

Ezekiel 3:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the hand of the LORD was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee.

Analysis

The 'hand of the LORD' upon Ezekiel signals divine initiative and empowerment for prophetic mission. God's hand throughout Scripture represents His power, guidance, and claim on His servants (cf. Ezra 7:6; Luke 1:66). The command to 'arise, go forth into the plain' demonstrates that divine vision must lead to obedient action. Receiving revelation requires response—knowledge demands movement. The plain becomes the location for further divine communication.

Historical Context

The 'plain' (Hebrew: *biq'ah*) likely refers to the flat region near the Chebar River in Babylon where the exiles settled. This geographic specificity grounds Ezekiel's vision in physical reality—not merely mystical experience but concrete location. God meets His servant in the exile location, demonstrating presence transcending Jerusalem's temple. The move from crowded settlement to open plain enabled private divine communication.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's hand upon Ezekiel remind us that ministry effectiveness comes from divine calling, not human initiative?
2. What does the command to 'go forth' teach us about revelation requiring obedient action, not merely passive reception?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר יְהוָה אֶל־עַל־שְׁמַעְיָה וְיֹאמֶר
H1961 H5921 H8033 And the hand of the LORD was there upon me and he said
H3027 H3068 H559

אֶל־עַל־שְׁמַעְיָה וְיֹאמֶר אֶל־צָא־לְךָ בְּבִקְעַת־הַמִּזְרָחָ וְאֶל־עַל־שְׁמַעְיָה וְיֹאמֶר
H413 unto me Arise H6965 go forth H413 into the plain H1237 H8033 and I will there talk
H3318 H1696

אֶל־עַל־
H854

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:6 (Resurrection): And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Ezekiel 8:4 (Parallel theme): And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

Ezekiel 1:3 (References Lord): The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

Ezekiel 37:1 (References Lord): The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

