

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

Ezekiel 12

Packed for Exile

- 1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
 2 “Son of man, you live in the midst of the rebellious house, who have eyes to see but do not see, ears to hear but do not hear; for they are a rebellious house.
 3 Therefore, son of man, prepare for yourself baggage for exile and go into exile by day in their sight; even go into exile from your place to another place in their sight. Perhaps they will understand though they are a rebellious house.
 4 Bring your baggage out by day in their sight, as baggage for exile. Then you will go out at evening in their sight, as those going into exile.
 5 Dig a hole through the wall in their sight and go out through it.
 6 Load *the baggage* on *your* shoulder in their sight *and* carry *it* out in the dark. You shall cover your face so that you cannot see the land, for I have set you as a sign to the house of Israel.”
 7 I did so, as I had been commanded. By day I brought out my baggage like the baggage of an exile. Then in the evening I dug through the wall with my hands; I went out in the dark *and* carried *the baggage* on *my* shoulder in their sight.
 8 In the morning the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
 9 “Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, ‘What are you doing?’
 10 Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “This burden *concerns* the prince in Jerusalem as well as all the house of Israel who are in it.”’
 11 Say, ‘I am a sign to you. As I have done, so it will be done to them; they will go into exile, into captivity.’
 12 The prince who is among them will load *his baggage* on *his* shoulder in the dark and go out. They will dig a hole through the wall to bring *it* out. He will cover his face so that he can not see the land with *his* eyes. [cf. [2 Kgs 25:4](#); [Jer 39:4](#); [52:7](#)]
 13 I will also spread My net over him, and he will be caught in My snare. And I will bring him to Babylon in the land of the Chaldeans; yet he will not see it, though he will die there. [cf. [2 Kgs 25:5–7](#); [Jer 39:5](#); [52:7–8](#)]
 14 I will scatter to every wind all who are around him, his helpers and all his troops; and I will draw out a sword after them.
 15 So they will know that I am the LORD when I scatter them among the nations and spread them among the countries.
 16 But I will spare a few of them from the sword, the famine and the pestilence that they may tell all their abominations among the nations where they go, and may know that I am the LORD.”

Pantomime of Terror

- 17 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me saying,
 18 “Son of man, eat your bread with trembling and drink your water with quivering and anxiety.
 19 Then say to the people of the land, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the land of Israel, “They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water with horror, because their land will be stripped of its fullness on account of the violence of all who live in it.
 20 The inhabited cities will be laid waste and the land will be a desolation. So you will know that I am the LORD.”’”

God Ends a Proverb

- 21 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
 22 “Son of man, what is this proverb you *people* have concerning the land of Israel, saying, ‘The days are long and every vision fails’?
 23 Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “I will make this proverb cease so that they will no longer use it as a proverb in Israel.” But tell them, “The days draw near as well as the fulfillment of every vision.
 24 For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel.
 25 For I the LORD will speak, and whatever word I speak will be performed. It will no longer be delayed, for in your days, O rebellious house, I will speak the word and perform it,” declares the Lord GOD.’”

Ezekiel Confirms the Imminence of His Prophecies

- 26 Furthermore, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
 27 “Son of man, behold, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for many years *from now*, and he prophesies of times far off.’
 28 Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “None of My words will be delayed any longer. Whatever word I speak will be performed,’” declares the Lord GOD.

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

Ezekiel 13

Charges against False Prophets

- 1 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

- 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration, ‘Listen to the word of the LORD!’
- 3 Thus says the Lord GOD, “Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing.
- 4 O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins.
- 5 You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the LORD.
- 6 They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, ‘The LORD declares,’ when the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of *their* word.
- 7 Did you not see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you said, ‘The LORD declares,’ but it is not I who have spoken?’”

