

Ezekiel 12:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God responds decisively: '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.' God announces immediate fulfillment—no more delay. The Hebrew emphasizes divine determination: what God has spoken will be accomplished without further postponement. The time of warning has ended; the time of execution has arrived.

The double formula 'Thus saith the Lord GOD...saith the Lord GOD' (bookending the verse) emphasizes divine authority and certainty. This isn't prophetic speculation but sovereign decree. The phrase 'shall be done' (ye'aseh, יַעֲשֶׂה) indicates certain accomplishment—God's word is performative, creating the reality it announces. No human skepticism can prevent divinely-decreed judgment.

From a Reformed perspective, this verse illustrates God's absolute sovereignty and the efficacy of His word. When God speaks, reality conforms. His patience has limits; when exhausted, judgment comes swiftly. This warns against presuming on divine forbearance—God's apparent slowness isn't inability but patience, which eventually gives way to justice. The certainty of God's word should motivate urgent repentance, not comfortable dismissal.

Historical Context

This prophecy was fulfilled within approximately five years (spoken around 591 BC, Jerusalem fell 586 BC). Those who dismissed Ezekiel's visions as 'far off' lived to witness their fulfillment, vindicating the prophet and condemning the skeptics. The sudden transition from extended warning to rapid judgment demonstrated that God's timing, though patient, is purposeful and certain.

The pattern recurs in salvation history—prolonged warning periods followed by swift judgment (Noah's generation, Sodom, Jerusalem in both 586 BC and 70 AD). This warns that divine patience shouldn't be mistaken for divine indifference. When God's appointed time arrives, judgment comes regardless of human skepticism, mockery, or sophisticated dismissal.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of God's word ('shall be done') challenge human skepticism and presumption?
2. What does the transition from prolonged warning to swift judgment teach about divine patience and timing?
3. In what ways should the historical fulfillment of this prophecy shape confidence in unfulfilled biblical predictions?

Interlinear Text

לֹכֶּךָ | אָמַר | אֵלֶיָּהּ | כִּי | אָמַר | אֲדֹנָיִי | יְהוָה: | לֹא
H3651 **Therefore say** H413 H3541 **Therefore say** **the Lord** **GOD** H3808
H559 H559 H136 H3069

תִּמְשָׁךְ | עֹד | כָּל | דְּבָר | אֲשֶׁר
be prolonged H5750 H3605 **There shall none of my words** H834
H4900 H1697

אֲדֹבֶר | דְּבָר | וְעָשָׂה | נֹאֵם | אֲדֹנָיִי |
which I have spoken **There shall none of my words** **shall be done** **saith** **the Lord**
H1696 H1697 H6213 H5002 H136

יְהוָה:
GOD
H3069