

EZEKIEL 12:1-25 – “JUDAH’S CAPTIVITY PORTRAYED – JUDGMENT NOT POSTPONED”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

THE SCATTERING OF THE PEOPLE WILL NOT BE PROLONGED!

Removal of their possessions - Eze 12:1 *Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying:*

Eze 12:2 "Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house.

Eze 12:3 "Therefore, son of man, prepare your belongings for captivity, and go into captivity by day in their sight. You shall go from your place into captivity to another place in their sight. It may be that they will consider, though they are a rebellious house.

Eze 12:4 By day you shall bring out your belongings in their sight, as though going into captivity; and at evening you shall go in their sight, like those who go into captivity.

Eze 12:5 Dig through the wall in their sight, and carry your belongings out through it.

Eze 12:6 In their sight you shall bear them on your shoulders and carry them out at twilight; you shall cover your face, so that you cannot see the ground, for I have made you a sign to the house of Israel."

Eze 12:7 So I did as I was commanded. I brought out my belongings by day, as though going into captivity, and at evening I dug through the wall with my hand. I brought them out at twilight, and I bore them on my shoulder in their sight.

The results that fill fall on the prince (Zedekiah-reigned 598-586BC)! *Eze 12:8 And in the morning the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Eze 12:9 "Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, 'What are you doing?'*

INTERPRETATION

1 We are told that what will follow is indeed the word of the LORD or the word from the LORD – “*the word of the LORD came to me*” – 5X in this chapter

2 Ezekiel needed often to be reminded of the people’s being rebellious, lest he should be discouraged by the little effect produced by his prophecies. Their “not seeing” is the result of perversity, not incapacity. They are willfully blind. – Prophets of seduction – false prophets (Mt. 24:11,24)

3 Here's what Ezekiel is to do. He goes into his house (the houses then were right on the street); he packs his bags like he's going on a trip, digs through the wall, and comes up out in the street. Imagine the effect that would have—a man coming out through the wall bringing his suitcases with him! People would *have* to stop and look.

4 He is to bring out all his packed belongings in broad daylight, when all can see. The bags were to be sent before by day, and he was to follow at night; or, the preparations were to be made by day, the actual departure was to be occur at night. “*as though going into captivity*,” that is, of the captive band of exiles, during darkness-- typifying Zedekiah’s flight by night on the taking of the city.

5 Prophesying as Zedekiah was to escape like one digging through a wall, desperately trying to escape, he was to carry out his things through an opening in the wall. Zedekiah escaped “by the gate between the two walls”

6 He is to carry out his things near darkness, but still in the sight of the people. He is to cover his face-a sign of mourning, also of Zedekiah’s blindness. So the Jews and Zedekiah should make their exit stealthily and afraid to look around, so hurried should be their fight. The sign is rather, a prediction, namely, for evil.

7 In the evening the prophet was to return to the wall, break through it, and transport the goods from the inside to the outside of the city.

8 Continuing to speak, we see the LORD addressing Ezekiel in the morning.

9. The Jews that were in captivity; for with these the prophet was, and before their eyes he had done the above things; and they only could put the following question to him, who were "the rebellious house"; ; They ask not in a docile spirit, but making a jest of his proceedings. “*has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house said to you, What are you doing?*” No, they have not; they take no notice of it; never say one word about it, or inquire into the meaning of it; quite careless, thoughtless, and stupid; wherefore, though they will not ask anything concerning it, yet begin with them, and show them the design of it.

APPLICATION

We indeed need to heed the word from the LORD!!

Am I not seeing and listening to the LORD because of my inability to see or to hear or of my being in rebellion? Am I listening to Him or to false prophets?

The LORD may be instructing us to do some unusual things to demonstrate his love to others. We need to listen to Him!

Sometime our witness is nearly all about actions as opposed to words!

From the Word of God, we too, can foretell or confirm what is the will of God!

We see that the instructions to Ezekiel are really an action sermon. We too, may be instrumental in having our actions speak.

Are we a rebellious house, as a nation? As a church? Or is there much submission?

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THE PROPHECY AGAINST 25 MEN:

Eze 12:10 Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "This burden concerns the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are among them."'

Eze 12:11 Say, 'I am a sign to you. As I have done, so shall it be done to them; they shall be carried away into captivity.'

Eze 12:12 And the prince who is among them shall bear his belongings on his shoulder at twilight and go out. They shall dig through the wall to carry them out through it. He shall cover his face, so that he cannot see the ground with his eyes.

Eze 12:13 I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there.

Eze 12:14 I will scatter to every wind all who are around him to help him, and all his troops; and I will draw out the sword after them.

Eze 12:15 "Then they shall know that I am the LORD, when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries.

Eze 12:16 But I will spare a few of their men from the sword, from famine, and from pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the Gentiles wherever they go. Then they shall know that I am the LORD."

Realizing why Israel and its people will be judged -Eze 12:17

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 12:18 "Son of man, eat your bread with quaking, and drink your water with trembling and anxiety.

Eze 12:19 And say to the people of the land, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the land of Israel: "They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink their water with dread, so that her land may be emptied of all who are in it, because of the violence of all those who dwell in it.

INTERPRETATION

10 The present reigning prince in Jerusalem, King Zedekiah. It seems, either that that burden of goods the prophet carried out on his shoulders had a regard to the king of Judah and his captivity, and was an emblem of it; or rather that the burden of prophecy, or that sorrowful calamity predicted by the above sign or type, had relation to that prince, and would be fulfilled in him; they were also concerned in it, and would be carried captive with their prince. – Zedekiah's secret departure

11 “am a sign”..... Which represents you, and shows what will befall you. “As I have done, so shall it be done to them”; as he had carried out his stuff, and had removed it from one place to another, so they should be carried away out of their own land into a foreign country, the Babylonian captivity.