Judgment on False Prophets

- 8 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 9 “So My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will have no place in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am the Lord GOD.
- 10 It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash;
- 11 so tell those who plaster *it* over with whitewash, that it will fall. A flooding rain will come, and you, O hailstones, will fall; and a violent wind will break out.
- 12 Behold, when the wall has fallen, will you not be asked, ‘Where is the plaster with which you plastered *it*?’”
- 13 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “I will make a violent wind break out in My wrath. There will also be in My anger a flooding rain and hailstones to consume *it* in wrath.
- 14 So I will tear down the wall which you plastered over with whitewash and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation is laid bare; and when it falls, you will be consumed in its midst. And you will know that I am the LORD.
- 15 Thus I will spend My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it over with whitewash; and I will say to you, ‘The wall is gone and its plasterers are gone,
- 16 *along with* the prophets of Israel who prophesy to Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,’ declares the Lord GOD. [cf. [Acts 23:3](#)]

Charges against False Prophetesses

- 17 “Now you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration. Prophesy against them
- 18 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Woe to the women who sew *magic* bands on all wrists and make veils for the heads of *persons* of every stature to hunt down lives! Will you hunt down the lives of My people, but preserve the lives *of others* for yourselves?
- 19 For handfuls of barley and fragments of bread, you have profaned Me to My people to put to death some who should not die and to keep others alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies.’”

Judgment on False Prophetesses

- 20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against your *magic* bands by which you hunt lives there as birds and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let them go, even those lives whom you hunt as birds.
- 21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people from your hands, and they will no longer be in your hands to be hunted; and you will know that I am the LORD.
- 22 Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way *and* preserve his life,
- 23 therefore, you women will no longer see false visions or practice divination, and I will deliver My people out of your hand. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.”

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 Then some elders of Israel came to me and sat down before me.
- 2 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
- 3 “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity. Should I be consulted by them at all?
- 4 Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Any man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and *then* comes to the prophet, I the LORD will be brought to give him an

answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols,

5 in order to lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel who are estranged from Me through all their idols.”

6 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Repent and turn away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

7 For anyone of the house of Israel or of the immigrants who stay in Israel who separates himself from Me, sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and *then* comes to the prophet to inquire of Me for himself, I the LORD will be brought to answer him in My own person.

8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from among My people. So you will know that I am the LORD.

9 “But if the prophet is prevailed upon to speak a word, it is I, the LORD, who have prevailed upon that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel.

10 They will bear *the punishment of* their iniquity; as the iniquity of the inquirer is, so the iniquity of the prophet will be,

11 in order that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me and no longer defile themselves with all their transgressions. Thus they will be My people, and I shall be their God,” declares the Lord GOD.”

Jerusalem’s Four Terrible Judgments

12 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

13 “Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast,

14 even *though* these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their *own* righteousness they could *only* deliver themselves,” declares the Lord GOD.

15 “If I were to cause wild beasts to pass through the land and they depopulated it, and it became desolate so that no one would pass through it because of the beasts,

16 *though* these three men were in its midst, as I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “they could not deliver either *their* sons or *their* daughters. They alone would be delivered, but the country would be desolate.

17 Or *if* I should bring a sword on that country and say, ‘Let the sword pass through the country and cut off man and beast from it,’

18 even *though* these three men were in its midst, as I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “they could not deliver either *their* sons or *their* daughters, but they alone would be delivered.

19 Or *if* I should send a plague against that country and pour out My wrath in blood on it to cut off man and beast from it,

20 even *though* Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, as I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “they could not deliver either *their* son or *their* daughter. They would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.”

21 For thus says the Lord GOD, “How much more when I send My four severe judgments against Jerusalem: sword, famine, wild beasts and plague to cut off man and beast from it!

22 Yet, behold, survivors will be left in it who will be brought out, *both* sons and daughters. Behold, they are going to come forth to you and you will see their conduct and actions; then you will be comforted for the calamity which I have brought against Jerusalem for everything which I have brought upon it.

23 Then they will comfort you when you see their conduct and actions, for you will know that I have not done in vain whatever I did to it,” declares the Lord GOD.

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

Ezekiel 15

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

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

3 Can wood be taken from it to make anything, or can *men* take a peg from it on which to hang any vessel?

4 If it has been put into the fire for fuel, *and* the fire has consumed both of its ends and its middle part has been charred, is it *then* useful for anything?

5 Behold, while it is intact, it is not made into anything. How much less, when the fire has consumed it and it is charred, can it still be made into anything!

6 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘As the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so have I given up the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

7 and I set My face against them. *Though* they have come out of the fire, yet the fire will consume them. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I set My face against them.

8 Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have acted unfaithfully,” declares the Lord GOD.