

Ezekiel 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house.

Analysis

"Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house." God commands Ezekiel to publicly enact exile—packing belongings and departing visibly. The "stuff for removing" (keli golah, קלי גולה) means exile baggage—minimal possessions a refugee carries. Performing this "in their sight" creates unmissable spectacle forcing attention. The hopeful phrase "it may be they will consider" reveals God's redemptive purpose even in judgment warnings—dramatic prophecy aims to provoke repentance.

Historical Context

Public prophetic performances were common (Isaiah 20; Jeremiah 27-28). Ezekiel's enacted exile would shock the community—a priest becoming refugee contradicted expectations. The hope that they might 'consider' (Hebrew ra'ah, 'see' or 'perceive') shows God's patient desire for repentance despite calling them rebellious. When actual exile came (586 BC), those who witnessed Ezekiel's performance would recognize its prophetic accuracy, validating his message and preparing hearts for restoration prophecies (Ezekiel 34-37).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do dramatic prophetic actions communicate truth that words alone cannot?
2. What does God's hope that they 'might consider' teach about His desire for repentance even amid rebellion?
3. In what creative ways should we communicate biblical truth to capture attention in our culture?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	בָּן	אָדָם	עַשْ	לְבָנָה	כָּל	גּוֹלָה
H859	Therefore thou son	H1121	H120	H6213	H0	thee stuff
	of man		prepare		H3627	for removing
וְרֹא	מִקְדָּשׁ	וְמִלְחָמָה	וְמִלְחָמָה	וְמִלְחָמָה	וְמִלְחָמָה	וְרֹא
and remove	by day	in their sight	and remove	from thy place	H413	
H1540	H3119	H5869	H1540	H4725		
וְאַתָּה	לְבָנָה	אָדָם	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
from thy place	to another	in their sight	H194	it may be they will consider	H3588	
H4725	H312	H5869		H7200		
בָּתְהוֹן	מִרְאֵה	בְּתַהֲוָה				
house	though they be a rebellious	H1992				
H1004	H4805					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 36:3 (Parallel theme): It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Jeremiah 26:3 (Parallel theme): If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.

2 Timothy 2:25 (Parallel theme): In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Jeremiah 36:7 (Parallel theme): It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people.

Luke 20:13 (Parallel theme): Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.