

Ezekiel 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.

Analysis

"Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house." God diagnoses Israel's problem—willful blindness and deafness. They possess physical faculties ("eyes to see," "ears to hear") but lack spiritual perception. The double designation "rebellious house" (beit meri, בֵּית מֵרִי) emphasizes covenant violation as defining characteristic. This echoes Isaiah's commission (Isaiah 6:9-10) and anticipates Jesus' diagnosis of hardened hearts (Matthew 13:13-15). Rebellion produces functional blindness—sin darkens understanding.

Historical Context

The exiles refused to acknowledge their true condition—rebellious covenant violators justly punished. Instead, they blamed circumstances, previous generations, or false gods' power. This self-deception required dramatic prophetic actions to penetrate hardened hearts. Ezekiel's sign-acts created visual, unavoidable proclamation that words alone couldn't accomplish. The designation 'rebellious house' indicted the entire community, not just individuals, showing corporate responsibility for covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does willful spiritual blindness differ from intellectual inability to understand?
2. What does the 'rebellious house' designation teach about corporate responsibility for sin?
3. In what ways can religious people today have 'eyes that see not' and 'ears that hear not'?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	אָדָם	בֵּית וְ	בֵּית	לֹא	כִּי	הֵיאָה
Son	of man	in the midst	house	not for they are a rebellious		H859
H1121	H120	H8432	H1004	H4805		
וְ	אֵשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	עֵינַיִם	לָהֶם	וְ	וְ
thou dwellest		which have eyes		and see	and see	
H3427		H5869		H7200	H7200	
אֲזַנֵּי	לָהֶם	וְ	וְ	וְ	בֵּית	
not they have ears		and hear	and hear	and hear	house	
H241		H8085	H8085	H8085	H1004	
לֹא	כִּי	הֵיאָה				
not for they are a rebellious						
H4805						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 5:21 (Parallel theme): Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Mark 4:12 (Parallel theme): That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Psalms 78:40 (Parallel theme): How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

Isaiah 1:23 (Parallel theme): Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Ephesians 4:18 (Parallel theme): Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Isaiah 30:9 (Parallel theme): That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Isaiah 65:2 (Parallel theme): I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Isaiah 30:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Jeremiah 5:23 (Parallel theme): But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone.

John 12:40 (Parallel theme): He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.