

Pentwater Bible Church

*Ezekiel Message 75
March 12, 2017*



Jacob Offers Lentils to Esau for the Birthright by Gioacchino Assereto Cir 17th Century

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Seventy-Five

PROPHECY AGAINST EDOM (MOUNT SEIR)

March 12, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 35:1-15

¹ Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ²Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it, ³and say unto it, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against thee, and I will make thee a desolation and an astonishment. ⁴I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate; and thou shalt know that I am Jehovah. ⁵Because thou hast had a perpetual enmity, and hast given over the children of Israel to the power of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time of the iniquity of the end; ⁶therefore, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: since thou hast not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue thee. ⁷Thus will I make mount Seir an astonishment and a desolation; and I will cut off from it him that passeth through and him that returneth. ⁸And I will fill its mountains with its slain: in thy hills and in thy valleys and in all thy watercourses shall they fall that are slain with the sword. ⁹I will make thee a perpetual desolation, and thy cities shall not be inhabited; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah.

¹⁰Because thou hast said, These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas Jehovah was there: ¹¹therefore, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast showed out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I shall judge thee. ¹²And thou shalt know that I, Jehovah, have heard all thy revilings which thou hast spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, They are laid desolate, they are given us to devour. ¹³And ye have magnified yourselves against me with your mouth, and have multiplied your words against me: I have heard it. ¹⁴Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: When the whole earth rejoiceth, I will make thee desolate. ¹⁵As thou didst rejoice over the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and all Edom, even all of it; and they shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

THE PROPHECY AGAINST EDOM

Ezekiel 35:1-5

¹ Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ²Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it, ³and say unto it, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against thee, and I will make thee a desolation and an astonishment, . ⁴I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate; and thou shalt know that I am Jehovah. ⁵Because thou hast had a perpetual enmity,

and hast given over the children of Israel to the power of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time of the iniquity of the end (ASV, 1901).

This prophecy is an expansion of that which the Lord gave Ezekiel which was recorded in Ezekiel 25:12-14. Edom is characterized here by the mountain range on the east border of the Wadi Arabah south of the Dead Sea. Edom is a prototype of all Gentile nations in general and more specifically the Arab States. Ezekiel is commanded to convey a



From <http://www.bible-history.com/maps/edomites.html>

prophecy of God to the nation of Edom emphasizing His desire to destroy Edom as a judgment for the way in which they have historically treated Israel. One question which always seems to arise is why the judgment on just Esau. When, Esau (Edom) was Jacob's (Israel) brother they both seemed to be sinners. From birth Jacob had his hand upon the heel of his brother Esau. Jacob was to receive the Abrahamic covenant as revealed to his mother Rebecca. But he took advantage of Esau and some would say stole the covenant by deceit. He did that to be sure but God's plan was for him to have it and he was punished by God through his father in law Lavan for the manner in which he took it. Laban made him an indentured servant for nearly twenty years. God has said that, "I loved Jacob! And Esau I hated" (Malachi 1:3; Romans 9:13). Since God looks on the heart of a person and not the outward appearance we can see that God says that Esau despised his birthright (Genesis 25:34, Hebrews 12:16). Even though Jacob and Esau later made peace it was clear that they did not trust one another (Genesis 32:3-21). This mistrust was conveyed to successive generations in Edom and through that they persecuted the Jews in many instances. Because of Edom's perpetual hatred of Israel they even were willing to turn Jewish escapees over to the Babylonians while they at the same time were subjected to the

Babylonians. In fact God through Obadiah prophesied that God would destroy the nation of Edom because of its pride and violence, particularly in looking down on Judah's misfortune, and mentioning their dealings with the Babylonians to cause harm to the Jews. When determining the degree of judgment against those who have come against the Nation Israel God seems to consider at least two factors. First their history and degree of hatred toward the Jews and second how closely they are related by blood to Israel.

Obadiah 10-14

¹⁰*For the violence done to thy brother Jacob, shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.* ¹¹*In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that strangers carried away his substance, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.* ¹²*But look not thou on the day of thy brother in the day of his disaster, and rejoice not over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither speak proudly in the day of distress.* ¹³*Enter not into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, look not thou on their affliction in the day of their calamity, neither lay ye hands on their substance in the day of their calamity.* ¹⁴*And stand thou not in the crossway, to cut off those of his that escape; and deliver not up those of his that remain in the day of distress (ASV, 1901).*

GOD'S JUDGMENT OF PERPETUAL DESOLATION

Ezekiel 35:6-9

⁶*Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: since thou hast not hated blood(shed), therefore blood shall pursue thee.* ⁷*Thus will I make mount Seir an astonishment and a desolation; and I will cut off from it him that passeth through and him that returneth.* ⁸*And I will fill its mountains with its slain: in thy hills and in thy valleys and in all thy watercourses shall they fall that are slain with the sword.* ⁹*I will make thee a perpetual desolation, and thy cities shall not be inhabited; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

God says that the destruction will be total and He will leave their mountains, hills, valleys and the watercourses strewn with bodies and blood. This is a massive degree of destruction on Edom. Edom was considered Israel's most bitter enemy primarily due to the closeness of the association by blood, that is, the warring twins Jacob and Esau (Edom). God says that this, because they have not had a hatred of bloodshed, those of whom they have shed blood will pursue them. This is apparent as we can see from many section of Scripture. For example:

