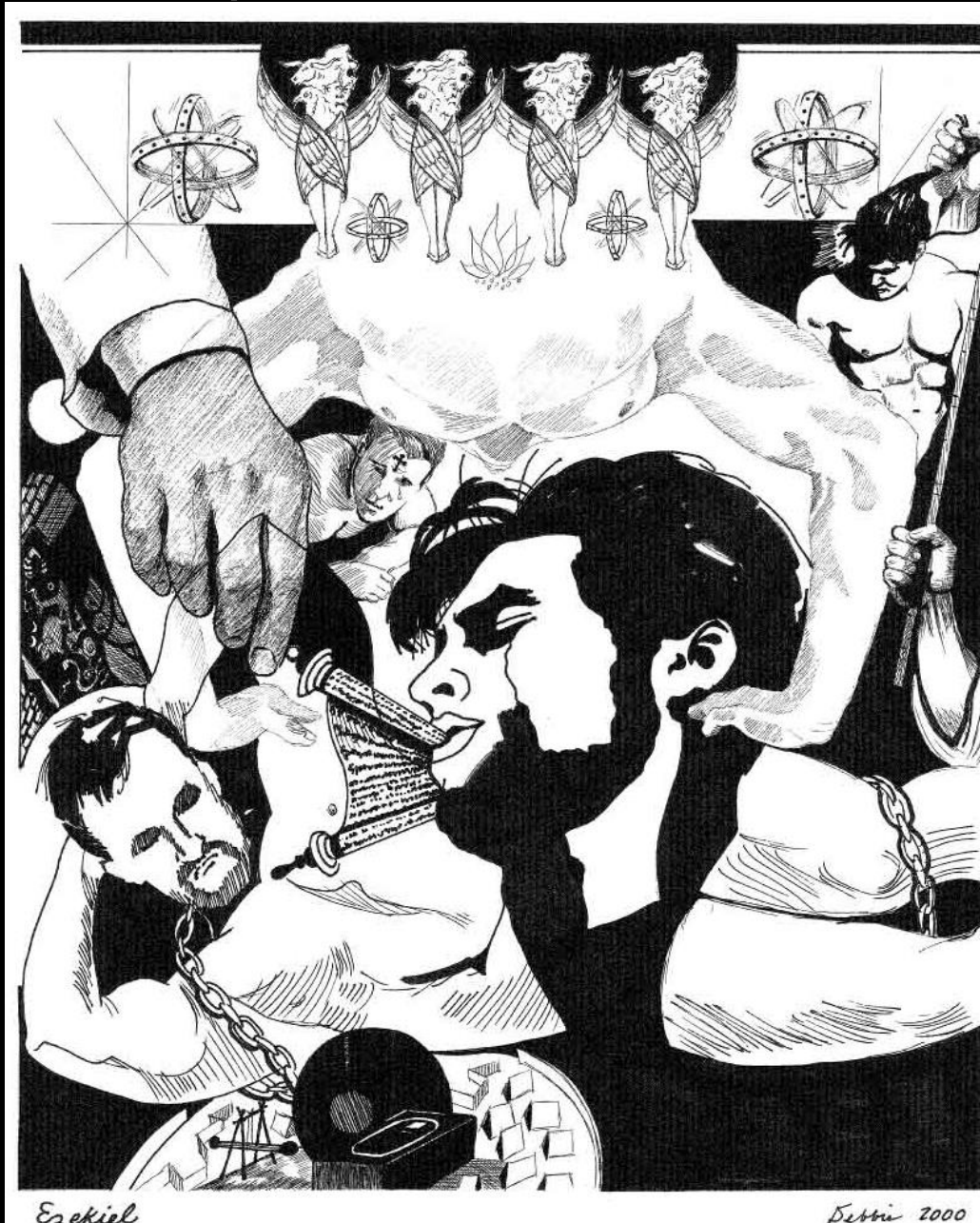


Ezekiel's Call (1:1 – 3:15)



Prophetic Commissioning (Call) Narrative



A) Revelation of God (theophany)

