

Ezekiel

Book Study

Chapters 35 & 36

Chapters 35-36: (NKJV) with notes

35 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ² “Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it, ³ and say to it, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:

“Behold, O Mount Seir, I *am* against you;
I will stretch out My hand against you,
And make you most desolate;
⁴ I shall lay your cities waste,
And you shall be desolate.
Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

- On the eastern side of the Jordan River, Mount Seir was a center of the Edomites, the descendants of Jacob’s brother Esau. This is a word against the nation of Edom and Mount Seir is the region’s high place. Ezekiel has already prophesied against Edom in Ezekiel 25. (Enduring Word)

⁵ “Because you have had an ancient hatred,

- “The Edomites were the descendants of *Esau*; the Israelites, the descendants of *Jacob*. Both these were brothers; and between them there was contention even in the womb, and they lived generally in a state of enmity. Their descendants kept up the ancient feud: but the Edomites were implacable; they had not only a *rooted* but *perpetual enmity* to the Israelites, harassing and distressing them by all possible means.” (Clarke)
- “Edom could not escape the application of the Abrahamic covenant, which explains the strong language and the irrevocable judgment on her. When a nation gives itself over to perpetual hatred of Israel, then there is no other alternative than perpetual desolation from God.” (Feinberg)

and have shed *the blood of* the children of Israel by the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity *came to an end*, ⁶ therefore, *as I live*,” says the Lord GOD, “I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you.

- “The four occurrences of blood (Hebrew, *dam*) in verse 6 constitute a play on the name of Edom (red).” (Feinberg)

⁷ Thus I will make Mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns. ⁸ And I will fill its mountains with the slain; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those who are slain by the sword shall fall. ⁹ I will make you **perpetually desolate**, and your cities shall be uninhabited; then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

- "The main cities were Petra and Teman, which now lie in ruins. The prediction has been literally fulfilled." (Feinberg)
- ii. "Edom's sin was perpetual hatred, and Edom's punishment shall be perpetual desolations.

¹⁰ "Because you have said, 'These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them,' although the LORD was there,

- Some think the two countries are Edom and Judah, and others think they are Judah and Israel. The sense is the same in both; Edom wanted the land of Judah and Israel and thought they might take it when the Assyrians exiled Israel out of the land and when the Babylonians depopulated Judah. (Enduring Word)
- The Edomites wanted the land of Judah (and Israel), and thought that since the Babylonians had taken the Jews out of the land, it was theirs for the taking. They forgot the great truth that even though the Jews were temporarily exiled out of the land, **the LORD was there**. He would guard and preserve *His* land against them. (Enduring Word)

¹¹ therefore, *as I live*," says the Lord GOD, "I will do according to your anger and according to the envy which you showed in your hatred against them; and I will make Myself known among them when I judge you. ¹² Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD. I have heard all your blasphemies which you have spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, 'They are desolate; they are given to us to consume.' ¹³ Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard *them*."

¹⁴ Thus says the Lord GOD: "The whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate.

- The whole of the empire and the spiritual voices of nature would rejoice at the perpetual desolations against Edom.

¹⁵ As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Israel was desolate, so I will do to you; you shall be desolate, O Mount Seir, as well as all of Edom—all of it! Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD." '

- When Israel was reformed as a nation in 1948, an internal conflict arose between the returning Jews and the Arab population living in the land they called "Palestine." The United Nations partitioned Palestine, giving the Jews a land grant in what was originally Israel, but was known since the Roman occupation of AD 70 as Palestine. After the war of 1967 when Jerusalem was reunited and became the capital of Israel, the clash between the Jews in Israel and the

Palestinian people intensified into a conflict over who really owns the land.

In this chapter, Ezekiel pronounces a prophecy against Edom, a large tribal nation living in the area of Mount Seir. From a historical perspective, Edom is actually the land settled by Esau, the son of Isaac and twin brother of Jacob. Esau left home in anger, married a daughter of Ishmael, and settled in the region of Mount Seir, an area in the southern mountain ranges of present-day Jordan, south of the Dead Sea.

Some scholars place this prophecy of the “two nations becoming ours” to a previous fulfillment, where ancient Samaria and Judea came under the complete control of the Babylonians after Jerusalem was devastated by the invasion. However, many of the statements that Israel’s enemies made are parallel to the very ideas and concepts driving the desire to form a Palestinian state within the boundaries of modern Israel. According to Ezekiel, Edom has a “perpetual hatred” for Israel, a fact that dates back to the conflict between Esau and Jacob. Edom desired to take possession of two nations and two countries, which in the pre-exilic period would have been the northern and southern kingdoms of Judea and Samaria.

