

Ezekiel 12

A new series of messages that follow the second vision

Chapters 12– 19 are messages coming from the vision of chapters 8-11

12:1

A new series of messages.

No date is given so this is not a new vision, but are the messages that accompany Ezekiel sharing the meaning of his vision.

12:2

The captive Israelites who Ezekiel spoke to were the remnant but still a rebellious remnant. They did not understand Ezekiel's teachings. They believed in a quick return and the preservation of Jerusalem. Chapters 12-19 indicate these were the false prophecies, misunderstandings or false hopes that they held to:

- a) They did not think judgment would come in their lives (chapter 12)
- b) Ezekiel had prophets competing with him. These prophets gave the people false hope and false promises. (chapter 13)
- c) The leaders were the ones to be judged not the people (chapter 14)
- d) A truly righteous man or leader would emerge and pray for and lead the people. (chapter 14)
- e) Israel was the chosen people (chapter 15,16)
- f) Ezekiel was thought to be saying that God judged descendants for their fore- father's sin. This would be an unfair judgment and so an untrue prophecy. (chapter 17)
- g) If the forefather's had sinned then judgment was coming and nothing could stop it since the sin was already committed (chapter 18)
- h) Judah's current king Zedekiah could be trusted and would succeed in driving Babylon out of Israel. (chapter 19)

Ezekiel would respond to each of these false prophecies, misunderstandings or false hopes.

Ezekiel Follows Each Vision with Prophecy and Instruction

Ezekiel had a vision in chapters 1-3 and chapters 8-11.

These visions were then followed by prophecy and instruction to make the purpose of the vision personally understandable and applicable for the people.

The vision of chapters 1-3 was followed by instructions in chapters 4-7

The vision of chapters 8-11 was followed by instructions in chapters 12-19

Focus of the vision (8-11) and instruction (12-19) is the coming judgment due to corrupt leadership.

12:3-16

- Ezekiel's acting, models and demonstration had drawn attention but most people still did not understand.
- So here he does another drama by acting out the deportation.
- Everyone who saw it had themselves been deported and would have recognized the act.
- The point—More exiles are coming.

12:5

- The Hebrew word translated "wall" means a "house wall" and not a "city wall."

12:9

- "What are you doing"

- Answer: It is an oracle of God and concerns Zedekiah and his people in Jerusalem.
- “I am a sign to you.” means these actions were a sign that when fulfilled the people would know that Ezekiel was telling them God’s word and plan.

12:12

- The true king of Judah was King Jehoiachin (a captive in Babylon), his uncle Zedekiah was merely a prince acting as king.

12:12-13

- Ezekiel prophesies Zedekiah’s capture
- The actual event is recorded in 2 Kings 25:4-6; Jeremiah 39:4,5; Jeremiah 52:7-8

12:15

- The purpose of the Exile to Babylon:
 - a) You will know the Lord when his word is seen
 - b) The nations will know that the Lord was not too weak to protect his people but his people were too wicked for him not to judge them. The nations would naturally think Israel’s God and religion were weak. Israel was to go into the nations to testify that they were wicked and that their God was holy and true.

Demonstrating Fear

12:17-20

- Because of the violence of all who live there in this generation.

Clarification of the Time of Judgment

12:21-28

- Apathy had hardened their understanding
- “Secular Humanism” had calloused their spiritual sensitivity
- Their conclusion of Ezekiel’s obvious message was to place it in the category with Isaiah, Micah and etc. The category of unfulfilled prophecies.
- 2 Peter 3:1-10 1 Thes. 5:1-11

12:27

- “The distant future”