B) Commissioning

- (a) Divine Giving of the Task: “Go”, “I send”, “I appoint”
- (b) Specification of the Role: *prophetic messenger*
- (c) Summary of the Task

Attached
Motifs:

1) Difficulty of the Task / Opposition

2) Re-Assurance

- (a) “Do Not Be Afraid”
- (b) Divine *Presence*: “I Will be With You”
- (c) Divine *Deliverance* of the prophet
- (d) Divine *Fortifying* of the prophet

3) Warning re: Faithfulness in Carrying Out the Task

4) Objection / Reluctance

5) Preparatory Equipping


Prophetic Commissioning (Call) Narrative

Ezekiel



A) Revelation of God (theophany)

1:3- 2:2



B) Commissioning

2:3-5

- (a) Divine Giving of the Task: “Go” , “I send”, “I appoint”
- (b) Specification of the Role: *prophetic messenger*
- (c) Summary of the Task

Prophetic Commissioning (Call) Narrative

Ezekiel

B) Commissioning

(a) Divine Giving of the Task: "Go", "I send", "I appoint" 2:3-5

(b) Specification of the Role: *prophetic messenger* 3:4

(c) Summary of the Task 3:11

Attached Motifs:

1) Difficulty of the Task / Opposition

(2:3-5)

3:5-7

2) Re-Assurance

(a) "Do Not Be Afraid"

(d) Divine *Fortifying* of the prophet

2:6-7

3:8-9

3) Warning re: Faithfulness in Carrying Out the Task

2:8a

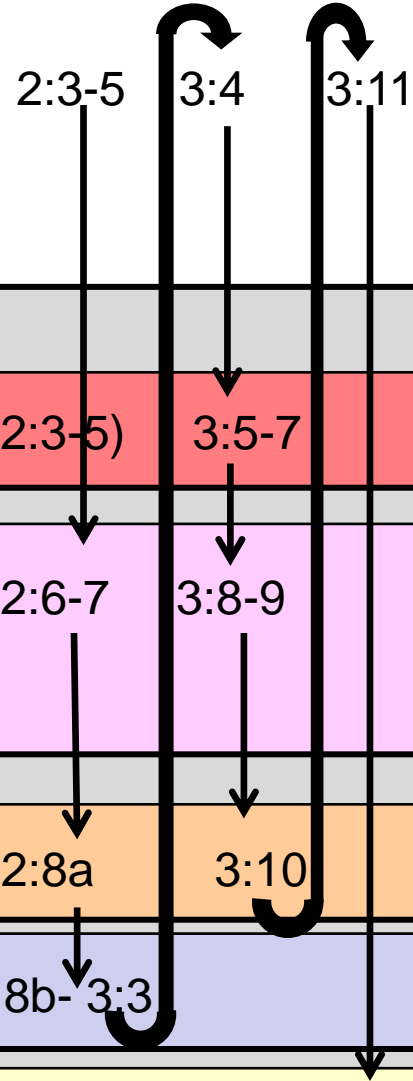
3:10

5) Preparatory Equipping

2:8b-3:3

Reaction to Experience

3:14-15



Ezekiel chs. 2-3: Ezekiel's Call

(Text: KGF)

B) Commissioning

- (a) Divine Giving of the Task: "Go", "I send", "I appoint"
- (b) Specification of the Role: *prophetic messenger*
- (c) Summary of the Task

<p>Commissioning</p>	<p>2:3-5 3 And he said to me, "Human, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to rebellious peoples, that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even until this day. 4 And the children are stubborn and stiff-hearted. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh..' 5 And (as for) them, whether they listen or whether they refrain (from listening) --for a rebellious house are they— and (thus) they will know that a prophet was in their midst.</p>	<p>3:4 4 He then said to me, "Human, go now to the house of Israel and speal my words to them.</p>	<p>3:11 11 And go! Come to the exile, to the children of your people, and you shall speak to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord, Yahweh.' Whether they listen or whether they refrain (from listening)."</p>
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Difficulty of the Task / Opposition

(2:3-5)

- 3 . . . **to rebellious peoples, that has rebelled against me;** they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even until this day.
- 4 And the children are stubborn and stiff-hearted. . . .
- 5 And (as for) them, whether they listen or whether they refrain (from listening) --**for a rebellious house are they**— . . .

3:5-7

- 5 For not to a people of unintelligibleness/deepness of lips and heaviness of tongue you are being sent, (but rather) to the house of Israel.
- 6 Not to many peoples (with) unintelligibleness of lips and heaviness of tongue which you cannot listen to their words. Surely, if to them I sent you, they would listen to you.
- 7 But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for (to) them, there is not a willingness to listen to me; for all the house of Israel are hardness of forehead, and stiff of heart are they.

Re-Assurance In light of the Opposition

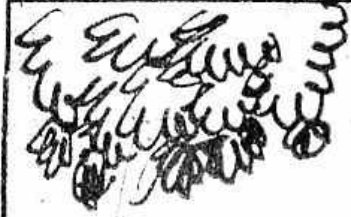
2:6-7

- (a) “Do Not Be Afraid”
- 6 And you, human, **do not be afraid of them,** and (of) their words, **do not be afraid** , for rebels and briers are with you, and with scorpions you are dwelling. (Of) their words, **do not be afraid,** and (of) their appearances, **do not be terrified,** **for a rebellious house are they.**
- 7 And you will speak my words to them, whether they listen, or whether they refrain (from listening); **for rebellious are they.**

3:8-9

- (d) Divine *Fortifying* of the prophet
- 8 Behold, I have made your face hardness corresponding to their faces, and your forehead hard corresponding to their forehead.
- 9 As diamond is harder than flint, I have given/made your forehead;
- (a) “Do Not Be Afraid”
- you shall not fear them,** and **shall not be terrified** (by) their faces-- **for a rebellious house are they.**

PEANUTS



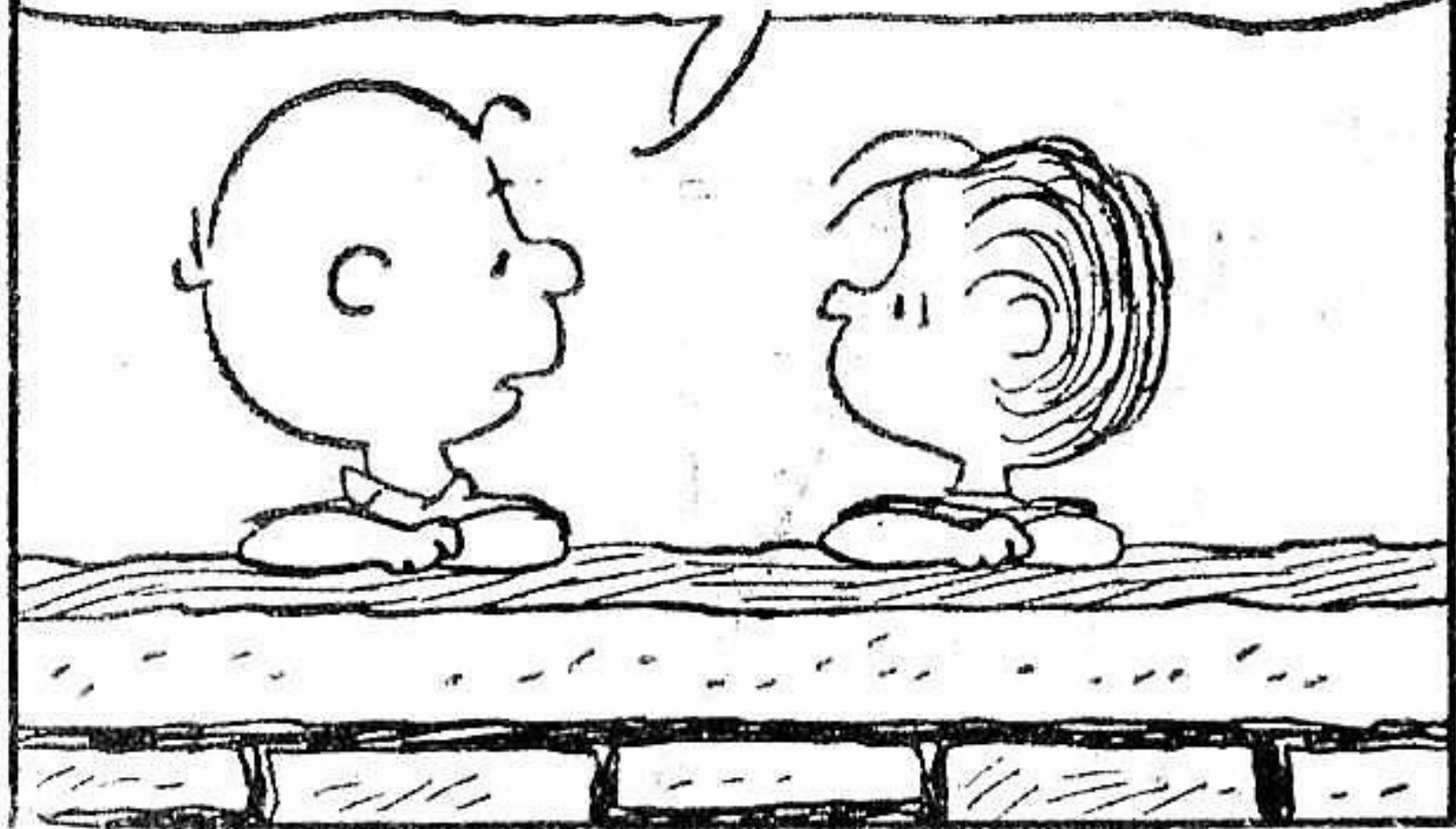
WHEN I GROW UP, I THINK I'LL BE A GREAT PROPHET

The Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.—All rights reserved © 1970 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

I'LL SPEAK PROFOUND TRUTHS, BUT NO ONE WILL LISTEN TO ME...



IF YOU KNOW AHEAD OF TIME
THAT NO ONE IS GOING TO LISTEN
TO YOU, WHY SPEAK?



WE PROPHETS ARE VERY STUBBORN!



SAUER

John 15 (NASB)

¹⁸ “If the world hates you,
you know that it has hated Me before *it hated you*.

¹⁹ If you were of the world,
the world would love its own;
but because you are not of the world,
but I chose you out of the world,
because of this the world hates you.

²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you,
‘A slave is not greater than their master.’
If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;
if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

²¹ But all these things they will do to you
for My name’s sake,
because they do not know the One who sent Me.

Warning

Re: Carrying Out
the Task

2:8a

And you, Human,
listen to what I speak to you.

**Do not be rebellious
like the rebellious house.**

3:10

And he said to me, “Human,
all my words that I will speak to you,
take (them) into your heart
and with your ears, listen.

Preparatory Equipping (2:8b – 3:3)

2:8b “Open you mouth,
and eat that which I am giving to you.”

9 And I saw, and behold, a hand was being sent out to me,
and, behold, in it was a scroll of a book.

10 And he spread it before me,
and it was written (on) the obverse and reverse (front & back),
and written on it (were) lamentations and moaning and woe.

3:1 And he said to me, “Human,
that which you find, eat.
Eat this scroll,
and go speak to the house of Israel.”

2 And I opened my mouth,
and he made me eat this scroll.

3 And he said to me, “Human,
into your stomach you shall eat,
and your loins, you shall fill with this scroll
that I am giving to you.”

And I ate,
and it was, in my mouth, like honey (as) for sweetness.

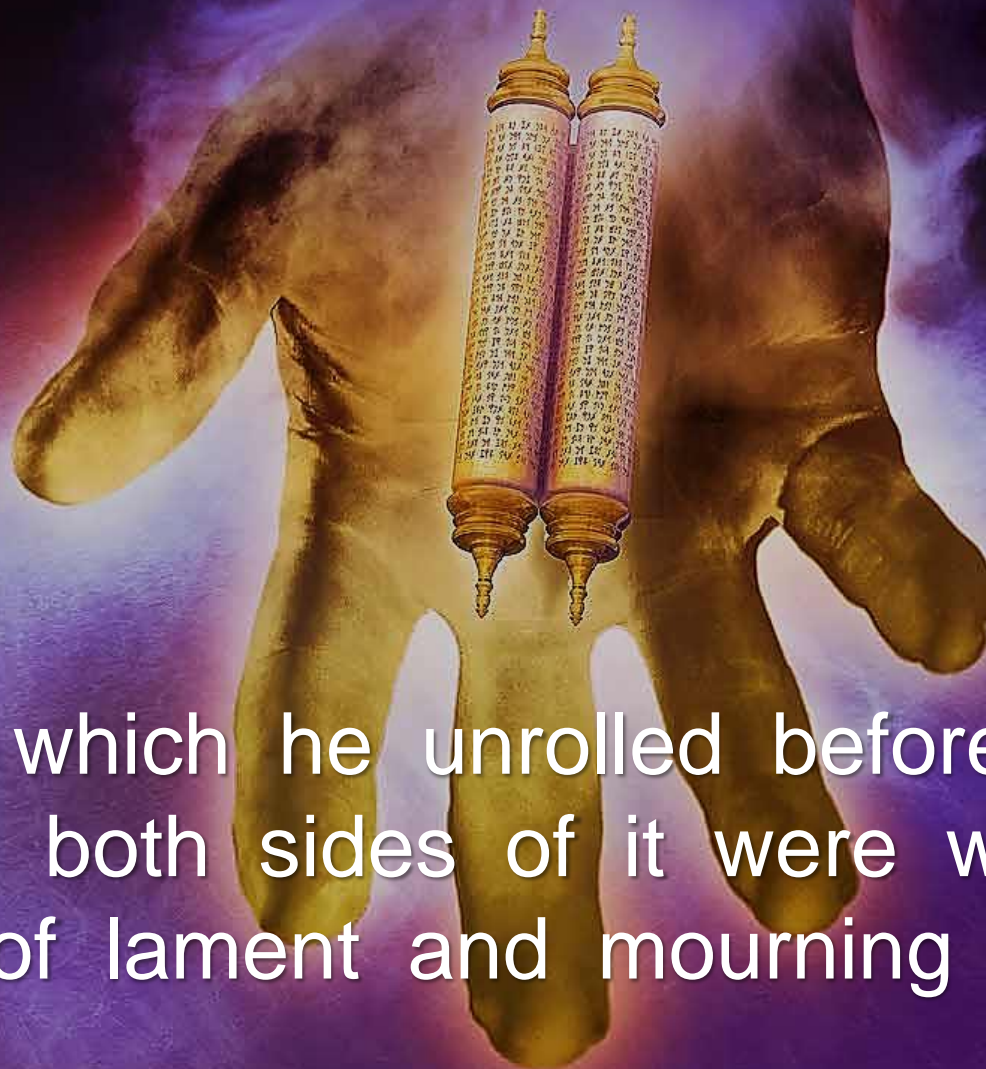


2:3a *“I am sending you
to the Israelites . . .*

2:7a *You must speak
my words to them . . .”*



2:9 Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me.
In it was a scroll,



¹⁰ which he unrolled before me.
On both sides of it were written
words of lament and mourning and woe.

3:1 And he said to me,

*“Son of man,
eat
what is before you,
eat this scroll;*

*then go
and speak
to the house of
Israel.”*

Ezekiel 3:1 (NIV)

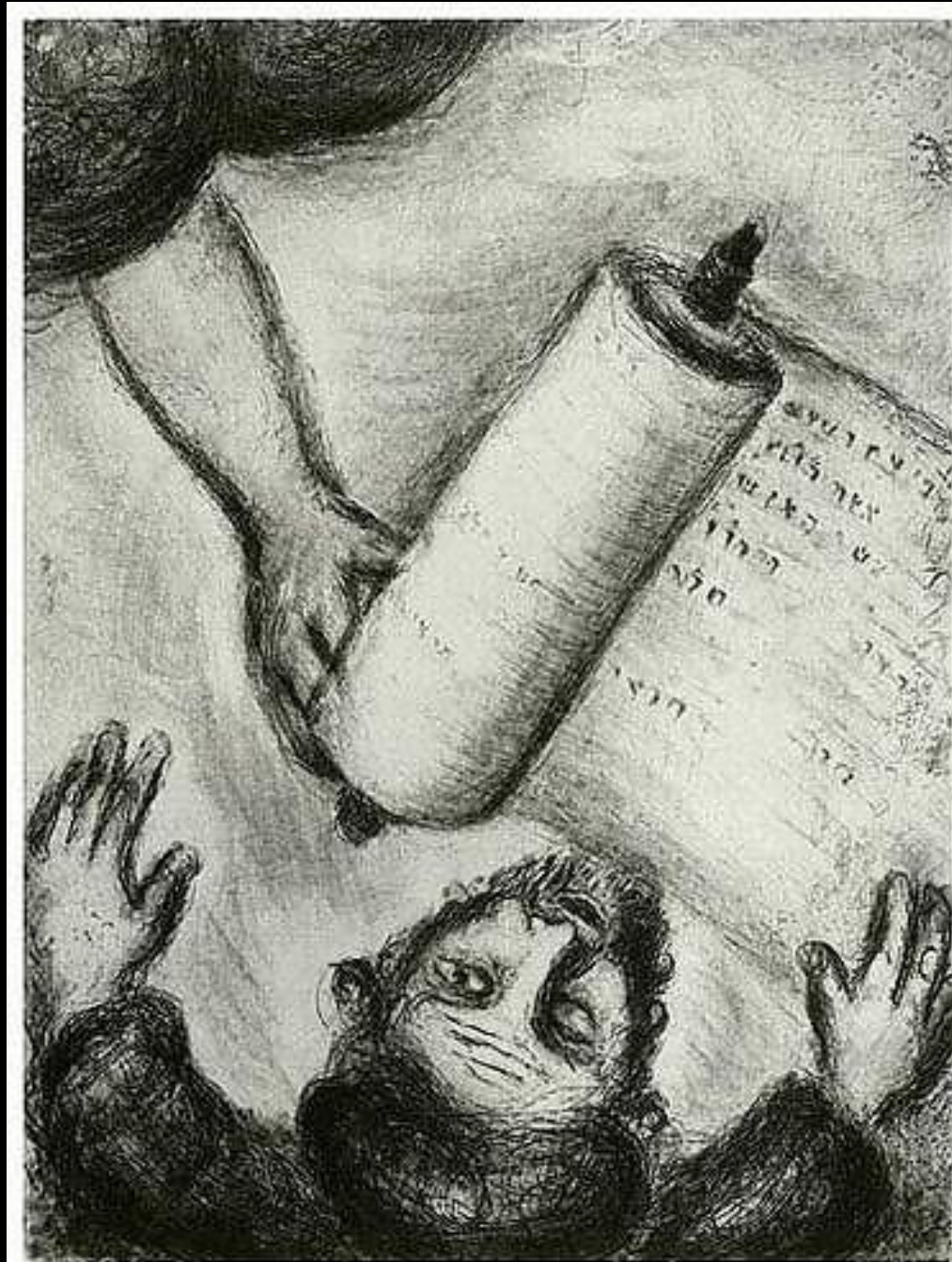


3:2 So I opened
my mouth,
and he gave me
the scroll to eat.

3a Then he said to me,

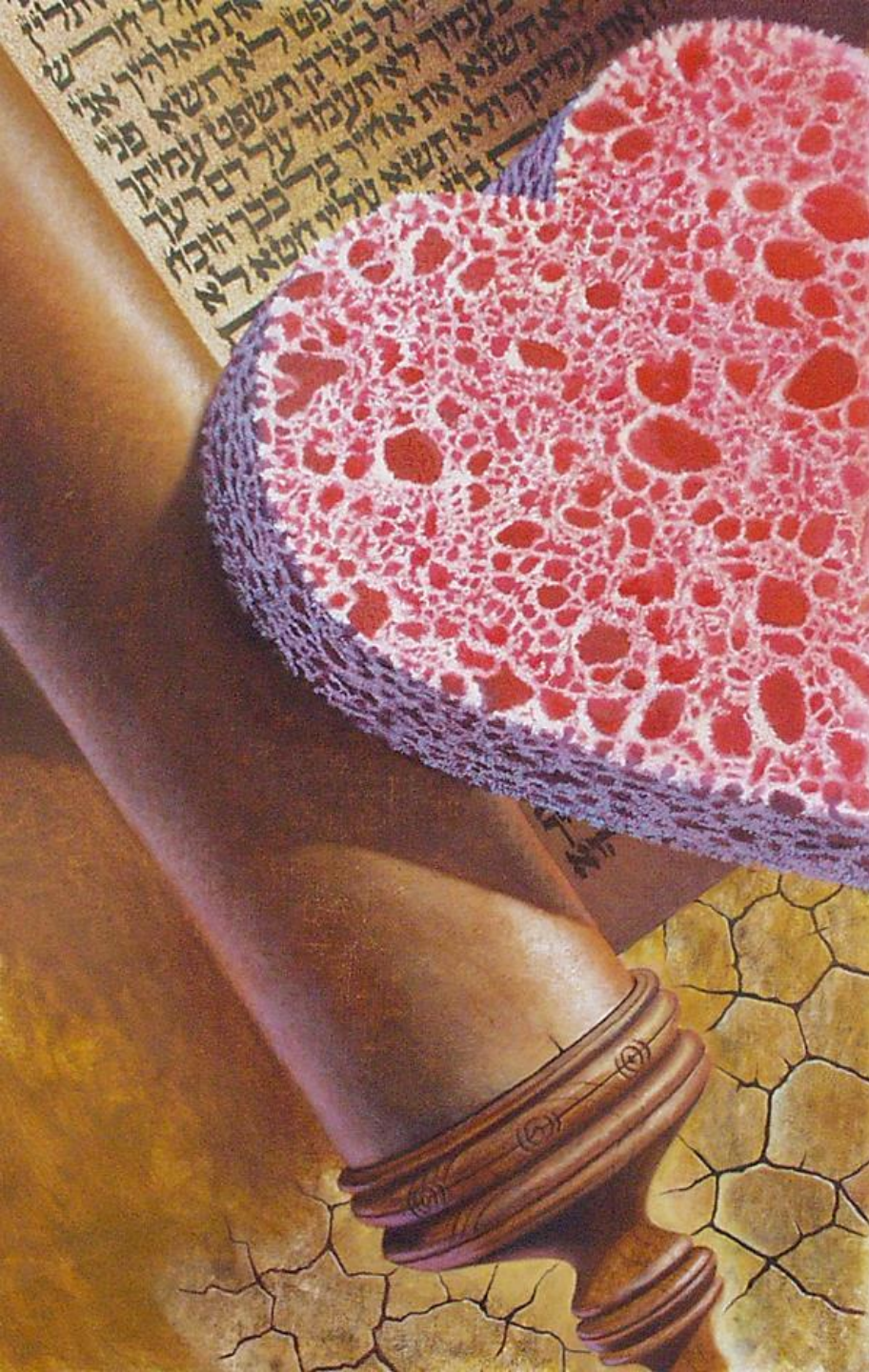
*“Son of man,
eat this scroll
I am giving you
and fill your
stomach with it.”*

Ezekiel 3:2-3a (NIV)



3:3b So I ate it,
and it tasted
as sweet as honey
in my mouth.
4 He then said to me,
*“Son of man,
go now
to the house of Israel
and speak
my words
to them.”*





¹⁰ “Son of man,
listen carefully
and take to heart
all the words
I speak to you.

^{11a} Go now
to your people
... and speak
to them.”



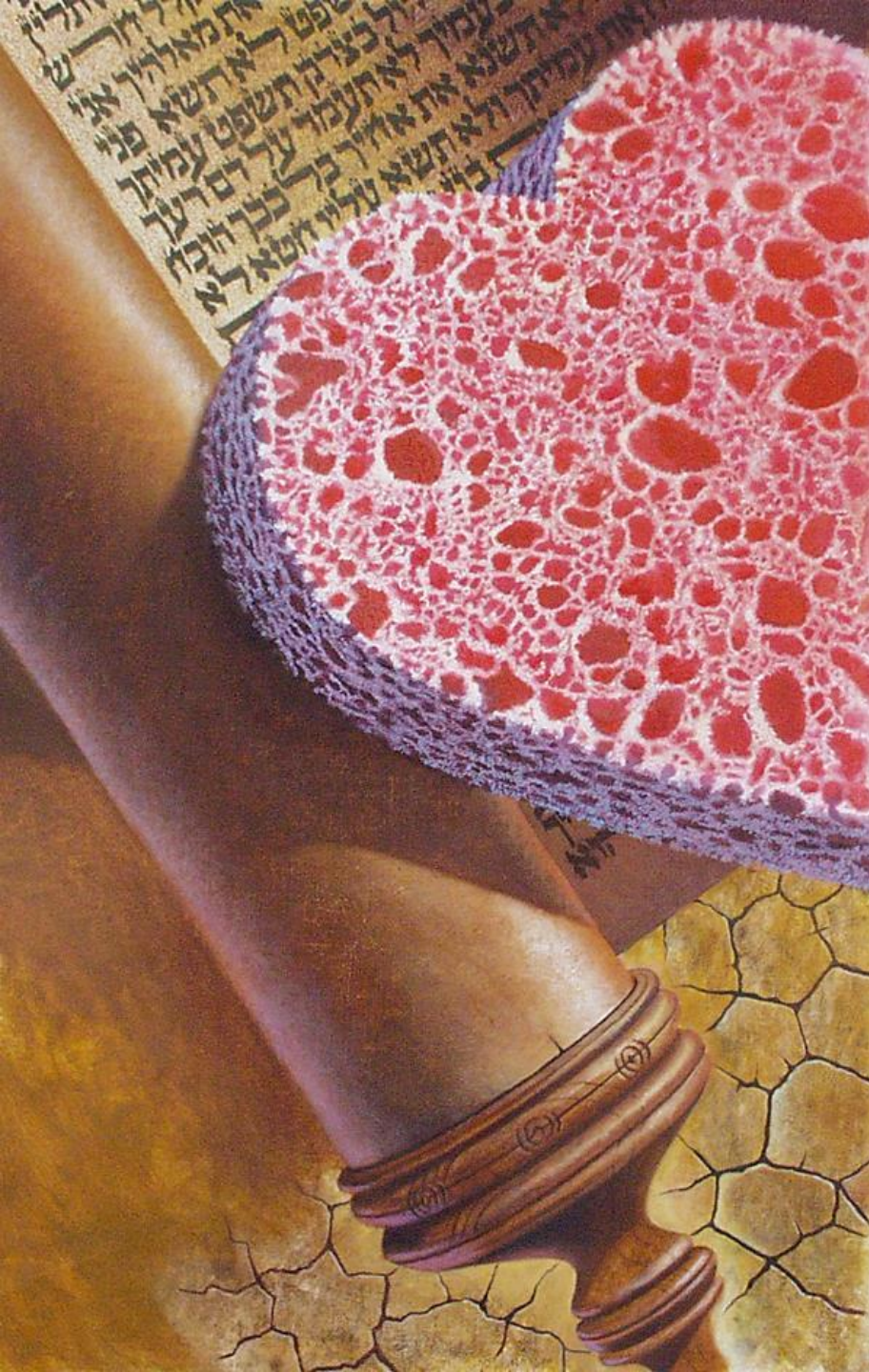
**"You are
What you Eat"**

Jeremiah



1:9 Then the LORD
reached out his hand
and touched my mouth;
and the LORD said to me,
*“I have put
my words
in your mouth.”*

15:16 When your words
came,
I ate them;
they were my joy
and heart's delight ...



These
commandments
that I give you
today
are to be
on your hearts.

Deuteronomy 6:6 (NIV)

What is the Purpose of Recounting the Prophet's Call / Commissioning?

- ▶ **Socially Authenticates them as a “prophet”**
 - it acts as their “ministry credentials”
as a prophet
 - it authenticates that the message does not originate with them,
rather, they are merely the “messenger”,
proclaiming the divinely-given message
 - it shows they are under divine compulsion
(rather than it being their choice or desire)
& they “need” to proclaim
the prophetic messages