

Ezekiel 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shewed me.

Analysis

Ezekiel fulfills his commission: 'Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shewed me.' Despite the message's difficulty—judgment on Jerusalem, glory's departure, leaders' condemnation—Ezekiel faithfully reports everything God revealed. The phrase 'all the things' emphasizes comprehensive communication. He doesn't soften, select, or suppress uncomfortable parts but declares the full counsel of God.

This faithful proclamation despite unpopularity models prophetic integrity. The exiles likely hoped for encouraging messages about quick restoration, not announcements of Jerusalem's imminent destruction. Yet Ezekiel's responsibility was faithfulness to revelation, not audience satisfaction. True prophets speak what God reveals, regardless of reception. This contrasts with false prophets who tell people what they want to hear (Jeremiah 23:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the principle that ministers are stewards of God's mysteries (1 Corinthians 4:1-2), required to be faithful not successful by worldly standards. Pastoral ministry involves proclaiming all of Scripture—not just comfortable parts but including difficult doctrines of sin, judgment, and divine sovereignty. Complete faithfulness to revelation, even when unpopular, marks genuine ministry.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's audience, the Babylonian exiles, struggled with cognitive dissonance—they wanted to believe Jerusalem would be quickly restored and they'd return home, yet Ezekiel kept prophesying the city's complete destruction. This created tension and sometimes hostility toward the prophet (Ezekiel 33:30-33). They listened but didn't truly hear or obey, treating prophecy as entertainment rather than divine Word demanding response.

Archaeological evidence shows Babylonian exile wasn't physically brutal—Jews could settle, build homes, have families, and conduct business (Jeremiah 29:4-7). The suffering was primarily psychological/spiritual—separation from homeland, temple, and the shame of covenant failure. In this context, Ezekiel's harsh messages about Jerusalem's complete destruction challenged false hopes and forced theological reckoning with sin's consequences.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Ezekiel's comprehensive proclamation ('all the things') challenge selective preaching that avoids difficult topics?
2. What does faithful communication of unpopular truth teach about ministerial responsibility?
3. In what ways do you struggle between telling people what they need to hear versus what they want to hear?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲדַבֵּר ר	אֶל	הַגּוֹלִי ה	אֶת	כָּל	דְּבַר י
Then I spake	H413	unto them of the captivity	H853	H3605	all the things
H1696		H1473			H1697
יְהוָה ה	אָשׁ ר	הִרְאֵנִי:			
that the LORD	H834	had shewed			
H3068		H7200			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 3:4 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.

Ezekiel 3:17 (Parallel theme): Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Ezekiel 2:7 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Ezekiel 3:27 (References Lord): But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbear, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house.