

Ezekiel 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face, that thou see not the ground: for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel.

Analysis

"In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face, that thou see not the ground: for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel." Ezekiel must carry baggage on shoulders with covered face "in twilight"—depicting shameful, furtive departure. Covering the face represents disgrace and inability to see where going—exile strips dignity and certainty. The final phrase "I have set thee for a sign" (mofet netatikha, מוֹפֵת נְתַתִּיךָ) designates Ezekiel's entire person as living prophetic symbol. His actions embody Israel's coming experience.

Historical Context

The covered face specifically foreshadowed Zedekiah's fate—captured during escape attempt, he witnessed his sons' execution before Babylonians blinded him (2 Kings 25:7; Ezekiel 12:13). He literally couldn't see the ground as led captive to Babylon. Ezekiel's prophecy predicted with uncanny precision the king's tragic end, demonstrating divine foreknowledge and prophetic accuracy.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the covered face symbolize the shame and blindness of judgment?
2. What does being 'set as a sign' teach about prophetic ministry embodying God's message?
3. In what ways should Christian living serve as living sign pointing others to gospel truth?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֶלְטָה	תִּשָּׂא	כְּתִיף	עַל	לְעֵי יִנְיָהּ	וְ
in the twilight	shalt thou bear	it upon thy shoulders		In their sight	
H5939	H5375	H3802	H5921	H5869	
אֶת	תִּרְאֶה	וְ	לֹא	תִכְסֶּה	פְּנֵי יְכָ
that thou see		thou shalt cover		thy face	and carry it forth
H853	H7200	H3680	H3808	H6440	H3318
יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְבַיִת	נָתַתִּי	כִּי	מִוִּפֹּת	הָאָרֶץ
of Israel	unto the house	for I have set		thee for a sign	not the ground
H3478	H1004	H5414	H3588	H4159	H776

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 4:3 (References Israel): Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.

Isaiah 8:18 (References Israel): Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

Ezekiel 24:24 (Parallel theme): Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

1 Samuel 28:8 (Parallel theme): And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

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