

Ezekiel 17:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel;

Analysis

Riddles and parables were common prophetic teaching methods that required spiritual discernment to understand (Matthew 13:10-17). The Hebrew 'mashal' encompasses proverbs, parables, and allegories. This teaching method reveals truth to receptive hearts while concealing it from the rebellious, demonstrating divine wisdom in communication.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature frequently employed riddles and parables. Israel's prophets adapted this cultural form to communicate covenant truths, engaging audiences intellectually and spiritually.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How teachable is your heart when approaching difficult or puzzling passages of Scripture?

2. What spiritual preparation is necessary to receive divine revelation through God's Word?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	אִדָּם	חַוּד	חִידָה	וּמַשֵּׁל	מִשָּׁל	אֶל	בֵּית
Son	of man	put forth	a riddle	and speak	a parable	H413	unto the house
H1121	H120	H2330	H2420	H4911	H4912		H1004

יִשְׂרָאֵל:

of Israel

H3478

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:49 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?