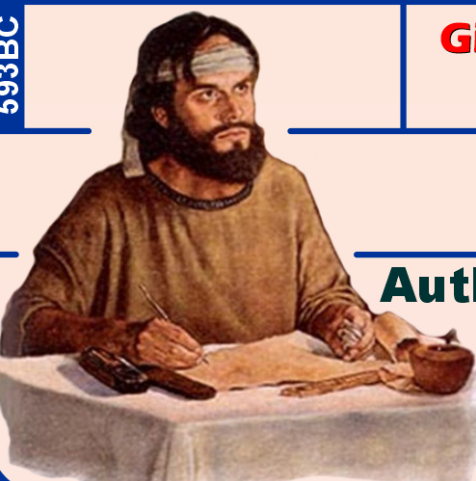


FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

12

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↻ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic													
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48											
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Babylonia (26) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God											
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC					
						The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT						The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE					
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)																	
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old																	
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old																	
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old																	
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old																	

EZEKIEL SYMBOLIC ACTIONS

- 1 3:22-26 **Shut up in his house and bound with cords. He is not to speak unless the Lord orders it.**
- 2 4:1-3 **Inscribe the likeness of the city on a clay tablet that models a siege using an iron skillet.**
- 3 4:4-8 **Lays on left side 390 days and on the right side 40 days.**
- 4 4:9-11 **Eats the meager vegetarian diet of a besieged city.**
- 5 4:12-17 **Bakes bread using human excrement (cow dung substituted) for fuel before their eyes.**
- 6 5:1-3 **Shaves beard and head and divides the hair into three equal parts. The cuts, burns, and scatters.**
- 7 12:1-16 **Digs through the wall of house and carries clothes as an exile and does not look at the ground.**
- 8 12:17-20 **Trembles when eating and drinking water.**
- 9 21:6-7 **Groans before people with a broken heart.**
- 10 21:18-24 **Marks out two roads for the sword of the king of Babylon.**
- 11 24:15-24 **His wife dies but not allowed to mourn. This coincides with the destruction of the Temple.**
- 12 37:15-28 **Takes two sticks and writes on them – one for Judah and one for Joseph.**



10 SIGNS IN EZEKIEL

1 Clay Tablet	<i>Jerusalem: Siege & Fall</i>	4:1-3
2 Posture	<i>Duration of the Exile</i>	4:4-8
3 Bread	<i>Deprivations of Captivity</i>	4:9-17
4 Shaving	<i>Destruction: People of Jerusalem</i>	5:1-17
5 Packing Belongings	<i>Exile to another land</i>	12:1-16
6 Trembling	<i>Harshness of Judgment</i>	12:17-20
7 Sharp Sword	<i>Judgment Imminent</i>	21:1-32
8 Furnace	<i>Judgment & Purification</i>	22:1-31
9 Death: Wife	<i>Blessings Forfeited</i>	24:15-27
10 Two Sticks	<i>Reunion: Israel & Judah</i>	37:15-28

SIGNS OF IMPENDING CAPTIVITY

Ezekiel 12:1-28

SIGNS AND MESSAGES

EZEKIEL 12-14

- (1) The SIGN of the Baggage and the Hole in the Wall (Ek.12:1-16)**
- (2) The SIGN of Trembling while Eating and Drinking (Ek.12:17-20)**
- (1) First MESSAGE on the Certainty of Judgment (Ek.12:21-25)**
- (2) Second MESSAGE on the Certainty of Judgment (Ek.12:26-28)**
- (3) Third MESSAGE on the Certainty of Judgment (Ek.13:1-23)**
- (4) Fourth MESSAGE on the Certainty of Judgment (Ek.14:1-11)**
- (5) Fifth MESSAGE on the Certainty of Judgment (Ek.14:12-23)**

PARABLES AND MESSAGE EZEKIEL 15-19

(1) PARABLE of the Fruitless Vine (Ek.15:1-8)

(2) PARABLE of the Adulterous Wife (Ek.16:1-63)

(3) PARABLE of the Two Eagles (Ek.17:1-24)

(4) MESSAGE on Individual Responsibility (Ek.18:1-32)

(5) PARABLE of Lamentation for Israel's Princes (Ek.19:1-14)

INTRODUCTION — EZEKIEL 12

- **Ezekiel's task (chaps. 4-11) had been to show the necessity of Jerusalem's judgment because of her disobedience.**
- **He had demonstrated the fact of the siege through a series of signs.**
- **The people were still not ready to accept the fact of Jerusalem's fall.**
- **Therefore Ezekiel gave a new series of signs and messages. Any optimism would be futile. Jerusalem's fate had been sealed.**



**Now the word of the
LORD came to me,
saying:**

EZEKIEL 12:1



EZEKIEL KEY PHRASES

KEY PHRASE	EZEKIEL ¹	BIBLE ²
“know that I am the LORD”	63	77
“glory of the God of Israel”	5	5
“the word of the LORD came to me”	47	58

¹ Number of times the phrase is used in Ezekiel

² Number of times the phrase is used in the Bible

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (Ek.12:1)

- **Ezekiel gave two more action-signs because of the people's unbelief.**
- **Because it is not dated, and because the book follows a chronological sequence of events, most commentators believed that this word from the Lord came to Ezekiel shortly after he received the vision in chapters 8-11.**
- **Their blindness to the things that they saw and their deafness to His words, after over a year of Ezekiel's ministry, were the result of their rebellious condition (Du.29:1-4; Is.6:9-10; Je.5:21; Mt.13:13-15; Mk.8:18; Jn.12:39-40; Ac.28:26-27).**



**"Son of man, you dwell in the midst
of a rebellious house, which has
eyes to see but does not see, and
ears to hear but does not hear; for
they are a rebellious house.**

EZEKIEL 12:2



**"Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house.
(Ek.12:2)**

- **Israel's blindness and deafness was willful.**
- **They had the faculties for receiving God's message, but they chose not to receive it because they were "a rebellious house."**
- **Sin blinds the heart and mind. The sinner does not see the consequences and destruction of sin.**
- **The "rebellious house" was addressed to his fellow exiles who were as hardened as those still in Jerusalem.**



"Therefore, son of man, prepare your belongings for captivity, and go into captivity by day in their sight. You shall go from your place into captivity to another place in their sight. It may be that they will consider, though they are a rebellious house.

EZEKIEL 12:3



"Therefore, son of man, prepare your belongings for captivity, and go into captivity by day in their sight. You shall go from your place into captivity to another place in their sight. It may be that they will consider, though they are a rebellious house. (Ek.12:3)

- **Blindness and deafness often indicate disobedience or disbelief (Du.29:1-4; Is.6:9-10; Je.5:21; Mt.13:13-15; Ac.28:26-28).**
- **The Lord instructed Ezekiel to perform another symbolic act.**
- **He was to pack his bags during the daylight hours as though he were going into exile. Thus he would probably have packed only the barest necessities.**
- **He was then to leave his present home and depart for another place in the evening, when the other exiles could observe what he was doing.**



By day you shall bring out your belongings in their sight, as though going into captivity; and at evening you shall go in their sight, like those who go into captivity.

EZEKIEL 12:4



By day you shall bring out your belongings in their sight, as though going into captivity; and at evening you shall go in their sight, like those who go into captivity. (Ek.12:4)

- **Here Ezekiel's sign to Israel involved two separate actions.**
- **In the first action he packed his belongings and went to another place as the exiles watched him.**
- **The people recognized the meaning of that action because six years earlier they had made similar preparations for their own deportation to Babylon.**



**Dig through the wall in their
sight, and carry your belongings
out through it.**

EZEKIEL 12:5



Dig through the wall in their sight, and carry your belongings out through it. (Ek.12:5)

- **He was to dig a hole in the sun-dried mud brick wall of his house, perhaps the wall around the courtyard of his house, as the people watched, and pass through it.**
- **This unusual method of departure pictured desperation and secrecy.**
- **He was to do all this because God was using him as a lesson to the Jews.**
- **This section depicts those in desperation trying to escape from their sun-dried brick homes.**



In their sight you shall bear them on your shoulders and carry them out at twilight; you shall cover your face, so that you cannot see the ground, for I have made you a sign to the house of Israel."

EZEKIEL 12:6



In their sight you shall bear them on your shoulders and carry them out at twilight; you shall cover your face, so that you cannot see the ground, for I have made you a sign to the house of Israel."(Ek.12:6)

- **As Ezekiel expressed through gestures before the people a secret escape attempt he was also to cover his face so that he could not see the land.**
- **He should load his baggage on his shoulder and carry it away as night set in.**
- **He was to cover his face so he could not see the land.**
- **This may represent the inability of the exiles to see their land any more or his shame trying to avoid recognition.**



So I did as I was commanded. I brought out my belongings by day, as though going into captivity, and at evening I dug through the wall with my hand. I brought them out at twilight, and I bore them on my shoulder in their sight.

EZEKIEL 12:7



So I did as I was commanded. I brought out my belongings by day, as though going into captivity, and at evening I dug through the wall with my hand. I brought them out at twilight, and I bore them on my shoulder in their sight. (Ek.12:7)

- **Ezekiel performed the actions as he was commanded. Next morning God spoke to him again, this time asking him if the exiles inquired what he was doing.**
- **Evidently the people's curiosity was aroused. Once Ezekiel had their attention he could deliver God's message.**
- **This first action in the daytime was followed by a second action in the evening.**



So I did as I was commanded. I brought out my belongings by day, as though going into captivity, and at evening I dug through the wall with my hand. I brought them out at twilight, and I bore them on my shoulder in their sight. (Ek.12:7)

- **While the people watched, Ezekiel was to pretend he was being taken captive and was to dig through the wall and take his belongings out through it, carrying them on his shoulder.**
- **The fact that Ezekiel went out at night may represent the dark conditions that would exist for Israel when the final exiles departed from Jerusalem (Jn.13:30).**



**And in the morning the word
of the LORD came to me,
saying,**

EZEKIEL 12:8



And in the morning the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.12:8)

- **The morning after Ezekiel had performed this little drama the Lord spoke to him again.**
- **God communicated to Ezekiel regularly as he finished the previous revelation.**



**"Son of man, has not the
house of Israel, the rebellious
house, said to you, 'What are
you doing?'"**



EZEKIEL 12:9



"Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, 'What are you doing?'(Ek.12:9)

- **Ezekiel reminded His servant that the Jews had asked him to interpret his symbolic acts.**
- **God knew the people had asked the prophet for an explanation of his actions, and He was ready to furnish the answer.**
- **The “rebellious house” refers to the exiles.**



**Say to them, 'Thus says the
Lord GOD: "This burden
concerns the prince in
Jerusalem and all the house
of Israel who are among them."**

EZEKIEL 12:10



Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "This burden concerns the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are among them." (Ek.12:10)

- God explained that this message concerned the prince in Jerusalem (i.e., King Zedekiah) and the whole house of Israel who were there in Jerusalem.**
- Ezekiel was to explain to them that the oracle that he had delivered by his acted parable concerned King Zedekiah and the Jews who were in Jerusalem.**
- Ezekiel regarded King Jehoiachin as the legitimate king of Judah, and he referred to Zedekiah as only a prince because Nebuchadnezzar had set him on the throne.**



**Say, 'I am a sign to you. As I
have done, so shall it be done
to them; they shall be carried
away into captivity.'**

EZEKIEL 12:11



Say, 'I am a sign to you. As I have done, so shall it be done to them; they shall be carried away into captivity.' (Ek.12:11)

- **This first part of Ezekiel's sign pictured the inevitability of the exile: they will go into exile as captives.**
- **Those at ease in Jerusalem would soon be exiles whose only possessions could be held in small sacks flung over their backs.**
- **He was not representing his fellow exiles who would leave Babylon and return to Judea.**



ZEDEKIAH'S VAIN ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Ezekiel 12:12-16

**And the prince who is among them shall
bear his belongings on his shoulder at
twilight and go out. They shall dig
through the wall to carry them out
through it. He shall cover his face, so
that he cannot see the ground with
his eyes.**

EZEKIEL 12:12



And the prince who is among them shall bear his belongings on his shoulder at twilight and go out. They shall dig through the wall to carry them out through it. He shall cover his face, so that he cannot see the ground with his eyes. (Ek.12:12)

- **Zedekiah would try to escape at dusk from Jerusalem through a breach in the city wall.**
- **The final destiny of Zedekiah was grim. God will bring him to Babylonia but he will not see it.**
- **He represented what Zedekiah and the people of Jerusalem would do.**
- **Zedekiah would try to escape under cover of darkness through a hole in a wall with his face covered to make himself unrecognizable (2Ki.25:4-6; Je.39:4-5; 52:7-8).**



**I will also spread My net over him,
and he shall be caught in My snare.**

**I will bring him to Babylon, to the
land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall
not see it, though he shall die there.**

EZEKIEL 12:13



I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there.
(Ek.12:13)

- Zedekiah's escape attempt would fail because God would make sure he was captured.**
- The Lord would snare Zedekiah like a bird in a net and would bring him to Babylon.**
- The Chaldeans took Zedekiah to Babylon, but he never saw the country because Nebuchadnezzar blinded him at Riblah.**



**I will scatter to every wind all who
are around him to help him, and
all his troops; and I will draw out
the sword after them.**

EZEKIEL 12:14



I will scatter to every wind all who are around him to help him, and all his troops; and I will draw out the sword after them. (Ek.12:14)

- Zedekiah's troops who would try to escape with him would be pursued and killed by the sword.**
- All this was dramatically and accurately fulfilled in 586 B.C.**
- Zedekiah was taken to Nebuchadnezzar, forced to watch the enemy kill his sons, and then blinded and carried off to Babylon where he spent the rest of his life in prison (2Ki.25:1-7; Je.39:6-7; 52:4-11).**



**"Then they shall know that I am
the LORD, when I scatter them
among the nations and disperse
them throughout the countries.**

EZEKIEL 12:15



"Then they shall know that I am the LORD, when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. (Ek.12:15)

- **Those in Jerusalem would ultimately realize the sovereignty of God (Ek.12:15-16), but that knowledge would come only after they were dispersed among the nations.**
- **The Lord would also scatter the Jews who accompanied, assisted, and tried to defend Zedekiah in his escape and would pursue them with a sword as they fled to other nations.**



**But I will spare a few of their men from
the sword, from famine, and from
pestilence, that they may declare all
their abominations among the Gentiles
wherever they go. Then they shall
know that I am the LORD."**

EZEKIEL 12:16



But I will spare a few of their men from the sword, from famine, and from pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the Gentiles wherever they go. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ek.12:16)

- **God said He would spare a few of them (Ek.6:8).**
- **The deportations were designed to show the deportees that the Lord was the faithful, loving, and powerful One over Israel, and they should return to Him.**
- **God had the exiles testify that their abominations precipitated the deportations.**



But I will spare a few of their men from the sword, from famine, and from pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the Gentiles wherever they go. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." (Ek.12:16)

- God did not allow them to be conquered because he did not care.**
- If a nation was defeated in battle or decimated by famine and disease, this meant its god was weak and incapable of protecting and caring for its people.**
- To prevent such a misconception, the Lord would send a remnant of Jews among the nations to witness that they were in exile only because of their own iniquity, not because of the Lord's failure.**



A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, surrounded by green mountains. The foreground is filled with dense, vibrant orange and yellow autumn foliage. A dark wooden fence runs along the bottom left. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

SIGN OF TREMBLING WHILE EATING

Ezekiel 12:17-20

**Moreover the word
of the LORD came
to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 12:17



**Moreover the word of the LORD
came to me, saying, (Ek.12:17)**

- **Ezekiel's second sign was intended to convey a message about those living in Jerusalem and throughout the land of Israel (Ek.12:19).**
- **The Lord also instructed Ezekiel to eat his bread and drink his water while trembling and visibly anxious.**



**"Son of man, eat your bread
with quaking, and drink your
water with trembling and
anxiety."**

EZEKIEL 12:18



"Son of man, eat your bread with quaking, and drink your water with trembling and anxiety. (Ek.12:18)

- **Ezekiel was to tremble as he ate his food, and shudder as he drank his water.**
- **Ezekiel's actions represented the terror Israel would experience.**
- **The prophet appears to have been still eating the symbolic rations that God had prescribed for him earlier (Ek.4:9-17).**



**And say to the people of the land, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the land of Israel:
"They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink their water with dread, so that her land may be emptied of all who are in it, because of the violence of all those who dwell in it.**

EZEKIEL 12:19



And say to the people of the land, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the land of Israel: "They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink their water with dread, so that her land may be emptied of all who are in it, because of the violence of all those who dwell in it. (Ek.12:19)

- **Fear of the enemy would grip the people as they watched God's judgment decimate the land.**
- **Yet they brought the judgment on themselves by their violence (Ek.20:19; 7:23; 8:17).**
- **He was then to explain to his audience that the Jews in Jerusalem would eat and drink like he had done.**



**Then the cities that are inhabited
shall be laid waste, and the land
shall become desolate; and you
shall know that I am the LORD."**

EZEKIEL 12:20



Then the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall become desolate; and you shall know that I am the LORD." (Ek.12:20)

- **The enemy would plunder the land, devastating the towns and making the land desolate.**
- **The Lord would strip their land of its abundance because the people had committed so much violence contrary to His law.**
- **God would also desolate the inhabited cities and the countryside of Judah.**
- **Then His people would know that He was the Lord. He loved them enough to discipline them (He.12:5-11).**



