



HOURS WITH THE BIBLE.

CHAPTER I.

A VOICE FROM CHEBAR, AGAINST JUDAH.

NOTHING was more fatal to the religious life of the exiles in Chaldea, or their brethren still left in Judah, than the confident air of members of the order of prophets, who held out hopes directly opposed to the warnings of men like Ezekiel and Jeremiah. The result had been a general disbelief in prophecy. It had become a common saying that "The days of trouble are long in coming; all prophecy is deceit."¹ Men who thus misled the community by audacious misrepresentations made in the sacred name of God, needed to be openly assailed, and Ezekiel, therefore, determined thoroughly to expose them. Referring to the proverb so current, he informed his fellow-captives that Jehovah commanded him to address them thus, in His name:—

23 I will² make this proverb cease, so that it will no longer be used in Israel. Say to them: The days of visitation and of the fulfilment of every prediction are at hand. 24 For there shall no more be lying vision, or false flattering divination, in the House

¹ Ezek. xii. 22.

² Ezek. xii. 23-28.