

# Ezekiel 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.

## Analysis

God warns Ezekiel not to imitate Israel's rebellion, using emphatic language: 'Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house' (אַל-תִּמְרוֹר כְּמֵרִי בֵּית-הָמֵרִי). The repetition of 'rebellious' underscores Israel's defining characteristic. The command to 'open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee' introduces the prophetic scroll vision (2:9-10), but metaphorically commands complete reception and internalization of God's word. Jeremiah similarly 'ate' God's words (Jeremiah 15:16), and John later eats a scroll in Revelation (10:9-10). This imagery emphasizes that prophetic ministry requires personal assimilation of God's message before public proclamation. The prophet cannot remain detached or merely intellectual about divine revelation—it must be digested, metabolized, and integrated into one's being. Only then can authentic proclamation occur. This challenges superficial engagement with Scripture, calling for deep internalization that transforms the messenger before reaching the audience.

## Historical Context

Prophets faced tremendous pressure to conform to popular opinion, deliver favorable oracles, and avoid confrontational messages. False prophets proliferated by telling people what they wanted to hear (Jeremiah 23:16-22, Ezekiel 13). Ezekiel's contemporaries wanted assurance of quick return from exile, not calls to repentance or warnings of further judgment. God's command not to be rebellious recognized the temptation to soften, modify, or withhold difficult messages. Eating

the scroll symbolized complete commitment to proclaim God's word regardless of reception, consequences, or personal cost. Historical prophets frequently suffered persecution, imprisonment, and death for faithfulness to their calling.

## Related Passages

## Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

## **Ephesians 2:8 – Salvation by grace through faith**

## Study Questions

1. In what areas are you tempted to be 'rebellious' by withholding, modifying, or refusing to apply God's word fully?
2. How can you cultivate deeper internalization of Scripture rather than mere intellectual knowledge?

## Interlinear Text

מִדְבָּר	אָנָּי	אֲשֶׁר	אִתְּ שָׁמָעָ	אָדָם	בֶּן	וְאַתָּה	H859
	what I say	H589	H834	H8085	H120	H1121	But thou son

בְּתַתְּךָ	בְּתַתְּךָ	בְּתַתְּךָ	בְּתַתְּךָ	בְּתַתְּךָ	בְּתַתְּךָ
H413	H408	unto thee Be not	like that rebellious	house	like that rebellious
		H1961	H4805	H1004	H4805

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 10:9** (Parallel theme): And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

**Jeremiah 15:16** (Parallel theme): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

**Isaiah 50:5** (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

**Ezekiel 3:10** (Parallel theme): Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

**1 Peter 5:3** (Parallel theme): Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

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