

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Ezekiel's Playacting (c. late 592 BC)

## Ezekiel 12

**Packed for Exile**

1 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, you *are* dwelling in the midst of the house of rebellion who has eyes to see and they do not see; they have ears to hear, and they do not hear, for they *are* a house of rebellion.

3 And you, son of man, prepare for yourself *the* baggage of an exile, and go into exile by day before their eyes. And you must go into exile from your place to another place before their eyes; perhaps they will see that they *are* a house of rebellion.

4 And you must bring out your baggage like *the* baggage of an exile by day before their eyes, and you must go out in the evening before their eyes like those who go into exile.

5 Before their eyes dig through for yourself, through the wall, and you must bring *the* baggage out through it.

6 Before their eyes, on your shoulder, you must lift up *the* baggage in the dusk, and your face you must cover, so that you may not see the land, for I make you *as* a sign to the house of Israel."

7 And I did just as I was commanded; my baggage, like *the* baggage of an exile, I brought out by day, and in the evening I dug through for myself into the wall with my hand in the dusk; I brought *the* baggage on *my* shoulder; I carried *it* before their eyes.

8 And the word of Yahweh came to me in the morning, saying,

9 "Son of man, did not they, the house of Israel, the house of rebellion, say to you, 'What *are* you doing?'

10 Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "This oracle *is* about the prince in Jerusalem and the entire house of Israel who are among them."'

11 Say, 'I am your sign, and just as I did, so will it be done to them in the exile; into captivity they will go.'

12 And the prince who *is* in the midst of them, on *his* shoulder he will carry *the* baggage in the dusk, and he will go out; the wall will be dug through to bring him through it; and he will cover his face so that he will not see the land with his eye. [cf. [2 Kgs 25:4](#); [Jer 39:4](#); [52:7](#)]

13 And I will spread out my net on him, and he will be captured in my hunting snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, but he will not see it, and there he will die. [cf. [2 Kgs 25:5-7](#); [Jer 39:5](#); [52:7-8](#)]

14 And all who *are* around him, his help and all of his troops I will scatter in every direction, and I will draw *the* sword behind them.

15 And they will know that I *am* Yahweh when I scatter them among the nations and I scatter them in the countries.

16 But I will spare from them a few men from *the* sword, from *the* famine and from *the* plague, so that they may tell of all their abominations among the nations to which they will go, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh."

**Pantomime of Terror**

17 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

18 "Son of man, you must eat your food with trembling, and your water with shuddering, and with anxiety you must drink.

19 And you must say to the people of the land, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the land of Israel: "They will eat their food with anxiety and their water they will drink with horror, because their land will be desolate from its fullness because of all the violence of those who are dwelling in it.

20 And the inhabited cities will be desolate, and the land will be a desolation, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh." "'

**God Ends a Proverb**

21 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

22 "Son of man, what *is* this proverb you people have about the land of Israel, saying, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision has come to nothing.'

23 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "I will put an end to this proverb, and they will not quote it as a proverb again in Israel." ' But say to them, 'The days are near, and *also* the word of every vision.'

24 For *there* will not be any longer any false vision or flattering divination in the midst of the house of Israel.

25 For I, Yahweh, I will speak what I will speak *as* a word, and it will be done. It will not prolong *itself* any longer, for in your days, house of rebellion, I will speak a word and I will fulfill it!" declares the Lord Yahweh.

**Ezekiel Confirms the Imminence of His Prophecies**

26 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

27 "Son of man, look! The house of Israel *is* saying, 'The vision that he *is* seeing *is* for many days *from now*, and for distant times he *is* prophesying.'

28 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "None of my words will *be* prolonged any longer that I speak *as* a word, and it will be fulfilled!" "' declares the Lord Yahweh.

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—False Prophets (c. late 592 BC)

## Ezekiel 13

**Charges against False Prophets**

- 1 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,  
 2 “Son of man, prophesy to the prophets of Israel who are prophesying, and you must say to *those who are* prophets out of their own imagination, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh!’  
 3 Thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘Alas, for the foolish prophets who *are* going after their *own* spirit, and they did not see anything!  
 4 Your prophets have been like foxes among ruins.  
 5 You did not go up into the breaches and repair a wall for the house of Israel to stand *firm* in the battle on the day of Yahweh.  
 6 They saw falseness and a lying divination, the ones saying, ‘Declaration of Yahweh!’ and Yahweh did not send them, and they wait for the confirmation of their word.  
 7 Have you not seen a false vision and spoken *a* lying divination, and *you* said, ‘Declaration of Yahweh!’ but I myself did not speak.

**Judgment on False Prophets**

- 8 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘Because of your speaking falseness and *because* you envisioned a lie, therefore, look! I *am* against you!’ declares the Lord Yahweh.  
 9 “And it will be my hand against the prophets who *are* seeing falseness and who *are* practicing lying divination. They will not be in the council of my people, and they will not be written *down* in the record *book* of the house of Israel, and into the land of Israel they will not come, and *then* you will know that I *am* the Lord Yahweh.  
 10 Because, yes, because they led my people astray, saying ‘Peace!’ And *there is* not peace. And *when* anyone builds a flimsy wall, look, they coat it *with* whitewash.  
 11 Say to *those covering it with* whitewash that it will fall; there will be a torrent of rain, and I will give stones of hail; they will fall! And a windstorm will burst forth!  
 12 And look! *When* the wall falls, will it not be said to you, ‘Where *is* the whitewash *with* which you covered *it*?’  
 13 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘And *so* I will let burst forth a windstorm in my rage, and there will be a torrent of rain in my anger, and hailstones in *my* rage for complete destruction.  
 14 And I will break down the wall that you covered *with* whitewash, and I will knock it to the ground, and its foundation will be revealed, and it will fall, and you will come to an end in the midst of it, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh!  
 15 And I will fully vent my rage against the wall and against those covering it *with* whitewash, and I will say to you, “The wall is no more, and the people covering it are no more,  
 16 *that is*, the prophets of Israel, the ones prophesying concerning Jerusalem and the ones seeing visions of peace, and there is not peace!” ” declares the Lord Yahweh. [cf. [Acts 23:3](#)]

**Charges against False Prophetesses**

- 17 “And you, son of man, place your face toward the daughters of your people who prophesy from their imagination, and prophesy against them!  
 18 And you must say, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Woe to those who sew magic charm bands on all the wrists of the hands of my *people* and those who make the veils *that are* on the head of *people of* every height, to ensnare *people’s* lives! Will you ensnare *the* lives of my people and keep yourselves alive?  
 19 And you defiled me among my people for a handful of barley and for morsels of bread to kill persons who should not die and to keep alive persons who should not live by *means of* your lies to my people *who are* listening to *your* lies.”

**Judgment on False Prophetesses**

- 20 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘Look! I am against your magic charm bands with which you are ensnaring persons as birds; I will tear them from your arms, and I will release the persons that you *are* ensnaring, *treating* persons as birds.  
 21 And I will tear off your veils, and I will deliver my people from your hand, and they will not any longer be in your hand as prey, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh.  
 22 Because *you* disheartened *the* heart of *the* righteous by deception, and I have not caused him pain, and strengthened *the* hands of *the* wicked *so that he did* not turn from his wicked way to save his life.  
 23 Therefore falseness you will not see, and divination you will not practice any longer, and I will rescue my people from your hand, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh!”

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Noah, Daniel and Job (c. late 592 BC)

## Ezekiel 14

**God Will Deal Personally with the Hypocrisy of the Elders**

1 And men from the elders of Israel came to me, and they sat before me.

2 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

3 “Son of man, these men took up their idols into their heart and they placed before themselves a stumbling block of their guilt. Should I really let myself be consulted by them?

4 Therefore speak with them, and you must say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Every person from the house of Israel who brings up his idols into his heart and places before himself a stumbling block of his guilt and yet he comes to the prophet, I Yahweh, I will respond to him through this act with respect to the multitude of his idols,

5 so that I may take hold of the house of Israel by their heart, those who are estranged from me, all of them, through their idols.’

6 Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Return, and turn away from your idols and from all of your detestable things! Turn away your faces!”’

7 For each person from the house of Israel, and from the alien who dwells as an alien in Israel, who separates himself from following me and brings up his idols into his heart and places before himself a stumbling block of his guilt, and yet he comes to the prophet to consult him concerning me, I Yahweh will answer him myself.

8 And I will set my face against that person, and I will make him to be a sign and make him into the subject of proverbs; and I will cut him off from the midst of my people, and you will know I am Yahweh.

9 And the prophet, if he is deceived and he speaks a word, I Yahweh, I have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him, and I will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

10 And they will bear their guilt, like the guilt of the inquirer so the guilt of the prophet will be,

11 so that the house of Israel will not go astray again from me, and they will not make themselves unclean again with all of their transgressions, and they will be for me a people, and I will be for them as God,” declares the Lord Yahweh.

**Jerusalem's Four Terrible Judgments**

12 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

13 “Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting very unfaithfully, then I will stretch out my hand against it, and I will break for it the supply of food, and I will send against it famine, and I will cut it off, both human and animal.

14 And if even the three of these men were in the midst of it—Noah, Daniel, and Job—they, through their righteousness, would save only themselves!” declares the Lord Yahweh.

15 “If a fierce animal I should let cross through the land, and it should make it childless and it will be a desolation, so that there will not be one crossing over the land due to the presence of the animal,

16 even if these three men were in the midst of it, as surely as I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh, “surely they will not save sons and daughters; they themselves alone, they will be saved, but the land will be a desolation.

17 Or, if I bring a sword over that land, and I say, ‘Sword, let it cross over into the land!’ And I will cut off from it both human and animal.

18 And if these three men were in the midst of it, as surely as I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh, “they will not save sons and daughters, but they alone will be saved.

19 And if I were to send a plague to that land, and I pour out my rage on it with blood to cut it off, both human and animal,

20 and if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the midst of her, as surely as I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh, “surely not a son, surely not a daughter will they save by their righteousness; they would save themselves.”

21 For thus says the Lord Yahweh: “How much more when I send my four punishments—the evil sword, and famine, and a fierce animal, and a plague—to Jerusalem to cut it off, both human and animal!

22 But look! A remnant will be left over in it, sons and daughters who will be brought out. Look! They are coming out to you, and you will see their way, and with their deeds you will be consoled with respect to the evil that I brought over Jerusalem, all of it that I brought over it.

23 And they will console you when you see their way and their deeds, and you will know that not for nothing I did all that I did in it,” declares the Lord Yahweh.

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—The Useless Vine (c. late 592 BC)

## Ezekiel 15

1 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

2 “Son of man, how will the wood of the vine be better than any of the wood of the branch which is among the trees of the forest?

3 Can wood be taken from it to make anything, or can they take a tent peg from it to hang on it any object?

4 Look! It is given to the fire as fuel. The fire will consume two of its ends, and its middle will be charred. Is it useful for anything?

5 Look! When it is in perfect condition, it will not be used for anything, how much less when the fire has consumed it and it is charred; and then can it be used again for anything?

6 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: Just like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest which I gave to the fire for fuel, so I have given the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

7 And I will set my face against them. From the fire they *may* escape, but the fire will *yet* consume them, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh when I set my face against them.

8 And I will make the land *a* desolation because they acted very unfaithfully!” declares the Lord Yahweh.

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