

Ezekiel 40:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither.

Analysis

This verse precisely dates Ezekiel's temple vision to 573 BC, the 25th year of exile and 14th year after Jerusalem's fall. The phrase 'the hand of the LORD was upon me' (yad-YHWH, יָד־יְהוָה) indicates divine compulsion and prophetic inspiration—this is not human imagination but God's sovereign revelation. The temporal precision underscores the historical reality of God's dealings with His people. Coming 14 years after the temple's destruction, this vision provided hope during the darkest period of exile. The vision's timing (beginning of the year, likely Nisan) may connect to Passover themes of redemption and new beginnings. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's promises remain certain despite historical catastrophe; His covenant faithfulness transcends human failure.

Historical Context

The vision occurred in 573 BC during Babylon's dominance under Nebuchadnezzar II. The exiles at Tel-abib by the Chebar canal had witnessed Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC and the temple's desecration. This detailed architectural vision addressed their despair—would God ever dwell with His people again? The date formula follows Babylonian reckoning, showing the exiles' adaptation to captivity. Unlike earlier prophetic oracles of judgment (Ezekiel 1-24), this vision

begins the restoration section (40-48). The precision recalls Moses receiving tabernacle plans (Exodus 25-40) and anticipates John's New Jerusalem vision (Revelation 21-22). For Reformed interpreters, this demonstrates God's progressive revelation of His dwelling presence culminating in Christ (John 1:14) and the church (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's precise timing of this vision demonstrate His sovereignty over history and His care for His people?
2. When have you experienced God's 'hand upon you' during times of personal or corporate devastation?
3. How does this vision's dating 14 years after Jerusalem's fall speak to God's patience and ultimate redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁנָה הַשְׁנִית בְּצִבְשָׁר יְמֵינוֹ					
and twentieth	In the five	of the year	of our captivity	in the beginning	of the year
H6242	H2568	H8141	H1546	H7218	H8141
וְשָׁנָה הַשְׁנִית בְּצִבְשָׁר יְמֵינוֹ					
in the tenth	day of the month	in the fourteenth		of the year	after
H6218	H2320	H702	H6240	H8141	H310
וְשָׁנָה הַשְׁנִית בְּצִבְשָׁר יְמֵינוֹ					
אֲשֶׁר אָשֶׁר	בְּעֵת יְמֵינוֹ				
H834	H5221	H5892	H6106	H3117	H2088
וְשָׁנָה הַשְׁנִית בְּצִבְשָׁר יְמֵינוֹ	H1961				
עַל יְדֵךְ אֲתָּה יְהוָה					
H5921	the hand	of the LORD	was upon me and brought	H853	H8033
H3027	H3068	H935			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 33:21 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, in the fifth day of the month, that one that had escaped out of Jerusalem came unto me, saying, The city is smitten.

Ezekiel 32:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 3:22 (References Lord): And the hand of the LORD was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee.

Ezekiel 37:1 (References Lord): The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

Ezekiel 3:14 (References Lord): So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

Ezekiel 32:17 (References Lord): It came to pass also in the twelfth year, in the fifteenth day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

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