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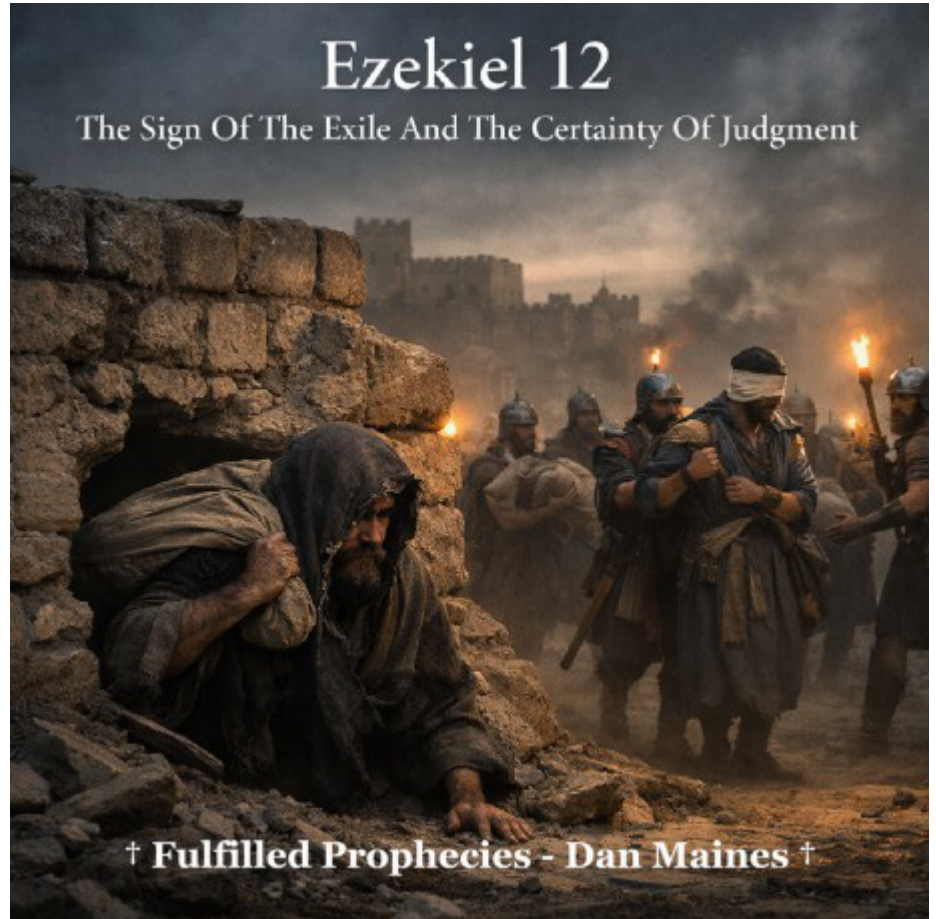
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Ezekiel 12 The Sign Of The Exile And The Certainty Of Judgment



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 12 The Sign Of The Exile And The Certainty Of Judgment

Introduction

† Ezekiel 12 continues the unfolding judgment against Jerusalem, showing that what God spoke was not symbolic delay but a coming reality in their generation.

† The people believed judgment wouldn't come, but God commands Ezekiel to act out the exile to prove it's near.

† This chapter directly confronts the false belief that prophecy was delayed or distant, showing fulfillment was imminent.

Ezekiel 12:1-7

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, you are living 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. 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. 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. Dig a hole through the wall in their sight and go out through it. 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 made you a sign to the house of Israel. I did just 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.

† God calls Israel a rebellious house, not because they lacked evidence, but because they refused to believe what they saw and heard (Isaiah 6:9-10).

† Ezekiel's actions were a living prophecy, showing the coming exile wasn't symbolic but literal and near (2 Kings 25:4).

† This points forward to the same pattern in Jesus' generation, where they saw and heard but refused to believe, leading to AD 70 (Matthew 13:14-15).

Ezekiel 12:8-16

In the morning the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, has the house of Israel, the rebellious house, not said to

you, What are you doing? Say to them, This is what the Lord God says: This oracle concerns the prince in Jerusalem as well as all the house of Israel who are in it. 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. 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 him out. He will cover his face so that he cannot see the land with his eyes. 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. 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. So they will know that I am the Lord when I scatter them among the nations and spread them among the countries. But I will spare a few of them from the sword, the famine, and the plague so that they may tell all their abominations among the nations where they go, and may know that I am the Lord.

† This prophecy was fulfilled in Zedekiah, who fled through a wall and was captured, then blinded before being taken to Babylon (2 Kings 25:6-7).

† God says he will spread his net, showing this wasn't random history but divine judgment (Lamentations 1:13).

† The remnant preserved would testify to their sin, just like the early Jewish survivors after AD 70 (Luke 21:24).

Ezekiel 12:17-20

Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me saying, Son of man, eat your bread with trembling and drink your water with shaking and anxiety. Then say to the people of the land, This is what the Lord God says 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. The

inhabited cities will be laid waste and the land will be a desolation. So you will know that I am the Lord.

† The fear Ezekiel acted out reflected the terror during the siege of Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 28:65-67).

† This same fear and starvation happened again in AD 70, confirming the pattern of covenant judgment (Josephus, Wars 5.10).

† The purpose was always recognition, so you will know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 12:21-25

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, what is this proverb you people have concerning the land of Israel, saying, The days are long and every vision fails? Therefore say to them, This is what the Lord God says: I will make this proverb cease so that they will no longer use it as a proverb in Israel. But tell them, The days are near as well as the fulfillment of every vision. For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I the Lord will speak, and whatever word I speak will be performed. It will no longer be delayed, for in your days, house of rebellion, I will speak the word and perform it, declares the Lord God.

† The people believed prophecy wouldn't happen, just like many deny fulfillment today.

† God says clearly, it will no longer be delayed, in your days.

† Jesus uses the same language in Matthew 24:34, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Ezekiel 12:26-28

Furthermore, the word of the Lord came to me saying, 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. Therefore say to them, This is what the Lord God says: None of My words will be delayed any longer. Whatever word I speak will be performed, declares the Lord God.

† This destroys futurism completely, they said it was far off, God said no, it's near.

† This exact argument is still used today, pushing fulfillment thousands of years out.

† But God already settled it, none of my words will be delayed any longer.

Historical References

† Josephus records the famine, terror, and destruction of Jerusalem, matching Ezekiel's warnings (Wars 5.10-12).

† Eusebius confirms the judgment on Jerusalem as fulfillment of prophecy in that generation (Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Tertullian testifies that Jerusalem's destruction was the visible judgment of God (Against Marcion 3.13).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't delay what God already fulfilled, we believe what He said and what history confirms (Matthew 24:34).

† We reject the idea that prophecy is always future, because God said it would happen in their days.

† We trust that God's word is always fulfilled exactly as spoken, not postponed or redefined.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Did Ezekiel's prophecy happen in his time?

A: Yes, God said it would happen in your days, and it was fulfilled in the Babylonian exile (2 Kings 25:1-7).

Q: Why did the people think it was far off?

A: They rejected the warnings and trusted false prophets who said peace (Jeremiah 6:14).

Q: Does this connect to Jesus' prophecy?

A: Yes, Jesus used the same time language, this generation will not pass away (Matthew 24:34).

Q: What does this prove about prophecy?

A: It proves God's word is fulfilled when He says it will be, not thousands of years later (Habakkuk 2:3).

Q: Why is this important today?

A: Because many still delay fulfillment, but God already said it wouldn't be delayed (Ezekiel 12:28).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 12

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 5.10-12; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Tertullian, Against Marcion 3.13

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