

Ezekiel 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the morning came the word of the LORD unto me,
saying,

Analysis

Ezekiel receives further revelation: 'And in the morning came the word of the LORD unto me, saying.' The phrase 'in the morning' indicates God's timing in revelation—He speaks when He purposes, not on human schedule. The formula 'word of the LORD came unto me' appears throughout Ezekiel, authenticating the message as divine revelation not human speculation.

This verse introduces God's explanation of Ezekiel's dramatic street theater (vv. 3-7) where he acted out exile by packing belongings and digging through a wall. The prophetic sign-act required interpretation, which God now provides. This pattern—symbolic action followed by divine explanation—ensured the message was clear and unmistakable.

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the necessity of divine interpretation of divine revelation. Even clear signs need God's explanatory word to be properly understood. This reinforces sola scriptura—Scripture interprets Scripture, and the Spirit illuminates biblical truth. Human wisdom can't properly interpret divine signs without God's revealed explanation.

Historical Context

Prophetic sign-acts were common in ancient Israel—Isaiah walked naked and barefoot (Isaiah 20:2-4), Jeremiah wore a yoke (Jeremiah 27-28), Hosea married a prostitute (Hosea 1:2-3). These dramatic actions communicated divine messages

memorably. Ezekiel performed numerous sign-acts (lying on his side, shaving his head, cooking with dung, not mourning his wife's death) that would have scandalized and arrested public attention.

The morning timing may indicate Ezekiel performed the sign-act at night (v. 7 mentions evening departure), then received interpretation at dawn. This timing parallels the rapid approach of judgment—just as morning follows night inevitably, so judgment follows warning. The exiles couldn't ignore such dramatic prophetic communication.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's pattern of sign-followed-by-interpretation ensure clear communication of His message?
2. What role does divine illumination play in properly understanding Scripture and spiritual truth?
3. In what ways do modern believers need to depend on the Spirit's interpretation rather than human wisdom?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|
| וַיָּהִי י' | דָּבַר | יְהוָה ה | אֵל י' | בַּבֹּקֶר | לֵאמֹר: |
| H1961 | came the word | of the LORD | H413 | And in the morning | unto me saying |
| | H1697 | H3068 | | H1242 | H559 |

