

Ezekiel 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Analysis

Another prophetic word comes: 'Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying.' This formula introduces a new oracle, distinct from the previous message. Ezekiel receives multiple revelations, each addressing specific aspects of coming judgment. The accumulation of oracles reinforces the message's certainty—God repeatedly warns through various angles and images.

The phrase 'word of the LORD' (devar-Yahweh, דְּבַר־יְהוָה) emphasizes divine origin. Ezekiel isn't expressing personal opinions but conveying revelation. This claim to divine authority distinguishes true prophets from false ones. True prophets stake their credibility on 'Thus saith the LORD,' accepting that failed predictions mean death (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

From a Reformed perspective, multiple oracles on similar themes illustrate the sufficiency and persistence of divine revelation. God doesn't give one warning and move on; He repeatedly warns through various means, demonstrating patience and desire that people repent (2 Peter 3:9). The accumulation of prophetic witnesses removes excuse—judgment comes only after extensive warning.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's prophetic ministry spanned approximately 593-571 BC, with oracles clustered around key periods—before Jerusalem's fall (chapters 1-24), during the siege (24), and after (25-48). Multiple oracles on judgment themes demonstrate God's thorough warning. This pattern parallels Jesus' repeated warnings to first-

century Jerusalem before its 70 AD destruction (Matthew 23-24, Luke 19:41-44, 21:20-24).

The formula 'word of the LORD came to me' appears throughout prophetic literature, authenticating the message. In an age without written scripture widely available, prophets mediated God's word orally. Their consistent claim to divine authority, combined with fulfilled predictions and conformity to existing revelation, authenticated their ministries. Ezekiel's repeated use of this formula emphasized he spoke God's words, not his own.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's pattern of multiple warnings before judgment demonstrate His patience and justice?
2. What responsibility do people bear when they receive repeated warnings but refuse to respond?
3. In what ways should the prophetic claim 'Thus saith the LORD' shape how we read and respond to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

וְיָהּ י'	דָּבַר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	Moreover the word	of the LORD	H413	came to me saying
	H1697	H3068		H559

