

Jeremiah 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Analysis

This verse transitions to interpretation: 'Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying.' Having completed the three-stage symbolic action (wear, bury, retrieve), God now explains the meaning. The dramatic visual has captured attention; now comes the theological interpretation. Sign-acts were not self-interpreting—prophets explained their meaning. The pattern of action followed by interpretation appears throughout prophetic literature.

Historical Context

Prophetic sign-acts combined memorable action with authoritative interpretation. The audience would remember Jeremiah's bizarre behavior (wearing unwashed garment, burying it, retrieving rotted remains) and now receive its meaning. This teaching method engaged multiple senses and created lasting memory.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does God provide interpretation after rather than before the symbolic action?

2. How do action and interpretation together create more powerful teaching than words alone?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
H1961 Then the word of the LORD H413 came unto me saying
H1697 H3068 H559

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