Edom desired the ancient high places, according to Ezekiel 36:1-2: “Alas, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord: Thus saith the Lord God; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession.” In the Old Testament, the ancient high places are the mountains of Judea and Samaria, identified today as the “West Bank.” Before the 1967 Six-Day War, the West Bank region was part of the kingdom of Jordan, under the control of the Jordanian military. After the war of 1967, the entire area of Judea and Samaria was annexed as part of Israel. This region of Israel is the heart of a continual political-spiritual conflict, in which international pressure demands the removal of the alleged Israeli “occupiers,” enabling the formation of a new “Palestinian state,” controlled and governed solely by Palestinian authority. Interestingly, tens of thousands of Palestinians who trace their ancestral history back hundreds of years – a few as far back as the ancient tribes such as the Canaanites – are actually descendants of the sons of Esau and presently live in or around Jordan, Samaria, Judea, and East Jerusalem. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, p. 1286

Blessing on Israel

36 “And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD! ² Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because the enemy has said of you, ‘Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,’ ” ³ therefore prophesy, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because they made *you* desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people”—

- Since 1948, Israel has negotiated with politicians, national and international leaders, and selected Palestinian leaders to make peace within the borders of Israel by giving special rights to the Palestinian people. However, many Palestinians desire more than a nation within the nation. They desire that Israel would cease as a nation and the Islamic world would form a new caliphate with the headquarters in Jerusalem, the third holiest site of Islam. To form a new

caliphate, there would be a new unit of Islamic nations coming under the control of one main Islamic leader.

Ezekiel describes how Israel would be swallowed up by “talkers” or as we would say today, “negotiations.” Ezekiel 36:3 says, “They have...swallowed you up on every side, that ye might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen, and ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and are an infamy of the people.” The Hebrew word for *talker* means “a forked tongue, a babbler, a slanderer.” These false talkers have long surrounded Israel; even Ezekiel refers to them when he says that they have swallowed you up on every side. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, p. 1286

4 therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around— **5** therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy *and* spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country.” ’

6 “Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations.”’ **7** Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that *are* around you shall bear their own shame.

- One of the main accusations leveled against Israel is that they have “devoured” people and “bereaved” their nation. This attitude of Israel being a troublemaker is evident, as even today the Jews are often blamed for the ills of the Middle East and other parts of the world. Note also that Ezekiel calls the accusers an “infamy” among the people. This Hebrew word for infamy means “a defaming; an evil report.” Ezekiel describes individuals attempting to defame Israel, and as is still happening today, attempting to retake land previously lost during war.

While some interpret these passages as references to a past season in history, because of the flow of the prophesy and the fact that chapters 37-39 deal with Israel’s restorations and chapters 40-47 focus on the Messiah’s millennial reign, then these predictions of the enemies attempting to divide the land certainly fit the present situations. The sons of Edom continue to shed the blood of the Israelis, even when their “calamity” of captivity has concluded. (35:5)

This chapter could also be a rare “dual prophecy,” in that the predictions have a present-future application and a past application. This is true because at the same time, when Israel was dispersed into Chaldea, the inhabitants of Edom saw an opportunity to take possession of the land. There were no Israelite soldiers and men to prevent them from moving into the land and taking possession of it. The Lord reminds Edom He Would defend the land and eventually judge both Mount Seir and Idumea. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, p. 1286

8 But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come. **9** For indeed I *am* for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown.

- Even though they were torn down and sent into captivity, the Lord tells Judah and Israel they are just being sown. Alluding to a time when the Lord would harvest and reap them back together into their homeland.

¹⁰ I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. ¹¹ I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better *for you* than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD. ¹² Yes, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; they shall take possession of you, and you shall be their inheritance; no more shall you bereave them *of children.*”

¹³ ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because they say to you, ‘You devour men and bereave your nation *of children,*’ ¹⁴ therefore you shall devour men no more, nor bereave your nation anymore,” says the Lord GOD. ¹⁵ **“Nor will I let you hear the taunts of the nations anymore, nor bear the reproach of the peoples anymore, nor shall you cause your nation to stumble anymore,” says the Lord GOD.’ ”**

The Renewal of Israel

¹⁶ Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ¹⁷ “Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. ¹⁸ Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols *with which* they had defiled it. ¹⁹ So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. ²⁰ When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, ‘These *are* the people of the LORD, *and* yet they have gone out of His land.’ ²¹ But I had **concern for My holy name**, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

- When perilous times come upon God’s family, or severe judgment, the Lord cares about His Holy Name. And restores it’s glory and fame, even when his people profaned it and make a mockery of God.

²² “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, **but for My holy name’s sake**, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD,” says the Lord GOD, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will **sprinkle clean water on you**, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

- Hence where we get dedication ceremonies with some denominations. This is also similar to what Jesus was referring to when He washed His disciples' feet. Only a little of the water of God is enough to cleanse a whole person and bring them back to righteousness with God.

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

- This is one of the very best promises we get in Ezekiel, God's power is miraculous in turning a man's stone cold heart, and making it soft and malleable for Him to mold. And in this verse, we see a promise of God's Holy Spirit baptism *within* His children, not just upon. This is fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in Acts.

28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. **29** I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. **30** And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. **31** Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. **32** Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

- The shame and confoundment were to bring a Godly repentance and fear of the Lord.

33 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable *you* to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. **34** The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. **35** So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities *are now* fortified *and* inhabited.' **36** Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken *it*, and I will do *it*."

37 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock. **38** Like a flock *offered as holy sacrifices*, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' "