovah, have spoken.’  
  
 22‘Thereafter, Jehovah said:  
  
 But then, from the choicest of cedars,  
 I will pluck off a top…  
 Yes, out of its heart, I will pluck it,  
 And on a high mountain, I’ll plant it.  
  
 23‘On a Mountain in IsraEl, I’ll place it…  
 I’ll plant it and then it will bud,  
 And it will bear fruit once again.  
  
 ‘Once more, it will be a great cedar,  
 And a place of resting for birds…  
 In the shadow of its branches, they’ll rest,  
 For the branches of her vines will then be restored.  
  
 24‘So then, all the trees in the plains  
 Will know that I am Jehovah…  
 I’m the One who humbles the trees in their heights  
 And who raises those who have been laid low.  
  
 ‘I’m the One who can dry up green trees  
 Or make them flourish in dryness,  
 Because, I am Jehovah…  
 So I’ve spoken, and now I will act!’