

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	רְאֵת	בָּאָם	לְבִתְהִיכָּה	בְּפִמְרִיאָה	כָּל	מִדְעָתָה	מָה	לְהִזְכִּיר
Say H559	house H4994		now to the rebellious H1004		Know H3808		H4100	H428
אָמַר	רְאֵת	בָּאָם	הַגָּהָה	יְהִי אָמַר	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבִלְהָה	יְרֹשָׁלָם	אָתָה
Say H559	is come H2009		the king H935	the king H4428	of Babylon H894	to Jerusalem H3389	and hath taken H3947	H853
אָמַר	רְאֵת	בָּאָם	שָׁׁבֵךְ	יְהִי אָמַר	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבִלְהָה	אָל יְהִי אָמַר	
the king H4428	H853		thereof and the princes H8269	is come H935		of Babylon 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: