

Ezekiel 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Analysis

"And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying..." After seven days of silent identification, God speaks. The timing demonstrates that understanding precedes proclamation. Ministers must first grasp people's contexts before delivering messages. The pattern appears throughout Scripture: observation, then revelation, then proclamation. This guards against hasty speech divorced from pastoral sensitivity. The Reformed emphasis on calling includes both divine commission and human preparation—understanding both God's Word and people's circumstances.

Historical Context

After absorbing the exiles' trauma (593 BC), Ezekiel received specific ministry direction. The seven-day delay wasn't divine neglect but providential preparation. God shapes ministers through experience before commissioning them for service. This principle appears in Moses' wilderness training, Paul's Arabian sojourn, and Jesus' preparation period. Hasty ministry without understanding produces ineffective, insensitive proclamation. God prepares thoroughly before deploying His servants.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the seven-day delay before renewed commission teach about preparation preceding ministry?
2. What is the relationship between understanding circumstances and delivering appropriate messages?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י'	מִקֵּץ ה'	שָׁבַעַ ת	יָמֵ ים	וַיְהִי י'	דָּבַר
H1961	And it came to pass at the end	of seven	days	H1961	that the word
	H7097	H7651	H3117		H1697
יְהוָה ה'	אֵל י'	לֵאמֹר:			
of the LORD	H413	came unto me saying			
H3068		H559			