

## **The So-Called King**

Ezekiel 12

by Don Falkos

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The Lord said to Ezekiel, "You are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes, but don't notice what they see. They have ears, but don't pay attention to what they hear. This is what you must do: During the daylight, while everyone is watching, pack as if you were going into exile. When evening comes, dig a hole through the wall, shoulder your pack, and carry it out into the darkness with your face covered so you can't see the ground.

Ezekiel did as the Lord instructed. The next morning, people asked the prophet, "What was that all about?"

He replied, "It was a prophecy concerning Zedekiah, the so-called king in Jerusalem. Like everyone else still living there, Zedekiah will shoulder his pack and sneak out of the city through a hole in the wall. But he will be captured and brought into exile here in Babylon. Yet he will not see the land he is leaving, nor will he see this land, the land in which he will die. The rest of the people in Jerusalem will suffer one of two fates: they will either die or they will be scattered far and wide."

Then Ezekiel was told to "tremble while you eat your food and drink your water. Then say to the people, 'Those still living in Jerusalem will tremble with fear even as they eat and drink, knowing the city will soon be laid waste.' "

In response Ezekiel's neighbors said to him, "Time keeps passing, and none of your prophecies are fulfilled." And to each other they said, "His visions are about the distant future." But the Lord said, "There will no longer be any delay. Everything I have said is about to take place."