

Ezekiel 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll.

Analysis

Ezekiel's immediate obedience—"he caused me to eat that roll"—demonstrates the prophet's submission to divine authority. The phrase "caused me to eat" emphasizes both divine initiative and human response. God provides the Word and enables its reception; Ezekiel cooperates willingly. This pattern reflects Reformed soteriology: God's effectual calling produces willing obedience. The opened mouth signifies readiness to receive divine revelation, contrasting with the closed hearts of Israel (2:4). True discipleship requires this posture of receptive obedience, consuming whatever God provides rather than selecting preferred portions.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's symbolic consumption of the scroll occurred during his inaugural vision by the Chebar canal (593 BC). The physical act would have been witnessed by fellow exiles, demonstrating publicly his commitment to God's message regardless of its difficulty. In ancient Israel, prophets often performed symbolic acts (Isaiah walked naked, Jeremiah wore a yoke, Hosea married a prostitute) to dramatize God's word. These actions authenticated their ministry and made abstract truths concrete. Ezekiel's eating the scroll signaled to exiles that he spoke only what God had given him, nothing more or less.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Ezekiel's immediate obedience challenge our tendency to negotiate with God's commands?
2. What does it mean to receive ALL of God's Word rather than selecting only comfortable portions?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲפָתַח	אֶת	פִּי	וַיֹּאכְלֵי נִי	אֵת	הַמָּגֶל הַזֶּה	הַזֹּאת:
So I opened		my mouth	and he caused me to eat		that roll	
H6605	H853	H6310	H398	H853	H4039	H2063

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:17 (Parallel theme): Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me: