

Ezekiel 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein;

Analysis

The extended hand holding a scroll symbolizes divine initiative in revelation. God provides the message the prophet must deliver; Ezekiel invents nothing. The scroll's content (3:1-3) is "lamentations, and mourning, and woe"—Israel's judgment written beforehand. This imagery emphasizes sola Scriptura: God's written Word, not human insight, constitutes authoritative revelation. The prophet must consume what God provides, internalizing divine truth before proclaiming it. This anticipates the incarnate Word (John 1:14) and scriptural sufficiency—God's fully revealed message requires no human addition.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern scrolls were typically made from papyrus or leather, written on both sides when containing extensive content. The vision's emphasis on a written scroll underscores permanence and authority—oral tradition could be disputed, but written revelation endured as testimony. In 593 BC, Ezekiel received this vision during Babylon's dominance when many questioned whether Yahweh could speak outside Jerusalem. The scroll's appearance demonstrates that God's authoritative word transcends geographical boundaries and political circumstances.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the image of a pre-written scroll challenge the idea that religious truth is discovered rather than revealed?
2. What does the necessity of consuming God's words teach about sermon preparation and biblical ministry?

Interlinear Text

וְאָרָא הַ	וְהִנֵּה	יָד	שְׁלוֹחַ הַ	אֵלַי	וְהִנֵּה	בּוֹ
And when I looked	H2009	behold an hand	was sent	H413	H2009	H0
H7200		H3027	H7971			
מִגִּלָּת	סֵפֶר:					
unto me and lo a roll	of a book					
H4039	H5612					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 8:3 (Parallel theme): And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

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.

Daniel 10:10 (Parallel theme): And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

