

Ezekiel 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

Analysis

God commands: "get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them." The phrase "them of the captivity" identifies Ezekiel's specific audience—Jewish exiles in Babylon. This demonstrates God's pastoral concern for His displaced people; He sends a prophet to minister in their affliction. The repetition "whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear" (from 2:5) emphasizes faithful proclamation regardless of reception. God's Word must be spoken even when rejection is certain. This reflects divine sovereignty in salvation: God determines who will hear, while the prophet's responsibility is obedient proclamation.

Historical Context

The exiles at Tel-abib by the Chebar canal (593 BC) represented the cream of Judean society—nobles, craftsmen, warriors, and royalty (2 Kings 24:14-16). Their physical captivity mirrored deeper spiritual bondage to idolatry and unbelief. Archaeological discoveries of the Murashu archives document Jewish life in Babylon, confirming substantial exile communities. These exiles initially expected quick return to Jerusalem, resisting Ezekiel's message of prolonged judgment. God sent a prophet to fellow captives to minister in their own language and context—a pattern of incarnational ministry where messengers identify with their audience.

Ezekiel 33:17 (References Lord): Yet the children of thy people say, The way of the Lord is not equal: but as for them, their way is not equal.

Ezekiel 33:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.

Ezekiel 33:2 (Parallel theme): Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

Ezekiel 33:30 (References Lord): Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

Ezekiel 3:27 (References God): But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel 2:5 (Parallel theme): And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.