12 Zedekiah their king that reigned over them, in whom they trusted, and under whose government they thought themselves safe and secure, he shall go forth out of Jerusalem, only with he could on his shoulder, making his escape through a hole in the wall. He'll have his eyes put out at Riblah. (2 Kings 25:1-7; Jer. 39:1-7; 52:4-11)

13 By the preparation for removal, and his breaking through the wall of his house at evening, Ezekiel signified the conduct and fate of Zedekiah. – destiny of Zedekiah

14 His bodyguards or his auxiliary troops, the Egyptians, whom he had taken into his pay for his assistance, will all be scattered from him when he was taken,

Jer 52:8; they will not escape, though they didn't go into captivity;

15 God in His omniscience can and does foresee and foretell future events. In His omnipotence, He is able to do what He purposed and declared He would. They will be dispersed in Egypt, Babylon, Media, and other places. “I am the LORD” - (15,16,20,25) – dispersion of the Jewish people

16 A few men will be spared during the siege of Jerusalem, but then they should be carried captive into other countries, who, observing their calamities, and distresses, would read their sin in their punishment; and conclude they must have been guilty of great enormities, and would justify God in his proceedings towards them. The Jews, brought under a conviction of their sin, and of the justice of God in his dealings with them. – declaration needed by the remnant

17-18 Here follows another sign of the desolation of the Jews, which the prophet was unto them; as the former signified their going into captivity, this their famine and distress at the siege of Jerusalem, and the dreadful calamities attending and following that. – Ezekiel's command

19 Speaking to all of Israel, that during the siege of Jerusalem, when they could not eat and drink in peace; but, while they were eating and drinking, were disturbed and put into fear and surprise by the besiegers; and also, hearing that their provisions would not hold out, were careful how they ate and drank, and were frightened with the thoughts of being reduced to extreme want. Also that their land will become desolate because of the oppression, and injustice of the Jews, which were the cause of all these calamities which came upon their country. – cause of command

APPLICATION

What do you think the “burden” is regarding the condition of our country? Of the world?

What “sign” would Ezekiel show today regarding our country?

How would the “prince” of the US be described?

What would be his fate?

About how many countries have Jews emigrated from back to Israel?

How prepared would our nation be to “eat bread and drink water with trembling and anxiety”?

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Eze 12:20 Then the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall become desolate; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' ' "

Recognizing the worthlessness of the false prophets - Eze 12:21 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
Eze 12:22 "Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision fails'?"

Eze 12:23 Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel." But say to them, "The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision.

Eze 12:24 For no more shall there be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel.

Eze 12:25 For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it," says the Lord GOD.' "

The Certainty of God’s Word - Eze 12:26 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
Eze 12:27 "Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.'
Eze 12:28 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "None of My words will be postponed any more, but the word which I speak will be done," says the Lord GOD.' "

INTERPRETATION

20 Not only the city of Jerusalem, but the other cities of Judea, in fact the whole land of Judea be destitute of men and cattle, and lie uncultivated, and become barren and unfruitful, they all will know that He is the LORD. – Consequence upon Israel; its conclusion

21 Again he confirms that the LORD is speaking.

22 Their proverb saying that their days are prolonged, was in error, which only exposed their impiety and boldness of those that used it, and in order to expose the wickedness and folly of it. Because judgment was not immediately executed, their hearts were set in them to do evil; and thus they abused the patience and long suffering of God, and they used this and the following expression so often, and so long, that they became proverbial to them. – Often used proverb will be ended

23 Plainly and boldly, with the greatest assurance and confidence, as from God Himself, tell them that this proverb would never be brought about. But say to them the time is now when every prophecy shall be fulfilled: it was in the sixth year of Jehoiachin's captivity that these prophecies were delivered out; and in the ninth year Nebuchadnezzar came with his army, and besieged Jerusalem; so that the days were at hand; in three years' time there began an accomplishment of the above predictions. **(2 Peter 3:3-4)**

24 When they shall see the city taken, and themselves carried captive, they will no more regard such soothing diviners and false prophecy, who pretended from the stars to tell what shall come to pass. – prediction of the end of false prophets

25 I speak - There has been and shall be a succession of God's ministers, by whom he will speak, to the end of the world. Even in the worst times, God left not himself without witness, but raised up men that spoke for him, and spoke from him. – The LORD's prophecies will come to pass!

26 Again confirming that the LORD is speaking.

27 Son of man, look, all Israel is saying the vision is far, far away, time wise,, that it will not come to pass in our days, and therefore we care not for it: thus the wicked ever abuse God's patience. – false prophets' predictions to cease

28 God had waited to be gracious; they abused His mercy; and at last the protracted wrath rushed upon them with an irresistible force. – the LORD's answer to the false prophets' arguments

APPLICATION

Judgment must begin at the house of God! You will not give false doctrine and false prophecies and get away with it!!! Are we listening? May He open our hearts and minds!

How about false proverbs that we may believe - God won't destroy America, because of His great love for it??? Beware of the Preterist views-it all happened in the past. There's nothing to be worried about!

We need to stop compromising – departing from the Word of God, and giving man's opinion.

Is your goal as a child of God to be happy or is it to do His will?

Are you Spirit filled? We need to be to do what needs to be done!

Do we have boldness, led by the Holy Spirit?

We ought to obey God rather than men! Would you agree that when people are in rebellion against God, they don't hear the truth. How about you?

How does the present church treat the second coming of the Lord?
Are you ready?