Ezekiel 3:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> But thou, O son of man, behold, they shall put bands upon
> thee, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out
> among them:

Analysis

The prophecy that people will 'put bands' on Ezekiel, binding him, represents opposition to prophetic ministry. Yet this binding comes with divine permission —'thou shalt not go out among them'—suggesting God sometimes limits ministry scope sovereignly. The restraint may be literal (imprisonment) or metaphorical (ministry restrictions). God's servants must accept imposed limitations as part of divine providence. Effectiveness isn't measured by freedom of movement but faithfulness in assigned sphere.

Historical Context

Prophets in ancient Near East often faced violent opposition. Jeremiah was imprisoned, beaten, and thrown in cisterns. Ezekiel apparently experienced physical restraint from the exile community that rejected his message. The exile context meant limited movement already existed, but this adds spiritual/social binding. God's servants suffer for unpopular messages.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's permission of Ezekiel's binding challenge our assumption that effective ministry requires unlimited freedom?
2. What does acceptance of divinely-allowed limitations teach us about finding contentment in restricted circumstances?

Interlinear Text

עָלֶ֫יךָ	נָתְנ֣וּ	הִנֵּ֣ה	אָדָ֗ם	בֶּן	וְאַתָּ֣ה
H5921	behold they shall put	H2009	of man	But thou O son	H859
	H5414		H120	H1121	

עֲבוֹתִ֔ים	וַאֲסָר֖וּךָ	בָּהֶ֑ם	וְלֹ֣א
bands	upon thee and shall bind	H0	H3808
H5688	H631		

תֵצֵ֖א	בְּתוֹכָֽם׃
thee with them and thou shalt not go out	among
H3318	H8432

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 4:8 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I will lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege.