

“Prophetic Sign-Actions”

- Nonverbal actions performed by the prophets that frequently used common objects, to intentionally communicate God’s messages to their audiences.



Report of Sign-Actions

Ezekiel 1) chs. 4:1-5:4

➤ 4:1-3

➤ 4:4-8

➤ 4:9-17

➤ 5:1-4

Model of Besieged City

Lying on Left & Right Sides

Eating of Foods

Shaving of Hair

2) 6:11-12

Clapping of Hands

3) 12:1-16

Digging through Wall of his house

4) 12:17-20

Eating & Drinking with Trembling

5) 21:6, 12, 14

Groaning, Wailing, Clapping

6) 21:18-27

Sign of Nebuchadnezzar's Action

7) 24:15-24

Not Mourning at his Wife's Death

8) 3:22-27

24:25-27

33:21-22



Speechlessness

9) 37:15-28

Joining of Two Sticks Together

Performed Sequence of Sign-Actions in Ezekiel chs. 4-5

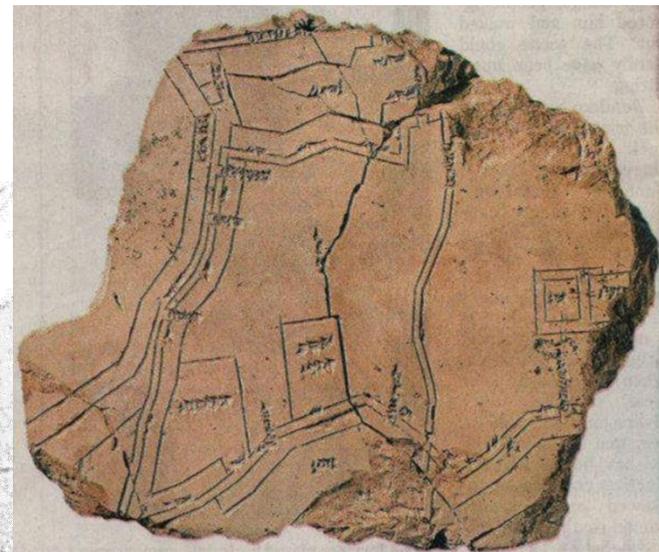
Done Concurrently for 390 days	Model Siege Depiction & Iron Griddle	4:1-3, 7 + 5:5-9
	Lying on Left Side [while still enacting the Model Siege]	4:4-5, 8
	Eating Rationed Food [while still enacting the Model Siege & Lying on Left Side]	4:9-11, 16-17
Done Concurrently for 40 days	Shaving his Hair & Actions with the Shaven Hair	5:1-4 10-17
	Lying on the Right Side	4:6
	Eating of Unclean Food [while still Lying on Right Side]	4:12-15

Ezekiel 4 (Translation: KGF)

- 1 And you, son of man, take a brick, and you shall set it in front of yourself, and you shall engrave upon it a city, that is Jerusalem.



Clay Tablet, Map of Nippur, 14th-13th century BC, Nimrud. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology (<http://archaeology.about.com/od/mesopotamiaarchaeology/ig/Mesopotamian-Art/14th-13th-c-BC-map-of-Nippur.htm>)



Nippur, Babylonia circa 1000 B.C. — Earliest known map drawn to scale (<http://www.ordination.org/Ezekiel.htm>)



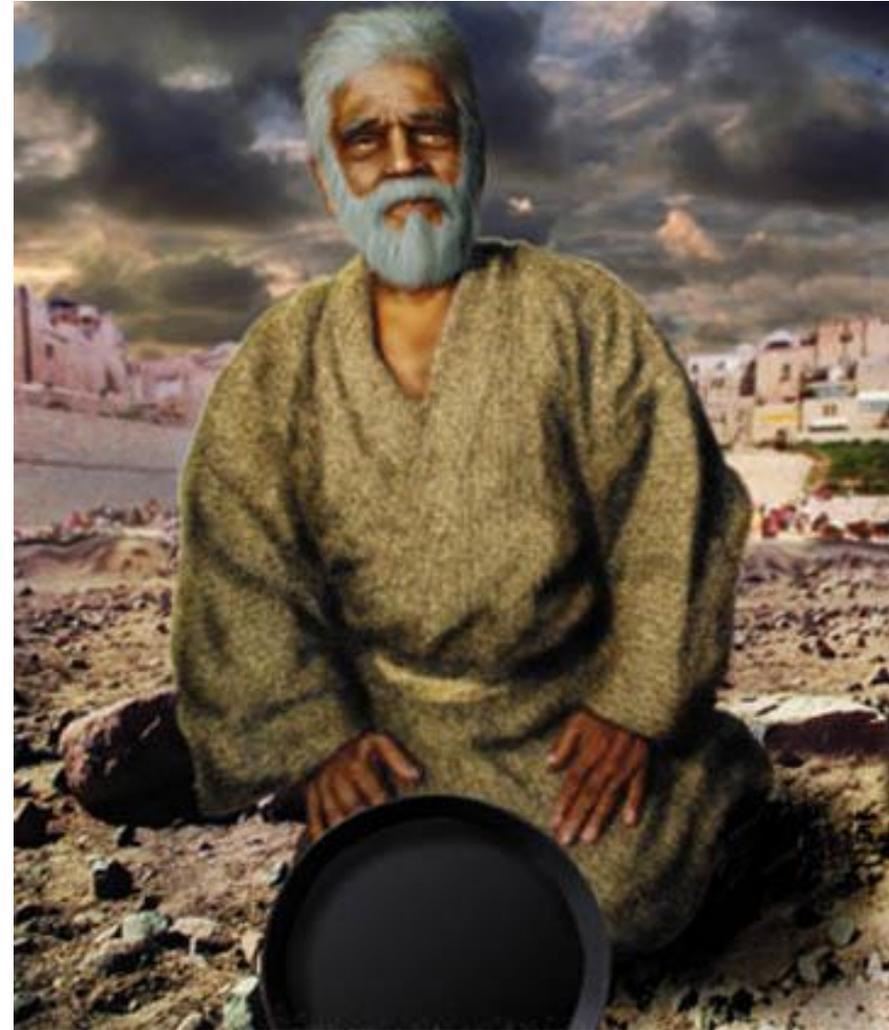


https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/88/Assyrian_battering_ram.jpg

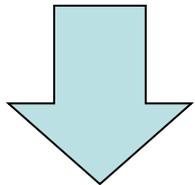


4:2 And you shall place a siege wall against it,
and you shall build a siege tower against it,
and you shall pour out a ramp against it,
and you shall place army camps against it,
and place battering rams against it round about.

4:3 And you, take an iron griddle
and you shall place it (for) an iron wall
between yourself and the city,
and you shall set your face toward it.
And it shall be under siege,
and you shall besiege it.
It is a sign to the house of Israel.



4:7 And toward the siege of Jerusalem you shall set your face,
and your arm shall be bare,
and you shall prophesy against it.



Interpretation:

5:5a Thus says the Lord Yahweh:

“This is Jerusalem!”

8 therefore, thus says the Lord Yahweh:

“Behold I, even I, am against you.

And I will perform judgments in your midst,
before the eyes of the nations.”

Model Siege Depiction
& Iron Griddle

4:1-3, 7
+ 5:5-9

= siege of Jerusalem by
Babylonians
= divine disposition toward
Jerusalem during the siege



Lying on Left Side (4:4-5, 8)

[while still enacting the Model Siege]

4:4-5, 8

= 390 years of guiltiness

► from the building of Temple (c. 970 B.C.)
to its destruction (586 B.C.)

4:4 And you, lie upon your left side,
and you shall place the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it.
(For) the number of the days which you lie upon it,
you shall bear their iniquity.

5 And even I, I have given to you the years of their iniquity
according to the number of days, three hundred ninety days.
And you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.



Eating Rationed Food [while still
enacting the Model Siege
& Lying on Left Side]

4:9-11
4:16-17

= **scarceness & rationing of food
during the siege of Jerusalem**

9 And you, take wheat and barley, and beans and lentils, and millet and spelt,
and you shall place them into a single vessel,
and you shall make them into bread
(for) the number of days that you are lying on your side;
for 390 days you shall eat it.

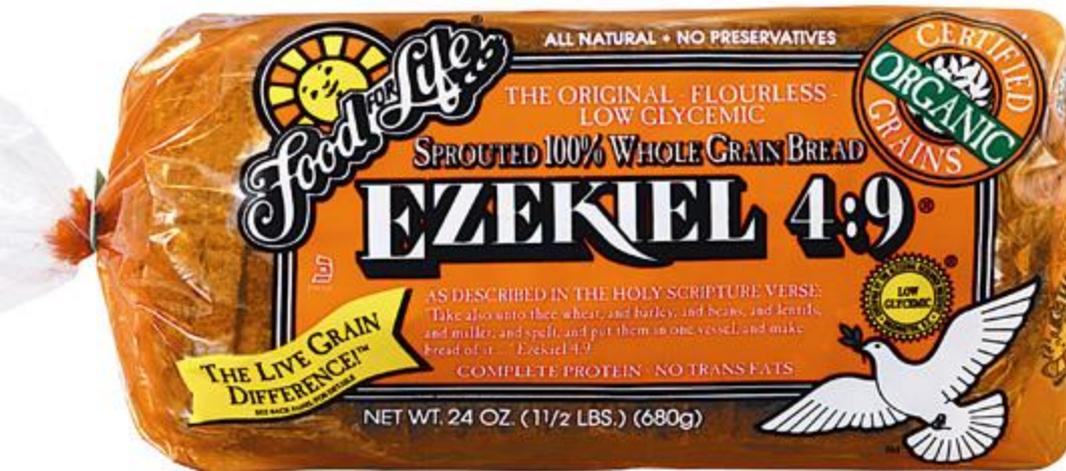
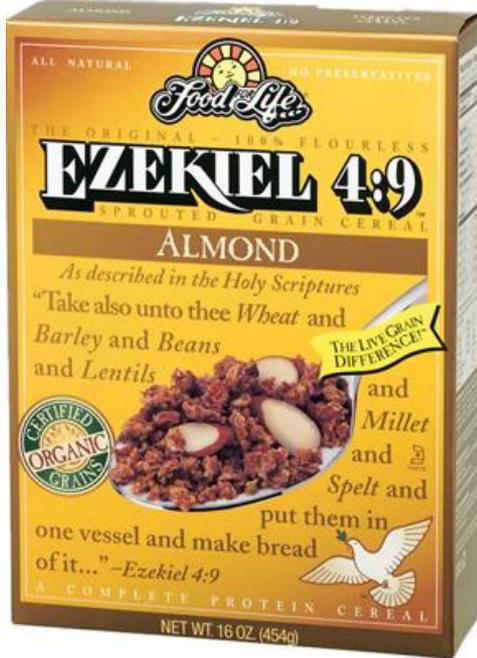
10 And your food that you shall eat shall be in measure:
twenty shekels [about 230 grams] per day.
You shall eat it at set times.

11 And you shall drink water in measured portion:
a sixth of a hin [about 2/3 liter}.

You shall drink it at set times.



16 And he said to me, “Son of man,
Behold I am breaking the staff of bread in Jerusalem,
and they shall eat bread in measure and in anxiety,
and they shall drink water in measure and in horror,
17 because bread and water will be scarce;
and each and everyone shall be devastated,
and waste away in their iniquity.”



Inspired by the Holy Scripture verse "Take also unto thee Wheat and Barley and Beans and Lentils and Millet and Spelt and put them in one vessel and make bread of it." - EZEKIEL 4:9

Non-Verbal Action		Meaning
Model Siege Depiction & Iron Griddle	4:1-3, 7 + 5:5-9	= siege of Jerusalem by Babylonians = divine disposition toward Jerusalem during the siege
Lying on Left Side [while still enacting the Model Siege]	4:4-5, 8	= 390 years of guiltiness ► from the building of Temple (c. 970 B.C.) to its destruction (586 B.C.)
Eating Rationed Food [while still enacting the Model Siege & Lying on Left Side]	4:9-11 4:16-17	= scarceness & rationing of food during the siege of Jerusalem

Done Concurrently for 390 days

The Siege of Jerusalem

Shaving his Hair (5:1-4):

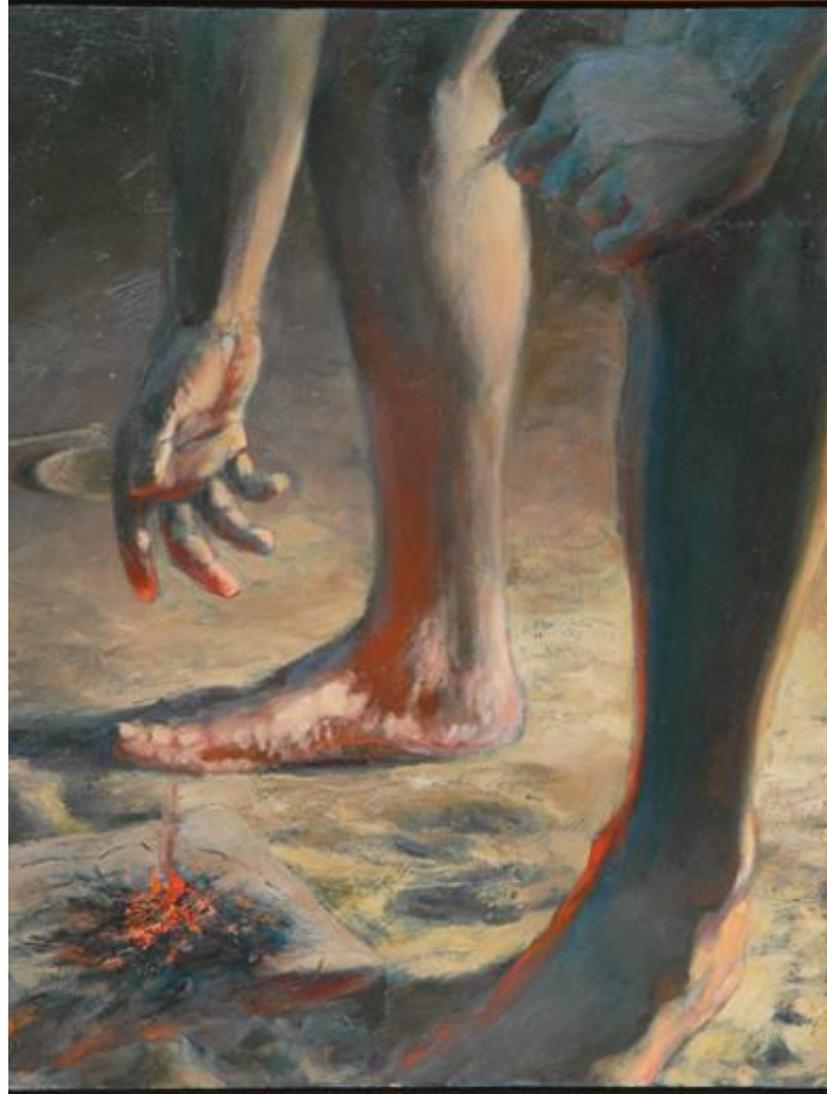
5:1a And you, son of man, take a sharp sword;
you shall take it (like) a barber's razor,
and you shall pass (it) over your head
and your beard.



5:1b And you shall take scales for weighing
and you shall divide them.



5:2a A third you shall burn in the fire
in the midst of the city
when the days of the siege are completed.



5:2b And you shall take (another) third;
you shall smite (it) with the sword round about it.



5:2c And the (other) third
you shall scatter to the wind,
and [you] shall unsheathe
a sword after them.



5:3 And you shall take from there a small number, and you shall bind them in your (garment's) edges.



5:4 And again you shall take from them,
and you shall throw them into the midst of the fire,
and you shall burn them in the fire;
from it a fire shall go out to all the house of Israel.



Ezekiel Scattering Hiar, by Michael R. Buesking
<http://www.civa.org/exhibitions.php?subID=82&exhibID=17&art=167>

5:11 “Therefore, as I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh,
“Surely because you have defiled my sanctuary
with all your detestable things,
and with all your abominations,
thus even I, I will shave (you),
and my eye will not pity,
and even I, I will not spare.’



12 A third of you shall die by pestilence
and be consumed by famine in your midst,
and a third shall fall by the sword
round about you,



and a third I shall scatter to every wind,
and I shall unsheathe a sword after them.

Non-Verbal Action		Meaning
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Lying on Left Side [while still enacting the Model Siege]	4:4-5, 8	= 390 years of guiltiness ► from the building of Temple (c. 970 B.C.) to its destruction (586 B.C.)
Eating Rationed Food [while still enacting the Model Siege & Lying on Left Side]	4:9-11 4:16-17	= scarceness & rationing of food during the siege of Jerusalem
Shaving his Hair & Actions with the Shaven Hair	5:1-4 5:10-17	= death of the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 1/3 by disease & famine 1/3 by the sword 1/3 taken into exile but a remnant will be preserved

The Siege of Jerusalem

Immediate Consequences of the Fall of Jerusalem

Lying on Right Side (4:6):

4:6 And you shall finish these;
then you shall lie upon your right side, a second (time),
and you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah:
40 days--a day for a year;
a day for a year I have given to you.



Eating of “Exile” Food (4:12):

12 And a barley cake, you shall eat;
and as for it, you shall bake it
in human balls of excrement
in their sight.

13 And Yahweh said:

"Like this the sons of Israel shall eat their bread unclean
among the nations which I am scattering them there."

14 And I said, "Ah! O Lord Yahweh!

Behold my throat is not defiled,
and the carcass or torn meat, I have not eaten
from my youth until now;

and unclean flesh has not come into my mouth."

15 And he said to me:

"See, I have given you the dung of cattle
instead of the human excrement,
and you shall make your bread upon it."



<https://alliesbibleblog.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/ezekielbread2.gif>

Non-Verbal Action		Meaning
Lying on the Right Side (4:6)	4:6	= 40 years of punishment for their guilt
Eating of Unclean Food [while still Lying on Right Side]	4:12-15	= unclean food eaten in the exile

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Shaving his Hair & Actions with the Shaven Hair	5:1-4 5:10-15	= death of the inhabitants 1/3 by the sword 1/3 taken into exile but a remnant will be preserved
Lying on the Right Side (4:6)	4:6	7 years of punishment for their guilt
Eating of Unclean Food [while still Lying on Right Side]	4:12-15	= unclean food eaten in the exile

The Siege of Jerusalem

The Fall of Jerusalem

Exile

Implications of the Prophets' Use of "Sign-Actions" for Contemporary Proclamation

► Need to Use Audio-Visuals in our Proclamation of God's Word



(a) Audio-Visual Culture



- **“Visual Literary”**
- **“Oral-Aural”**
- **“Post-Literate”**
- **“Mass Media”**
- **“Video Screen Age”**

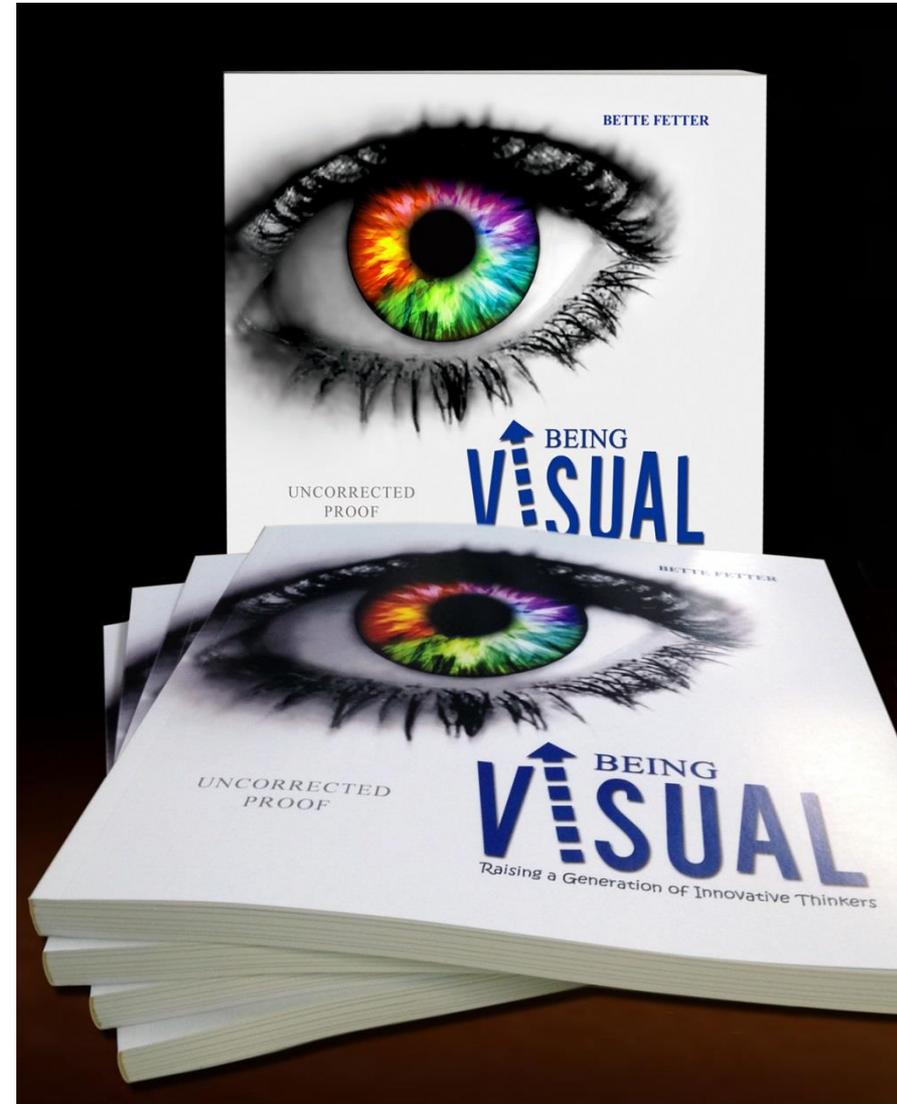
► Need to Use Audio-Visuals
in our Proclamation of God's Word

● *Proclamation of God's Word
through "speaking" only
is a "culturally" outdated mode of communication*



► Need to Use Audio-Visuals in our Proclamation of God's Word

(b) We are
Proclaiming
God's Word
to an Audience
that is primarily
“Visual Learners”



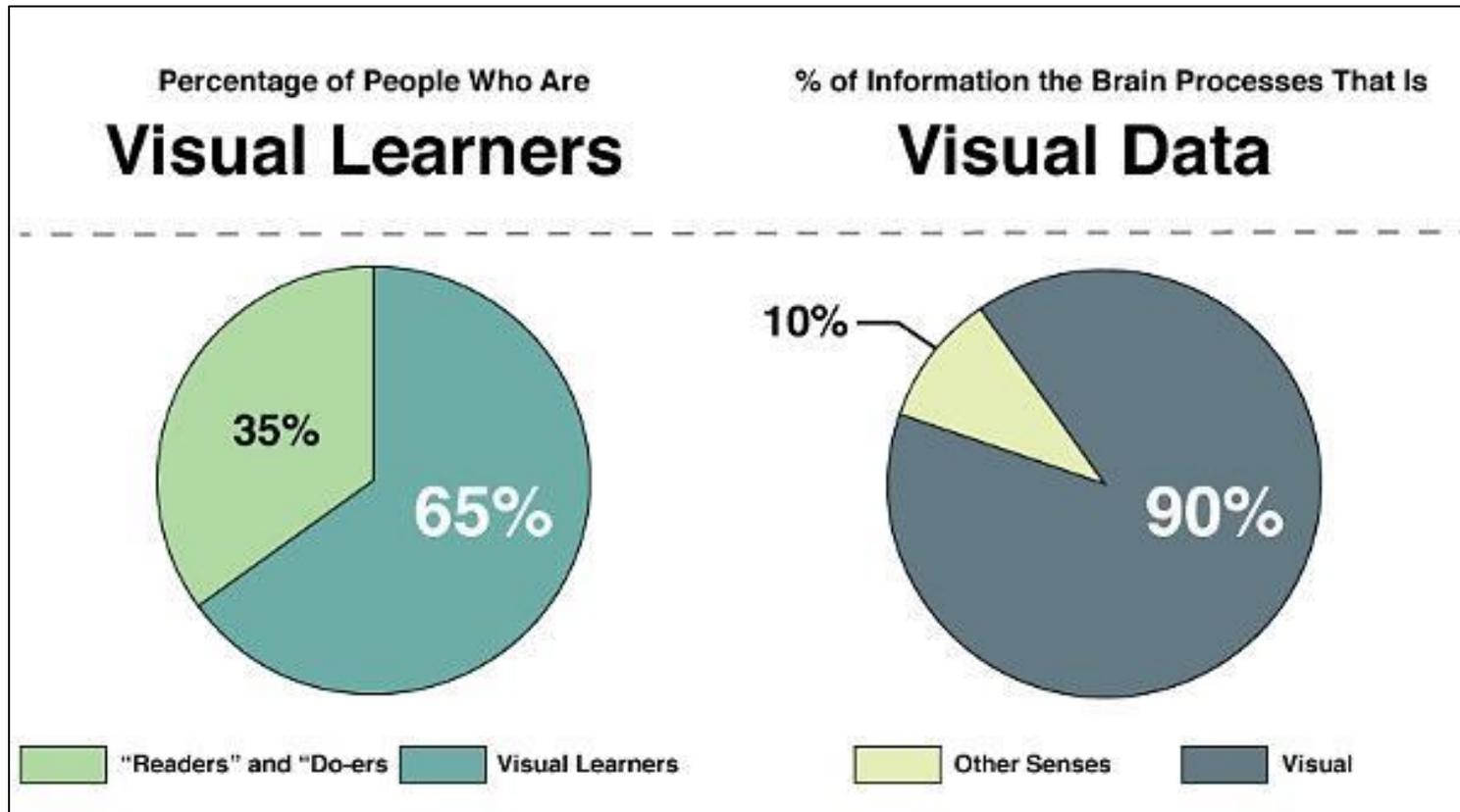


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Storytelling / Visual Content and Design

Visual Content: The Key to Effective Brand Storytelling



► Need to Use Audio-Visuals in our Proclamation of God's Word

- *Passively listening to someone
who is only speaking
appeals only to "Auditory" learners*

