

Ezekiel 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: they shall remove and go into captivity.

Analysis

"Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: they shall remove and go into captivity." Ezekiel explicitly declares himself a prophetic sign—his enacted exile foreshadows Israel's actual exile. "Like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them" establishes direct correspondence between symbol and reality. The double description "remove and go into captivity" (ba-golah ba-shevi yelekhu) emphasizes exile's certainty using synonymous terms. This clear interpretation prevents ambiguity—the sign-act's meaning is unmistakable.

Historical Context

Prophetic signs weren't mere illustrations but enacted prophecies participating in bringing about what they depicted. Ezekiel's symbolic exile didn't just predict but began actualizing Jerusalem's coming captivity. When literal exile occurred (586 BC), those who witnessed Ezekiel's performance recognized the connection, validating both the prophet's credentials and God's control over history. The sign-act's fulfillment taught that God's word accomplishes its purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do prophetic signs differ from mere illustrations or object lessons?
2. What does the direct correspondence (as I have done, so shall it be done) teach about God's word's certainty?
3. In what ways do sacraments function as enacted signs that participate in spiritual realities?

Interlinear Text

ר אָמַר מִזְמְרָתִךְ אַנְתָּךְ כִּי יִשְׁעַת

Say

H589

I am your sign

H834

like as I have done

H3651

לָבֶב בְּשֻׁבְבָּה וְלֹא בְּגַזְלָה הַיְלָכָה

like as I have done

H0

unto them they shall remove

H1473

into captivity

H1980

H6213

H7628

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 15:2 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.

Jeremiah 52:15 (Parallel theme): Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive certain of the poor of the people, and the residue of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude.