

Ezekiel 17:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;

Analysis

'Know ye not what these things mean?' implies they should have understood from the parable's symbolism. Their spiritual dullness reflects the hardening Isaiah prophesied (Matthew 13:13-15). 'Rebellious house' (Hebrew bayit meri) appears 15 times in Ezekiel, characterizing Israel's fundamental disposition. God's provision of interpretation demonstrates patience even with rebels.

Historical Context

The 597 BC deportation is well-documented. Babylonian chronicles record Nebuchadnezzar's capture of Jerusalem (March 16, 597 BC). He took King Jehoiachin, officials, craftsmen, warriors—approximately 10,000 people including Ezekiel (2 Kings 24:10-17). Archaeological discoveries list rations for 'Jehoiachin, king of Judah.'

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What spiritual dullness prevents us from recognizing God's clear messages?
2. How can we move from 'rebellious house' to obedient household of faith?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	נָא	לְבַיִת	הַמֶּרִי	הֵלֵא	יִדְעָתָם	מָה	אֵלֶּה
Say	H4994	house	now to the rebellious	H3808	Know	H4100	H428
H559		H1004	H4805		H3045		
אָמַר	הִנֵּה	וָבָא	מֶלֶכָה	בְּבִלְיָה:	יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	וְקָח	אֶת
Say	H2009	is come	the king	of Babylon	to Jerusalem	and hath taken	H853
H559		H935	H4428	H894	H3389	H3947	
מֶלֶכָה	וְאֶת	שָׂרֵי יָדָיו	וָבָא	אֶתְּ	אֵלַי	בְּבִלְיָה:	
the king	H853	thereof and the princes	is come	H853	H413	of Babylon	
H4428		H8269	H935			H894	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 24:19 (Parallel theme): And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

Ezekiel 1:2 (Kingdom): In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

Ezekiel 17:3 (Parallel theme): And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar: