

Ezekiel 12:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God declares His sovereign control: '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.' This powerful declaration emphasizes divine sovereignty, efficacy of God's word, and imminence of judgment. The repeated first-person 'I' statements stress divine agency—God personally speaks, and personally ensures fulfillment.

The phrase 'word that I shall speak shall come to pass' (הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יִשְׁׁלָמֶה, ha-davar asher adabber ye'aseh, *הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יִשְׁׁלָמֶה*) emphasizes the performative nature of divine speech. God's words don't merely describe future events; they create and guarantee them. This recalls creation by divine fiat (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9) and anticipates Isaiah's declaration about God's word not returning void (Isaiah 55:11). What God speaks, He accomplishes.

From a Reformed perspective, this verse teaches the doctrine of God's decree—His eternal purpose determining whatsoever comes to pass. God's speech isn't tentative or contingent but certain and efficacious. This provides assurance that biblical promises will be fulfilled as certainly as biblical warnings were. The same sovereignty that guaranteed judgment guarantees salvation for the elect in Christ.

Historical Context

The phrase 'in your days' announced imminence—judgment would occur within that generation's lifetime. This proved true; Ezekiel prophesied around 591 BC, Jerusalem fell in 586 BC. Most of his original audience lived to witness fulfillment, vindicating his prophecies. The 'rebellious house' designation (repeated throughout Ezekiel) emphasized they received judgment they earned.

God's declaration 'I will speak...will perform' parallels ancient Near Eastern royal decrees. Kings would issue edicts expecting automatic fulfillment. But human kings' words often failed through rebellion, inability, or unforeseen circumstances. In stark contrast, divine decrees face no obstacles. What Yahweh speaks, He accomplishes, demonstrating sovereignty infinitely exceeding human authority. This would comfort faithful Israelites—God's promises of restoration were equally certain.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the performative nature of God's word (speak = perform) assure believers of promise fulfillment?
2. What does God's declaration 'it shall be no more prolonged' teach about divine timing and human impatience?
3. In what ways should confidence in God's sovereign decree shape your trust in biblical promises?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:11 (Word): 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.

Ezekiel 12:28 (Word): 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.

Habakkuk 1:5 (Parallel theme): Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

Isaiah 14:24 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:33 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Jeremiah 16:9 (References God): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

Ezekiel 6:10 (References Lord): And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.

Zechariah 1:6 (Word): But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

Lamentations 2:17 (Word): The LORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.