SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 12

Baggage for Exile: No More Delay

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 12:25

"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."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 12

This week God packs His warning into a bag and carries it through a hole in the wall so no one can miss it. He also takes apart two excuses men use to put Him off: 'It'll never happen' and 'Not yet.' His word always comes true, and that makes His promises in Christ just as sure. Today is the day to turn.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Ezekiel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Eyes That Won't See

READ · EZEKIEL 12:1–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does God call the people in v2, and what exactly does Ezekiel do in vv3–7?

REFLECT

They had "eyes to see but do not see" (v2). What is the one thing in your life you keep refusing to look at?

REFLECT

Ezekiel looked foolish and obeyed anyway: "I did so, as I had been commanded" (v7). Where is God asking you to obey in a way others will see?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God in prayer to show you what you have refused to see, then write down what comes to mind.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 12:25)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Prince in the Dark

READ · EZEKIEL 12:8–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What will the prince do in v12, and what does God say He will do to him in v13?

REFLECT

Zedekiah tried to slip out in the dark, but God said, "I will also spread My net over him" (v13). What are you trying to slip away from instead of facing?

REFLECT

God spared a few so they could tell the nations what their own sin had caused (v16). What could your story of failure and rescue teach someone else?

RESPOND — TODAY

Stop running from one thing today. Make the call, have the talk, or confess the sin you have been hiding.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 12:25)

DAY 3 OF 5

Bread With Trembling

READ · EZEKIEL 12:17–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Ezekiel eat and drink in v18, and what reason does God give in v19?

REFLECT

The land was stripped "on account of the violence of all who live in it" (v19). Where have you seen sin cost far more than it promised?

REFLECT

Many men know what it is to eat with trembling hands, from withdrawal, fear or shame. How does knowing that God names the cause help you find the way back?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before each meal today, pause and thank God for His provision, and ask Him to steady your hands and heart.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 12:25)

DAY 4 OF 5

Every Vision Fails?

READ · EZEKIEL 12:21–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was the proverb in v22, and how does God replace it in v23?

REFLECT

People said, “The days are long and every vision fails” (v22). How have you mistaken God's patience for God not caring or not acting?

REFLECT

God says, “whatever word I speak will be performed” (v25). Which of God's promises do you need to stop doubting this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write out v25 on a card and read it every time you are tempted to think God's word won't come true for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 12:25)

DAY 5 OF 5

Not Yet

READ · EZEKIEL 12:26–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the second group say about Ezekiel's visions in v27, and what is God's answer in v28?

REFLECT

They did not deny God's word; they said it was "for many years from now" (v27). Where in your life are you saying 'later' to God?

REFLECT

God says, "None of My words will be delayed any longer" (v28). What would it look like to obey today instead of Monday, or after you get out?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name the 'later' you have been holding onto, and take the first step on it today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 12:25)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do people stare at the truth and still not see it, and how can we help each other see (v2)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Which excuse is more dangerous for men in recovery, 'It won't happen' (v22) or 'Not yet' (v27), and why?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How does the exact fulfillment of God's warnings to Zedekiah strengthen your trust in His promises (vv13, 25)?

MY PRAYER

Lord, open my eyes and break the 'later' in me, and...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 12:25

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