1. Edom gave aid to Babylon (Ezekiel 35:5; Obadiah 1)
2. Tried to annex Israel's territory as her own (Ezekiel 35:10)
3. Vengeful joy over Judah and hatred (Ezekiel 35:12; Isaiah 34:5; 63:1-4; Psalm 137:7; Malachi 1:2-5)
4. Her perpetual enmity (Amos 1:11)
5. She refused the Jews in the Exodus safe passage into Canaan (Numbers 20:14-18)

This destruction will be total and there will be no nation call Edom in the Messianic Kingdom. The Lord will bring His wrath upon Edom in due time which will cause them to become a reproach, a waste and a curse (Jeremiah 49:19-20). The means that God will utilize will be war and an armed military conflict which will probably come near the end of the Great Tribulation when all armies of the world come toward Jerusalem to attempt to destroy it (Zechariah 14:2). This is not to say that God has not caused them to receive partial judgment in the past. For example their main cities were Petra and Teman both of which lie in ruins. Petra will be a place for the Jews to flee during the tribulation and the Lord will make His first stop there in the campaign of Armageddon. For now it is a uninhabited ruin. Edom was first subjugated by the Babylonians and then Media-Persia and then in 126 B.C. they were compelled to become Jews by the Hasmonean John Hyrcanus. There is no easily identifiable trace of Edomites now although their abandoned cities can still be identified. But God knows who they are and they will be destroyed.

TWO NATIONS WERE DESIRED

Ezekiel 35:10-11

¹⁰Because thou hast said, These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas Jehovah was there: ¹¹therefore, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast showed out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I shall judge thee (ASV, 1901).

God speaks of the two nations of Israel and Judah which He says Edom wanted to possess. Edom wanted to take the land that they thought should rightfully be theirs due to their view of Jacob's deception of Esau and then Isaac (Genesis 27:1-40). This jealousy led them to desire Israel's land both the north and the south. They seemed to think by aiding the Babylonians that they would be able to take the Jews land after the final Babylonian captivity. Since God hears and knows everything He knew that the Edomites wanted the northern and southern Kingdoms of Israel. Therefore He said that He would do to them exactly what they intended to do to the Jews. In fact when he brings judgment upon them they will realize just who is doing it to them. God says that vengeance belongs to Him, He will repay (Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19). In their envy to possess something that God gave to somebody else namely the Jews they lusted after it and were willing to murder to obtain it.

James 4:2-3

² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts (KJV).

Lust, envy or jealousy is an ungodly fruit of the flesh. It comes from the unsaved natural man that does not have the Holy Spirit living within. The fruits of the flesh are driven from the satanic unsaved person, whether they realize and acknowledge it or not.

Galatians 5:16-21

¹⁶ *I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

¹⁷ *For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. These are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.* ¹⁸ *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are revealed, which are these: adultery, sexual immorality, impurity, lewdness,* ²⁰ *idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousy, rage, selfishness, dissensions, heresies,* ²¹ *envy, murders, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I previously warned you, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (MEV).*

It is real clear that Edom will not be going in to the Messianic Kingdom when God establishes it.

EDOM'S SINS ARE AGAINST GOD

Ezekiel 35:12-13

¹² *And thou shalt know that I, Jehovah, have heard all thy revilings which thou hast spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, They are laid desolate, they are given us to devour.* ¹³ *And ye have magnified yourselves against me with your mouth, and have multiplied your words against me: I have heard it (ASV, 1901).*

God says He heard all their revilings. The word revilings is more accurately translated as blasphemies from the Hebrew word *neatzah*. It has the characteristic of being provoking with reproachful accursing speech. Now the Jews are the apple of His eye. Anyone who harms the Jews will receive personal harm from God Himself. He proclaimed this in Genesis 12:3 to Abraham in the covenant He gave to him. He later also affirmed it through Zechariah.

Zechariah 2:2-9

⁸ *For thus saith Jehovah of hosts: After glory hath he sent me unto the nations which plundered you; for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.*

⁹ *For, behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall be a spoil to those that served them; and ye shall know that Jehovah of hosts hath sent me (ASV, 1901).*

As God states His love for Israel, He also provides some personal insight into that relationship with these verses. The one who speaks is a Divine being who brings judgment to the nations and then comes to love and dwell with His people in Jerusalem. God says it is as if the pupil of His eye has been harmed indicating a very close and personal pain when anyone who harms the Jews. The Hebrew word used here literally means "the gate," or the opening of the eye and that is the pupil of the eye. This is the aperture through which light and images pass through to the retina and is the tenderest part of the eye. We carefully guard this as very precious because the slightest injury can cause a loss that is irreplaceable. They will know who it is that they *have magnified yourselves against me*

with your mouth, and have multiplied your words against me. All sin is against God. For those who harm Israel this sin is clearly directly against Him. In fact as we see in Zechariah 2:8 Jehovah God is sending the second person of the Trinity to deal in judgment with those who harm Israel. This is none other than the Lord Jesus who will conduct the Tribulation bring judgment on a despotic government who will implement the worst persecution of the Jewish people of all times (Revelation 5:1-19-21). Two thirds of them will die at the hands of the Antichrist's armies and police brutality.

FINAL DESOLATION OF EDOM

Ezekiel 35:14-15

¹⁴Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: When the whole earth rejoiceth, I will make thee desolate. ¹⁵As thou didst rejoice over the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and all Edom, even all of it; and they shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

The time of the whole earth rejoicing is clearly the Messianic Kingdom when there is universal peace, security, safety and plenty of food. Edom will not be a nation at that time. They will be destroyed during the campaign of Armageddon and will not have a place in the Kingdom. Their destruction will finally provide peace between them and the nation Israel.

NEXT MESSAGE: GOD'S PROMISE TO RETURN ISRAEL TO THE LAND

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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