

Ezekiel 24:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And utter a parable unto the rebellious house, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Set on a pot, set it on, and also pour water into it:

Analysis

"And utter a parable unto the rebellious house, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Set on a pot, set it on, and also pour water into it:" God commands a parable (allegory) of a cooking pot representing Jerusalem. The "rebellious house" designation emphasizes persistent covenant violation. The pot will be filled, heated, and corroded—depicting siege's suffering. Parables communicate truth memorably through concrete imagery, penetrating hardened hearts that resist direct confrontation.

Historical Context

The pot parable graphically depicted Jerusalem's siege—the city as pot, inhabitants as contents, Babylonian fire heating from outside, resulting in suffering and destruction. This vivid imagery would be remembered and recognized when actual siege occurred. The parable's fulfillment would teach that Ezekiel spoke divine truth, not human speculation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do parables communicate truth more effectively than direct statements to hardened hearts?
2. What does the pot imagery teach about siege suffering and divine judgment?
3. In what ways should we use creative communication methods to convey biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר ל	אֶל	בֵּית	הַמְּרִי	מִשָּׁל	אָמַר	אֵלֵיהֶם	כֹּה
And utter	H413	house	unto the rebellious	a parable	and say	H413	H3541
H4911		H1004	H4805	H4912	H559		
אָמַר	אֲדָנָי	יְהוָה	שָׂפָה	הַסִּיר	שָׂפָה	וְגַם	וְיָצַק
and say	the Lord	GOD	Set on	a pot	Set on	H1571	and also pour
H559	H136	H3069	H8239	H5518	H8239		H0
						H3332	
מַיִם:							
water							
H4325							

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:49 (References God): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?

Ezekiel 11:3 (Parallel theme): Which say, It is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh.

Ezekiel 17:2 (Parallel theme): Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel;

Isaiah 1:2 (References Lord): Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

Ezekiel 2:3 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

Ezekiel 2:6 (Parallel theme): And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

Isaiah 30:9 (References Lord): That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Isaiah 30:1 (References Lord): Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Psalms 78:2 (Parallel theme): I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Ezekiel 2:8 (Parallel theme): 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.