

Ezekiel 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou bring forth thy stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for removing: and thou shalt go forth at even in their sight, as they that go forth into captivity.

Analysis

"Then shalt thou bring forth thy stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for removing: and thou shalt go forth at even in their sight, as they that go forth into captivity." Ezekiel must publicly pack and depart, mimicking exiles' actions. The timing ("by day...at even") suggests full-day performance creating maximum visibility. "As stuff for removing" and "as they that go forth into captivity" emphasize exile's reality—not hypothetical threat but certain future. The enacted prophecy makes abstract warnings concrete and unavoidable.

Historical Context

When Jerusalem fell (586 BC), this exact scenario occurred—residents packed minimal belongings and departed into captivity. King Zedekiah attempted escape by night (2 Kings 25:4) but was captured, fulfilling Ezekiel's specific prophecy (12:12-13). The sign-act's literal fulfillment within years vindicated Ezekiel's prophetic credentials, teaching that God's word always proves true.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does enacted prophecy make abstract truths concrete and unavoidable?
2. What does the specific timing and actions reveal about prophecy's precision?
3. In what ways should biblical warnings be made tangible in our ministry and witness?

Interlinear Text

	לְעַיְנִיתָם	וְיָמִים	גָּזְלָה:	כְּכָלִים	כְּכָלִים	תַּצְאָה	
Then shalt thou bring forth	as stuff	as stuff	for removing	by day	in their sight		
H3318	H3627	H3627	H1473	H3119	H5869		
	כְּמַזְאָה:	לְעַיְנִיתָם	בְּעַתְּכָבָד	בְּעַתְּכָבָד	בְּמַזְאָה:		
H859	Then shalt thou bring forth	H3318	at even	H6153	H5869	in their sight	as they that go forth
							H4161
	גָּזְלָה:						
for removing							
H1473							

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 39:4 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain.

Ezekiel 12:12 (Parallel theme): And the prince that is among them shall bear upon his shoulder in the twilight, and shall go forth: they shall dig through the wall to carry out thereby: he shall cover his face, that he see not the ground with his eyes.

2 Kings 25:4 (Parallel theme): And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.

Jeremiah 52:7 (Parallel theme): Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans were by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain.

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