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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: September 18, 2016**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 12.01-28**

**Text: Ezekiel 12.01-28**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Ezekiel is a sign to all the house of Israel**

After the vision of the destruction of the lying princes in Jerusalem, the prophet Ezekiel had been taken by the spirit back among those of the captivity. He spoke to them about all things which the Lord had shown him. We will notice again in this 12<sup>th</sup> chapter that the sign of Ezekiel the prophet for removing is to the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, and not to Judah only. Judah is that part of the entire nation which was carried away into Chaldea at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

***1 The word of the LORD also came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.***

In these words, the prophet receives no encouragement that his hearers shall hear or perceive. No, for they are a rebellious house. The LORD had not given them ears to hear nor eyes to perceive. The LORD had already warned him of this awful fact.

***Ezekiel 2:3*** *And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have*

*transgressed against me, even unto this very day.*

**Ezekiel 2:6-8** *And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. 7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. 8 But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.*

**3 Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house.**

Thus saith the LORD, "It may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house;" when they see you, the prophet, preparing for and actually carrying stuff for removing in their sight. Ezekiel would remove from his place to another place while they watched him. Thus the LORD commanded the prophet. Prepare stuff for removing or stuff for simply moving from this place to another.

**4 Then shalt thou bring forth thy stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for removing: and thou shalt go forth at even in their sight, as they that go forth into captivity.**

You are going to bring forth your stuff in the daylight so they can

see you. This is the stuff you prepared for removing. In the evening, while it is still light you shall go forth in their sight – as one that goes forth into captivity. Remember, you are a sign to the house of Israel.

**5 Dig thou through the wall in their sight, and carry out thereby.**

Don't come out through the door. Who knows that there is a watch and guard upon the door? No, get to some back part of your house, and dig there. You want to keep all this secret from the invaders. And, Ezekiel, remember that what you are doing in their sight – in a short time they must act out what thou are representing to them. Let us remember that King Zedekiah made his escape in this manner. He went by the way of the gate, between the two walls which was by the king's garden.

**Jeremiah 52:7-8** *Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans were by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain. 8 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.*

**6 In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face, that thou see not the ground: for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel.**

Carry your stuff for removing on your shoulders. Wait until twilight – but still light enough for them to see. Cover your face as you will appear full of shame at being driven from your home.

You are a sign unto the HOUSE OF ISRAEL! Eighty-two (82) times the house of Israel is connected with this prophet in his book. This is striking and needs definite attention as to the scope of this book. In chapters 1-27 of this book, the Holy Spirit mentions Judah seven times only. Judah is mentioned in the last chapters (36-48) as one of the tribes of Israel in connection with the whole house – and their assigned territory when the land is revamped.

***7 And I did so as I was commanded: I brought forth my stuff by day, as stuff for captivity, and in the even I digged through the wall with mine hand; I brought it forth in the twilight, and I bare it upon my shoulder in their sight.***

This marvelous prophet did precisely as the LORD had commanded him. Does not this show his love for the LORD? For if we love him, we shall keep his commandments.

**John 14:15 [Jesus speaking] *If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

***8 And in the morning came the word of the LORD unto me, saying, 9 Son of man, hath not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said unto thee, What doest thou?***

The LORD most certainly knew the words of the house of Israel which they put toward Ezekiel. This they did as scoffing at the

prophet for acting so “weak and silly.” No, it is clear they did not ask. They took no notice of it; never say one word about it, or asked about the meaning of it. They were quite careless, thoughtless, and stupid to see the prophet carrying the burden on his shoulder as moving, yet said nothing about it at all.

***10 Say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; This burden concerneth the prince in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel that are among them. 11 Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: they shall remove and go into captivity.***

Because they took it not to heart – the sign which the LORD had put clearly in front of their eyes, the LORD sends them an answer by the mouth of the Prophet. Thus saith the LORD to Ezekiel, “Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: they shall remove and go into captivity.”

***12 And the prince that is among them shall bear upon his shoulder in the twilight, and shall go forth: they shall dig through the wall to carry out thereby: he shall cover his face, that he see not the ground with his eyes. 13 My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.***

This speaks of the prince of Israel – the king. The prince (King Zedekiah) among them (in the city of Jerusalem) shall bear upon his shoulder, etc. Disguised no doubt as a common ordinary servant, in hope so to escape; but to conceal himself he flees in

a disguise, and chooses the twilight as the time in which he had a chance to escape.

Zedekiah covered his face partly out of grief, partly out of shame. In the very same way that Ezekiel had prefigured Zedekiah's future loss of his eyes, and his blindness.

Nebuchadnezzar slew his sons and put out Zedekiah's eyes.

**Jeremiah 21:7** *And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy.*

**Jeremiah 52:10-11** *And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah. 11 Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.*

**2 Kings 25:6-7** *So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him. 7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.*

**14 And I will scatter toward every wind all that are about him to help him, and all his bands; and I will draw out the sword after them.**

All those who accompanied Zedekiah in his secret fleeing from Jerusalem were scattered to every wind. The LORD drew out the sword of Nebuchadnezzar toward them all. For the whole house of Israel, this is, in part, the fulfilment of the Palestinian Covenant from the closing chapters of Deuteronomy.

**Deuteronomy 28:58-68** *If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; 59 Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. 60 Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. 61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. 62 And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. 63 And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. 64 And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods,*

*which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. **65** And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: **66** And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: **67** In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. **68** And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.*

Please notice: **Deuteronomy 29:14-15** Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; **15 But with him that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day:**

This Palestinian covenant had to do with the nation on through their history – not merely to them who were on the plains of Moab preparing to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land.

***15 And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries.***

When the LORD scatters Israel among the nations – when he disperses them in the countries of the heathen, they shall know that he is the LORD. They shall know the LORD had done it. Every place the LORD sends them, they shall fear or their lives and remember.

**Deuteronomy 28:63-68** *And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. **64** And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. **65** And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: **66** And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: **67** In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. **68** And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.*

O, brethren, this has been true in all the lands where the LORD

has scattered them! And surely we can see this is true of Israel who was carried away by the Assyrian, King Shalmaneser, in 740 B. C.; it is also true of Judah in 600-580 BC. And now, it is again true of the whole of the nation in 70AD when they were scattered into the nations of the world until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

**Luke 21:20-24** *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

**16 But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the LORD.**

The LORD restrained the viciousness of the invaders. The LORD always reserves to himself a remnant of the nation. These would not feel the sword, the famine, nor the pestilence. And this remnant would declare all their abominations among the heathen wherever they are driven. The pronoun "they" shall

know” has its antecedent in the heathen, therefore the heathen shall know that God is the LORD through the confessions of the remnant among the heathen.

***17 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 18 Son of man, eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness; 19 And say unto the people of the land, Thus saith the Lord GOD of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and of the land of Israel; They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein.***

Again, the prophet became a sign to Israel. He ate his bread with quaking (shaking – Hebrew ra-ash). He drank his water with trembling (quivering, quaking) and with carefulness – no doubt for the lack of water. Then this was the pronouncement of the LORD God on the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the land of Israel – not Jerusalem only.

***20 And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

Suddenly, the cities now flourishing with people shall be laid waste – become ghost towns. The land shall be desolate – growing up thorns, thistles, weeds and other things repugnant to those who till the land. In seeing this, His people shall know that God is the LORD! This is always the case! That God’s name be magnified and honored! It is the same with us! We are the creature – and He is the creator. We are the sinners – and He, alone is the Savior. Let us magnify His name.

***21 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 22 Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?***

The LORD directs the attention of the son of man to a proverb of the land of Israel. A proverb is a saying, often a dark saying of the people.

**The days (are prolonged)** of severe punishments, of wrath and vengeance, are to come a great while hence; let them fear who are like to feel them, these prophecies cannot be imagined to occur in our times: thus the atheists, and those who detested the prophets, hardened one another into sin and security.

**Every vision (faileth)**, threatening vision, which Jeremiah at Jerusalem, and Ezekiel here in Chaldea, do dream of and would fright us with, comes to nothing, it is perished or dead. It will never happen here.

***23 Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.***

Ezekiel is the prophet to Israel! He is the spokesman in this troubled time. "Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God;" Your proverb shall cease. You will use it no more. No, because the days are at hand, and the effect of every vision which I have sent.

***24 For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.***

It is as if God knows their thoughts – which he does. It is as if Israel were saying, “The words of the prophets are too hard for us, prophesy unto us smooth things. The land cannot bear their words!” But your vain vision and flattering divining shall perish from Israel.

Thanks be to God that all the “smooth things” and the “prosperity doctrine” will perish from this land. God’s sure word shall stand and what he has purposed shall come to pass! Who shall stay His hand? And who can stand when once He becomes angry?

***25 For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.***

***For I am the LORD!*** – How marvelous! God is the GREAT I AM and there is none else!

**Isaiah 45:6-7** *That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*

***I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O***

**rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the LORD GOD.** – Who can doubt that when God speaks a thing, that it shall not come to pass when he purposes it; how he purposes it; and upon whom he purposes it?

**Isaiah 43:11-13** *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. 12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. 13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?*

**Isaiah 46:9-10** *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

**Isaiah 55:10-11** *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

**26 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 27 Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the**

***times that are far off.***

God's word comes again to the prophet. Ezekiel, son of man, behold (look, listen) they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off! O how they would have loved for it to be so!

**Ecclesiastes 8:11** *Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

**28 Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.**

Because they say the vision of trouble is for many days to come – it is a prophecy of things far off, the LORD instructed the prophet to tell them “There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the LORD GOD!”

The Prophet Jeremiah also speaks of this time which the LORD has commanded:

**Jeremiah 4:7** *The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.*

I have to ask, do we think the beginnings of sorrow is in a time

far ahead of us? Are we lot living in the very latest of the latter days?

**Matthew 24:11-14** *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

**2 Timothy 3:1-7** *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Let us hold fast to the faith once for all delivered unto the saints. Let us, because our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. It is high time to awake out of sleep! Let us know the time for the night if far spent, the day is at hand. Even now, we doubt not that anti-christ walks on earth. Let us cast off the works of darkness – the love for the things of this world! Let us put on the armor of light and walk honestly as in the day! Let us make no provision for

the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof. The day is at hand!

Let us exhort one another – and so much the more as we see the day approaching! We are not in darkness that this day take us unawares! We are the children of light! We are aware of the times and seasons. Our LORD cometh! And we shall be taken to HIM! Dear sinner, friend, are you ready to meet your God? For meet him, you shall! Remember, if you do not believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was, and is, the son of the living God, you shall die in your sins!