

Ezekiel 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

Analysis

"As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house." God promises to strengthen Ezekiel against opposition through supernatural fortitude. The "adamant" (Hebrew shamir, שָׁמֵר) denotes the hardest substance known—perhaps diamond or emery. God makes His prophet's resolve exceed the people's resistance. Divine calling includes divine enabling. Ministers facing opposition can trust God to provide necessary courage and perseverance. This isn't natural boldness but supernatural endurance through the Spirit.

Historical Context

Ezekiel needed extraordinary courage to minister to rebellious exiles (593 BC) who would mock, threaten, and reject him. The promise of supernatural strength sustained prophets through persecution. Jeremiah received similar assurance (Jeremiah 1:18). The early church experienced this: unlearned fishermen boldly confronted religious authorities (Acts 4:13). The pattern continues: God equips whom He calls, providing courage exceeding natural capacity. Ministers don't rely on personal strength but on divine empowerment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How has God strengthened you beyond natural capacity in difficult ministry situations?
2. What comfort does knowing God makes prophets' foreheads harder than flint provide when facing opposition?

Interlinear Text

תִּכְאַלְאַ	מִצְחַת	בְּ	נָתַתִּי	מִצְחָת	רַ	כַּשְׁמָמִיר	אֲשֶׁר
fear	forehead	on	I have made	you have made	than	adamant	as
H3372	H4696	H5414	H6864	H2389	H8068		

בְּ	יְתִכְאַלְאַ	מִפְנִימָה	מִ	כִּי	תִּתְהַזֵּז	אָזְתָּם	לֹא	וְ	
house	H1004	H6440	H3588	H2865	them	not	neither	be	dismayed
H1004	H6440	H3588	H2865						

בְּ	מִרְבָּחָה:				
though	they	be	a	rebellious	
H4805					H1992

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 2:6 (Parallel theme): And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

Isaiah 50:7 (Parallel theme): For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Jeremiah 1:8 (Parallel theme): Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 7:12 (Creation): Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 17:18 (Parallel theme): Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction.

1 Timothy 2:3 (Parallel theme): For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Micah 3:8 (Parallel theme): But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

Isaiah 41:14 (Parallel theme): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 1:17 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.