

# Ezekiel 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel;

## Analysis

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"For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel." God emphasizes that Ezekiel speaks to fellow Israelites who share language and culture, yet will prove harder-hearted than foreigners (verses 6-7). Covenant privilege brings greater accountability. Familiarity with truth can breed contempt rather than gratitude. Those raised in covenant community often prove more resistant than pagans encountering truth fresh. This pattern continues: nominal Christians often resist gospel more than unbelievers.

## Historical Context

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Ezekiel ministered to Jewish exiles (593 BC) who shared language, culture, and religious heritage. Despite these advantages, they proved remarkably resistant to prophetic warnings. The principle appears throughout Scripture: Israel often proved harder-hearted than Gentiles (Matthew 11:20-24). Religious familiarity can inoculate against genuine conversion. The exiles' resistance demonstrated that external covenant membership doesn't guarantee internal transformation. Only Spirit-wrought regeneration creates responsive hearts.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does religious familiarity sometimes harden hearts rather than soften them?
2. What dangers exist in assuming covenant privilege guarantees spiritual responsiveness?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	לֹא	אֶל	עַם	עֲמֻקֵּי	שֹׁפָה	וְכִבְדֵּי	לִשׁוֹן
H3588	H3808	H413	to a people	of a strange	speech	and of an hard	language
			H5971	H6012	H8193	H3515	H3956
אֲתָהּ	שָׁלַחְתָּ	אֶל	בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
H859	For thou art not sent	H413	but to the house	of Israel			
	H7971		H1004	H3478			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jonah 1:2** (Parallel theme): Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

**Isaiah 33:19** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand.