

Ezekiel 21:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel,

Analysis

"Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel," God commands confrontational posture—"set thy face toward Jerusalem" indicates hostile opposition. "Drop thy word" (hatef, הָטַף) means prophesy or preach with intensity. Even "holy places" (mikdashim, מִקְדָּשִׁים) receive judgment—religious sites don't guarantee protection when defiled by sin. The command to prophesy "against" (al, אַל) the land emphasizes adversarial relationship—God opposes His own people due to covenant violation.

Historical Context

Jerusalem housed the temple, David's throne, and covenant promises—seemingly guaranteeing divine protection. False prophets promoted this false security (Jeremiah 7:4). Ezekiel's command to prophesy against even holy places shattered presumption that sacred geography provided immunity. When Babylon destroyed the temple (586 BC), this prophecy was vindicated—holiness requires obedience, not merely designated space.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does prophesying against 'holy places' challenge presumption based on religious heritage?
2. What does God's adversarial stance toward His own people teach about covenant accountability?
3. In what ways might contemporary Christians presume on God's protection despite living in disobedience?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	אָדָם	שֶׁ	יָמִים	פָּנֶיךָ	אֶל	יְרוּשָׁלַם	וְהִטָּה	אֶל
Son	of man	set	thy face	H413	toward Jerusalem	and drop	H413	
H1121	H120	H7760	H6440		H3389	H5197		
מִקְדָּשְׁךָ			וְהִנֵּבְתָּ		אֶל	אֶדְמַת	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	
thy word toward the holy places			and prophesy		H413	against the land	of Israel	
H4720			H5012			H127	H3478	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:46 (Word): Son of man, set thy face toward the south, and drop thy word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the south field;

Ezekiel 4:7 (Prophecy): Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it.

Ezekiel 25:2 (Prophecy): Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them;

Ezekiel 28:21 (Prophecy): Son of man, set thy face against Zidon, and prophesy against it,

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