

GOD'S WORD WILL BE DONE

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In Ezekiel 12:1-2, God prepared to speak a prophecy to the Israelite captives in Babylon, to a people who still had not repented of their sins: *"The word of the Lord also came unto me, saying, Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house."* The prophecy was preceded by actions God told the prophet Ezekiel to take as a sign to these rebellious people. And the prophecy itself was about King Zedekiah and the Israelites who remained in the city of Jerusalem. God would prove to them all that His word will always stand and be done exactly as He says.

God's sign to Israel

In Ezekiel 12:3-7, God told Ezekiel to "prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house. Then shalt thou bring forth thy stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for removing; and thou shalt go forth at even in their sight, as they that go forth into captivity. Dig thou through the wall in their sight, and carry out thereby. In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face, that thou see not the ground: for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel. And I did so as I was commanded: I brought forth my stuff by day, as stuff for captivity, and in the even I dug through the wall with mine hand; I brought it forth in the twilight, and I bare it upon my shoulder in their sight." This action taken by Ezekiel signified what was going to happen to king Zedekiah and the people of Jerusalem. "And in the morning came the word of the Lord unto me, saying, Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said unto thee, What doest thou? Say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; *This burden concerns the prince in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel that are among them. Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them*" (Ezek 12:8-11). The residue of Jerusalem that survived the siege would be dispersed into captivity (Ezek 12:11,15-16), and the few that escaped the sword, famine and pestilence would declare their abominations among the heathen and come to know who Jehovah is (Ezek 12:16). Zedekiah, "the prince that is among them" (Ezek 12:12), would bear his burden on his shoulder and dig through the wall of Jerusalem at night, and flee the city in disguise (Ezek 12:12). But he would not escape. God would ensnare him in His net, Zedekiah would be taken to Babylon and die there, though he would not see it because he would be blinded (Ezek 12:13). Zedekiah's helpers, his princes, would be scattered and killed (Ezek 12:14).

God's word fulfilled

All of this was precisely fulfilled as God foretold. Jeremiah 52:1-11 says,

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(continued)

“Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. And he did that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. For through the anger of the Lord it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about. So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. And in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land. Then the city was broken up, *and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans were by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.* Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him. *And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah. Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.”*

The Lesson of Ezekiel 12

The certainty of God’s word is the main point of the prophecy in Ezekiel chapter 12. “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision fails? Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, *The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.* For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel. *For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass;* it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God. Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he sees is for many days to come, and he prophesies of the times that are far off. Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but *the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God”* (Ezek 12:22-28). And it was done!