

Ezekiel Is Told To Prepare For A Journey

Ezekiel 12

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Ezekiel Prepares for Exile	12	1-6	Ezekiel is told to prepare for being an exile as a sign to the people
		7	Ezekiel prepares his baggage
		8-16	Ezekiel is asked about and explains his actions - a sign to the prince of Jerusalem and the of the house of Israel of coming captivity
		17-20	Ezekiel is told to eat bread & water with anxiety as a sign
		21-25	God promises no more delay in fulfilling his word
		26-28	God promises again to fulfill his word soon

Reflections

Once again Ezekiel is told to act out a message from God regarding the soon coming wrath which God had planned for the southern kingdom of Judah. Why? The answer is in the last part of verse 6.

Ezekiel 12:6 NASB “... for I have set you as a sign to the house of Israel.”

So once again, Ezekiel did as God directed him to do. Ezekiel is told to tell those who ask why he was doing this, that it was a sign for the prince and for all the people concerning God’s coming judgment. God also tells Ezekiel to explain the circumstances leading up to their captivity and that God also promises to keep a remnant of faithful ones who will tell how God spared them from the abominations. The reason for this is so that all who hear would know that God is the LORD.

Ezekiel 12:15-16 NASB “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.”

God also tells Ezekiel to eat bread with trembling and drink water with quivering and anxiety as a sign as well. This too is done so that the people would know that God is the LORD. This is a recurring theme in Ezekiel and can be found in the following references:

Ezekiel 6:7, 10, 13, 14; 7:4, 27; 11:10, 12; 12:15, 16, 20; 13:9, 14, 21, 23; 14:8; 15:7; 16:62; 17:24; 20:12, 20, 26, 38, 42, 44; 22:16; 23:49; 24:24, 27; 25:5, 7, 11, 17; 26:6; 28:22, 23, 24, 26; 29:6, 9, 16, 21; 30:8, 19, 25, 26; 32:15; 33:29; 34:27; 35:4, 9, 15; 36:11, 23, 38; 37:6, 13, 28; 38:23; 39:6, 7, 22, 28.

The last two sections of the chapter are God’s response to the people thinking and proclaiming that God had been promising this destruction and captivity for years but it never happens, so why should we believe it now. God promises that whatever word He speaks He will perform it.

Ezekiel 12:25 NASB “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 12:28 NASB “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.

¹ (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

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I am reminded of the passage out of 2 Peter when he discusses the patience of God in relation to fulfilling His word. Take special note of verse 8-10 in particular.

2 Peter 3:1-10 NASB This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2** that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles. **3** Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” **5** For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, **6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. **7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. **8** But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

This message probably still rings true today as people don’t believe that God is real or that any of His prophecies concerning Jesus’ second coming, the future judgment of all mankind, and the condemnation of unrepentant sinners and blessing with eternal life for faithful believer’s in Jesus as Lord and Savior will come to pass. God doesn’t take pleasure in this but is extremely patient.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study: *my LOG vs others SPECK. Here are some possible responses I’ve identified from the text that might apply to anyone.*

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

•

P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

•

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

•

C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

•

K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

•

Key Words: Old Testament, Prophecy, Ezekiel, Captivity, Signs, God’s Faithfulness



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* *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (with additions) & Matthew 7:1-5.

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Bibliography

(NASB) New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.