

Ezekiel 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads.

Analysis

God's making Ezekiel's face 'strong against their faces' and forehead 'hard against their foreheads' demonstrates divine empowerment for difficult ministry. Ezekiel faces a rebellious house requiring supernatural boldness. The forehead represents determination and shamelessness—God removes fear of man, replacing it with prophetic courage. This parallels Jeremiah's fortified city (Jer. 1:18). Effective ministry requires God-given boldness transcending natural timidity.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued honor and shame dynamics. Prophets faced intense social pressure to conform. God's hardening Ezekiel's forehead countered this pressure, enabling unpopular proclamation. The exile community in Babylon resented prophetic critique, preferring comforting messages. Ezekiel needed supernatural courage to deliver God's hard words to hostile audiences.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's empowerment of Ezekiel challenge our fear of man when proclaiming unpopular biblical truths?
2. What does divine hardening of the prophet's forehead teach us about asking God for boldness rather than relying on natural courage?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה ה	נָתַתִּי	אֶת	פְּנֵיהֶם	קָדְיָם	לְעַמִּי	ת	לְעַמִּי	פְּנֵיהֶם	
H2009	Behold I have made	H853	their faces	H6440	strong	H2389	against	H5980	their faces
	H5414								H6440
וְאֶת	מִצְחִי:	קָדְיָם	לְעַמִּי	ת	לְעַמִּי	מִצְחִי:			
H853	and thy forehead	strong	against	H5980	and thy forehead				
	H4696	H2389	H5980		H4696				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:18 (Creation): For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.