

Ezekiel 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sigh therefore, thou son of man, with the breaking of thy loins; and with bitterness sigh before their eyes.

Analysis

'Sigh therefore, thou son of man, with the breaking of thy loins; and with bitterness sigh before their eyes.' God commands Ezekiel to dramatize grief physically. 'Breaking of thy loins' indicates deep anguish affecting one's core strength. 'With bitterness' (mar) shows the agony of coming judgment. Ezekiel must sigh 'before their eyes'—visual prophecy making the message visceral and undeniable. Physical expression of grief demonstrates the prophet's emotional connection to God's message.

Historical Context

Prophets frequently acted out messages (Ezekiel laid siege to a brick, walked naked, dug through walls). These symbolic acts grabbed attention and made abstract prophecies concrete. Ezekiel's visible grief would prompt questions, allowing him to explain the reason for mourning—Jerusalem's coming destruction.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should knowledge of coming judgment affect our emotions and ministry?
2. What role does appropriate grief play in prophetic ministry and evangelism?

Interlinear Text

מַתָּן יְמִינְךָ וְשָׁבֵר אַדְמָתְךָ תָּאַנְחַת בְּנֵי אָדָם אַדְמָתְךָ וְשָׁבֵר אַדְמָתְךָ מַתָּן יְמִינְךָ
H859 therefore thou son of man Sigh with the breaking of thy loins
H1121 H120 H584 H7670 H4975

לְעֵינֵיכֶם: תָּאַנְחַת בְּמִרְאַת עֵינֵיכֶם וּבְמִרְאַת
and with bitterness Sigh before their eyes
H4814 H584 H5869

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 22:4 (Parallel theme): Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.

Ezekiel 6:11 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.