5 MESSAGES ON THE CERTAINITY OF JUDGMENT

Ezekiel 12:21—14:23

**And the word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 12:21



5 MESSAGES ON THE CERTAINTY OF JUDGMENT

EZEKIEL 12:21 — 14:23

- 1 Ek.12:21-25** **False Proverb: 'The days are prolonged, and every vision fails'**
- 2 Ek.12:26-28** **False Proverb: 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off'**
- 3 Ek.13:1-23** **Directed against Israel's false prophets who were leading the nation astray**
- 4 Ek.14:1-11** **Condemnation of idolatry by setting up idols and putting stumbling blocks before the people**
- 5 Ek.14:12-23** **Hypothetical Cases: Noah, Daniel, and Job**



And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.12:21)

- Following Ezekiel's two signs (Ek.12:1-20), he delivered a series of five messages to destroy the people's false optimism and to show the certainty of judgment.**
- The Lord asked Ezekiel about a proverb that the Jews were reciting among themselves.**
- They meant that the captivity that the true prophets (including Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) had predicted was a long way off and that the visions they claimed to have would turn out to be unreliable.**



**"Son of man, what is this proverb
that you people have about the
land of Israel, which says, 'The
days are prolonged, and every
vision fails'?"**

EZEKIEL 12:22



"Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision fails'? (Ek.12:22)

- The first two messages were attacks on two popular proverbs the people were quoting.**
- This message began with God asking Ezekiel about the proverb.**
- The point of this proverb was the belief that Ezekiel's (and other prophets') predictions of doom would not take place.**
- Delay had given the people the false impression that the stroke of judgment would never come.**



Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel." But say to them, "The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision.

EZEKIEL 12:23



Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel." But say to them, "The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision. (Ek.12:23)

- **The proverb had the effect of labeling those prophets doomsayers, thus, allowing the people to ignore their messages.**
- **God said He would keep the people from quoting that proverb any longer.**
- **The people's smug assurance would end when the judgments arrived.**



Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel." But say to them, "The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision. (Ek.12:23)

- **The past days had not invalidated the earlier predictions as the people supposed.**
- **Instead, they had decreased the time remaining till the prophecies would be accomplished (“days are at hand”).**
- **Ezekiel was to contradict this proverb and give the people another one that the days of the coming captivity were not far off.**



**For no more shall there be
any false vision or flattering
divination within the house
of Israel.**

EZEKIEL 12:24



For no more shall there be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. (Ek.12:24)

- **False prophets had been contradicting the claims of God's true messengers in both Jerusalem (Je.28:1-4) and Babylon (Je.29:1,8-9).**
- **God would remove false visions and flattering divinations.**
- **The Lord would frustrate the false prophecies and predictions of the future that only flattered the people.**
- **The Lord promised that the people would no longer say such things because He would prove them wrong.**



For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it," says the Lord GOD.



EZEKIEL 12:25



For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.12:25)

- **Their optimistic predictions would cease as God hastened to fulfill His word.**
- **Ezekiel's cries of doom were not distant rumblings of some still-future storm.**
- **God promised to bring to pass what He had spoken without delay (Ek.12:28).**
- **What He had said He would do in the days of Ezekiel's hearers.**



For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.12:25)

- **Rebelliousness can take many forms, some of them even quite pious: “How do I know which preacher to believe, which church is right?”**
- **In Ezekiel's day it was 'How do I know which prophet is correct (Ek.12:24), which prophecy applies to me (Ek.12:27)?**



**Again the word of the
LORD came to me,
saying,**

EZEKIEL 12:26



Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.12:26)

- **The first proverb attacked by Ezekiel expressed the people's doubts about the FACT of God's judgment.**
- **The second proverb expressed their doubts about the IMMINENCY of God's judgment.**
- **Some of the people were saying that the prophecies about coming judgment were true, but they would not come to pass for a long time.**



"Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.'

EZEKIEL 12:27



"Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.' (Ek.12:27)

- **This saying was not specifically called a proverb, but it was cast in the same mold as the first proverb. It was another popular saying in Israel.**
- **Even those Israelites who believed Ezekiel was a true prophet of God doubted the soon fulfillment of his messages ("he prophesies of times far off").**
- **Interestingly the Apostle Peter predicted that the same attitude would prevail in the last days regarding the second coming of Christ (2Pe.3:3-10).**
- **God's delay is a sign of mercy, not uncertainty.**



Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "None of My words will be postponed any more, but the word which I speak will be done," says the Lord GOD.' "

EZEKIEL 12:28



Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "None of My words will be postponed any more, but the word which I speak will be done," says the Lord GOD.' " (Ek.12:28)

- **Ezekiel said the judgment was not distant; it was standing at Israel's very doorstep ("None of My word will be postponed").**
- **This second proverb, like the first, was giving false hope to a nation that needed a clear understanding of its dire condition.**



FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

12