

Ezekiel 12 – The Effect of Every Vision

By Holly Effiom

VV1-6

What does God say about the children of Israel? Why would he say this?

As a result, what does God direct Ezekiel to do?

Who is Ezekiel's audience? Where are they physically?

Does God want Ezekiel's audience to see what Ezekiel is doing? How do you know?

Why would He want this group to witness this re-enactment? They are in Babylon.

What is the significance of digging through a wall? Where last did we read about this activity and what was it related to?

Why dig through a wall when there's a door for entrance and exit?

Does Ezekiel's dramatization connote secrecy on some level? How so, or not?

Why is God asking Ezekiel to do this?

LESSON: In reading these first verses, I get the sense that God uses the tool of dramatization because the rebelliousness of the people makes them *hard-headed*, even *dense* in their thinking.

VV7-8

Did Ezekiel do what God had requested?

When did he perform the drama?

When did Ezekiel understand the message behind his actions?

What insight does this give us into the nature of prophecy?

Is this significant?

How is this understanding related to the interactions between God and Ezekiel in the first 3 chapters of this book?

LESSON: It's amazing to see that Ezekiel – the same Ezekiel from chapters 1-3 who was angry and bitter towards God – *now*, trusted God so much, such that he followed His directions even without completely understanding the reason for the direction. To me, I now have a greater understanding of what God was doing with His servant in those first few chapters.

VV9-13

What was the understanding God gave Ezekiel about the message?

About whom is the vision?

Was Ezekiel re-enacting an event that will take place in Babylon?

Who is the prince? 2 Kings 25:1-7

What will the prince do?

Will God set a trap for the prince?

Where will the prince be taken?

Will the prince see the journey? What is meant by that?

LESSON: Keep in mind where Ezekiel and his audience are – Babylon – and yet, we learn that he is acting out an event that is related to the prince in Jerusalem. What does this tell us? That there were some among the captivity that still had communication with folks in Jerusalem? That God wants those of the captivity to view what's happening in Jerusalem as a cautionary tale... those in Babylon should take a lesson from the inhabitants of Jerusalem? Hmm. To whom exactly is Ezekiel speaking – *Israel* of that time, or, the end time Gentile nation, *Babylon*?

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VV14-16

- What will happen to the supporters of the prince?
- Will they have it easy?
- What will they understand after all these things befall them?
- Will any escape the sword, the famine, and the pestilence?
- Why will God allow them escape?

LESSON: God gives us insight into what will happen to the supporters of the prince, after his captivity. They too will be scattered and killed by the sword, but some will be kept alive to bear witness to the world of their abominations that brought desolations upon Israel. Will the same be the case in that end-time nation?

VV17-20

- What is meant by “...eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness...”?
- What is the message to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the land of Israel?
- Does God have a message to the end-time nation? How do you know?
- Is the message different from that directed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem?
- What will happen to the cities?
- Why are the desolations being brought upon even the *lowly* in the society?

LESSON: The first part of this chapter tells us what will happen to the prince of Jerusalem, and it moves down to those around him, who support him; and, it proceeds to address what will happen to the average guy on the street. At least, the average guy on the street will have bread and water to eat and drink – remember, the inhabitants of Jerusalem were besieged and there was no bread nor water to drink – but he will eat and drink with “carefulness”; with uncertainty, scarcity, and *shock* at the suddenness of the poverty of the nation.

These events befall the inhabitants because they *all* were violent or *permitted* violence in their society. Violence – the second marker on the road to judgment, to the Day of the Lord.

VV21-28

- About what proverb does God ask? What does it mean?
- What is His point in asking?
- What does God promise in His words to Ezekiel?
- God repeats His words to Ezekiel regarding the proverb mentioned in Israel before. Why does He need to repeat His prophecy?
- To whom is His directing His words?

LESSON: We have proposed in our study of scripture that when God repeats His words that additional information is being imparted. And in Ezekiel, we went further in saying that His message is being directed toward that end-time Gentile nation (Ezekiel 7:10-13).

While it often feels like God’s word, at times, has taken forever to be fulfilled, at the time of calamity for Jerusalem, it felt like His word was being performed immediately, before their very eyes. The message of this section of scripture is that such will also be the case for that end-time Gentile nation.