

Ezekiel 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

Analysis

God addresses Ezekiel with the title 'Son of man' (ben-adam, בן־אָדָם), which appears 93 times in this book—more than any other biblical book. This title emphasizes Ezekiel's humanity, frailty, and mortality in contrast to divine glory just revealed. The command to 'stand upon thy feet' demonstrates that prostration before God's glory (1:28) was appropriate initially, but God wants servants standing ready for commission, not perpetually prostrate. The Spirit enables Ezekiel to stand (2:2), showing that human strength alone cannot fulfill God's calling. This pattern—overwhelming revelation of God's glory, human inability, divine enablement—characterizes true prophetic ministry. Jesus adopts 'Son of Man' as His preferred self-designation (used over 80 times in the Gospels), connecting His incarnation to Ezekiel's emphasis on humanity in contrast to divine glory, while also invoking Daniel 7:13's apocalyptic figure.

Historical Context

Prophetic commissioning often involved visual theophanies and specific calling (Isaiah 6, Jeremiah 1). God's address to Ezekiel as 'son of man' established the prophet's role as representative human—speaking to humans as one who shares their nature and struggles. In Ezekiel's exilic context, where the people felt abandoned and powerless, this title reminded them that God uses ordinary humans as His spokespersons. The command to stand indicated active participation in God's plans rather than passive resignation to exile. Ezekiel would need to stand firm against opposition, rejection, and persecution from his own people.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing your human frailty before God's glory paradoxically empower rather than discourage faithful service?
2. What responsibilities is God calling you to 'stand up' and face rather than remain prostrate in fear or inadequacy?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלַי	בֶּן	אָדָם	עֹמֵד	עַל	כַּגְּלִי יָךְ
And he said	H413	unto me Son	of man	stand	H5921	upon thy feet
H559		H1121	H120	H5975		H7272
וְאֶדְבָּר	אֶתְּךָ:					
and I will speak	H853					
H1696						

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 10:11 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

Ezekiel 3:17 (Parallel theme): Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Ezekiel 3:4 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.

Ezekiel 4:1 (Parallel theme): Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and pourtray upon it the city, even Jerusalem:

Ezekiel 3:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.

Ezekiel 5:1 (Parallel theme): And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair.

Acts 9:6 (Parallel theme): And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.