

Ezekiel 37:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

Analysis

This verse points toward God's gracious purposes of restoration despite Israel's persistent unfaithfulness. The Reformed emphasis on sovereign grace shines through—restoration doesn't depend on Israel's merit or ability but on God's covenant faithfulness and irrevocable purposes (Romans 11:29). This anticipates new covenant promises where God gives a new heart and His Spirit to enable obedience (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The pattern of judgment followed by grace-based restoration prefigures the gospel: humanity deserves condemnation but receives mercy through Christ's atoning work. God's restoration demonstrates His glory by showing grace triumphs over judgment.

Historical Context

This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

Interlinear Text

לִאמְרָה עַמְךָ רַבָּךְ אֶל־יִגְעַשׂ בְּנֵי אֶלְמָת־רַבָּךְ
H834 shall speak H413 And when the children H1121 of thy people H5971 shall speak H559

לֹא: אַל־הַמְּה לֹא תַּגְּדֵל כִּי תַּלְּזֵא
H3808 Wilt thou not shew H0 H4100 H428 H0

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 24:19 (Parallel theme): And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

Ezekiel 12:9 (Parallel theme): Son of man, hath not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said unto thee, What doest thou?

Ezekiel 20:49 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?

Ezekiel 17:12 (Parallel theme): Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org