

Ezekiel 20:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Analysis

The word of the LORD came unto me (וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי, vayehi devar-YHWH elay) —Ezekiel's signature prophetic formula appears 50+ times in his book. The phrase דְבַר־יְהוָה (devar-YHWH, word of the LORD) emphasizes divine origin and authority. Ezekiel never spoke on his own initiative but only when God's word came to him.

This verse introduces the 'forest fire' oracle (20:45-49), which becomes clearer in chapter 21 where Ezekiel identifies the 'forest' as Jerusalem and Judah. The prophetic message formula **saying** (לֵאמֹר, lemor) signals incoming judgment. Ezekiel received visions and oracles during Babylon's exile (593-571 BC), ministering to those who refused to believe Jerusalem would fall.

Historical Context

Ezekiel prophesied from Tel-abib in Babylon (593 BC), six years before Jerusalem's destruction. The exiles initially dismissed his warnings, believing the city and temple were inviolable. This oracle begins Ezekiel's most sustained prophecy against Jerusalem (chapters 20-24).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Ezekiel's consistent attribution of messages to God's word challenge modern prophetic claims?
2. Why do people often reject clear warnings of coming judgment, even from God's messengers?

Interlinear Text

וְיֵהָיָה	דְּבַר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	Moreover the word	of the LORD	H413	came unto me saying
	H1697	H3068		H559

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