FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 35

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

	INWARD → Personal	OUTWARD ← Peoples	ONWARD |→ Prophetic
CHAPTERS	1 — 3	4 — 24	25 — 32	33 — 48
	Ezekiel's Call to Ministry	**Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem**	**Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel**	**Restoration of Israel in the Future**

	• Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC)
	• 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25
	• 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30
		• A Disobedient Nation (**4-7**)
		• A Departed Glory (**8-11**)
		• A Disciplined Nation (**12-24**)
		  • The Futility of False Optimism (**12-19**)
		  • The History of Judah's Corruption (**20-24**)
			• Ammon (**25:1-7**)
			• Moab (**25:8-11**)
			• Edom (**25:12-14**)
			• Philistia (**25:15-17**)
			• Tyre (**26:1—28:19**)
			• Sidon (**28:20-24**)
			• Egypt (**29-32**)
				• Return of Israel to the land (**33-39**)
				• Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (**40-48**)
				• Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God

593BC	**Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem**	587BC	**Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem**	586BC	**Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem**	571BC
	The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT			**The City Restored** 15 Years Prophesying HOPE



Author: Ezekiel ("God strengthens") **Place:** Babylonia **Time:** About 22 years (593-571BC)

Events:

605BC	— FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken)	Ezekiel 17 years old
597BC	— SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken)	Ezekiel 25 years old
593BC	— Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel	Ezekiel 30 years old
586BC	— THIRD assult upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed)	Ezekiel 37 years old

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 35

- This chapter is given to Edom or Seir and certain condemnations will be uttered against that nation because of its hatred for God's people.

- In Ezekiel 35 God said Edom will be made desolate, while in chapter 36 it says Israel will be restored.



INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 35

- Ezekiel 35:1—36:15 describes how the foreign plundering nations would be removed and judged in preparation for Israel's return to her own land.
- Ezekiel 36:16—37:14 provides a beautiful and descriptive account of God's restoration of Israel to her land.
- Ezekiel 37:15-28 stresses the full reunion of the nation and the fulfillment of her covenants when this peace covenant is established.
- Ezekiel 38-39 develops Israel's permanent security in the Lord as He stops the final attempt by a foreign power (Gog).




EDOM
DESTROYED
Ezekiel 35:1-15

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 35:1



Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.35:1)



for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (**2Pe.2:21**).

- **Edom wanted the blessing of Israel's land, but they did not want the Lord.**



Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it,





EZEKIEL 35:2

KINGDOM OF EDOM



- Edom was an ancient people group that inhabited the land south of Judah and the Dead Sea.
- The Edomites, also called Idumeans, descended from Esau, the twin brother of Jacob (Genesis 36:1).
- The word Edom in Hebrew means “red,” a reference to Esau’s reddish look at birth (Genesis 25:25).
- Despite their shared ancestry, the Edomites and Israelites lived in almost perpetual conflict.



Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it, (Ek.35:2)

- Why did Ezekiel devote a second prophecy to Edom (Ek.25:12-14), and why was it placed in this section on Israel's restoration?
- Most likely Edom was listed here to represent the judgment God would inflict on all nations who oppose Israel.
- Edom was the prototype of all Israel's later foes.
- The first use of the expression "set your face against" in this book occurs in a prophecy against the mountains of Israel (Ek.6:2).



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;

EZEKIEL 35:3



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; (Ek.35:3)

- The destruction of Edom would signal the beginning of God's judgment on the whole earth based on that nation's treatment of Israel (Ge.12:3).

- In a direct statement of judgment on Edom, God said, I am against you, Mount Seir.

- Seir, Edom's geographical name, was the mountain range east of the Wadi Arabah south of the Dead Sea.



I shall lay your cities waste, And you shall be desolate. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.



EZEKIEL 35:4



I shall lay your cities waste, And you shall be desolate. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.35:4)

- This was the mountainous homeland where the Edomites lived.
- God would make that people as desolate as their land.
- God would destroy Edom's cities (Ek.36:10), and the Edomites would learn that He is God.



Because you have had an ancient hatred, 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,

EZEKIEL 35:5

Because you have had an ancient hatred, 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, (Ek.35:5)

- **Ezekiel uses the "because/therefore" format (used in Ek.25:1-17) in explaining why Edom would be judged.**
- **Edom's sin was her enmity against Israel.**
- **She had harbored an ancient hostility and delivered the Israelites over to the sword (Ob.1:10, 14).**
- **Edom hoped to profit from Israel's loss, and she abetted Israel's collapse.**



Because you have had an ancient hatred, 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, (Ek.35:5)

[10]"For violence against your brother Jacob,
Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever. [14]You should not have stood at the crossroads To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress. (Obadiah 1:10,14)



Because you have had an ancient hatred, 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, (Ek.35:5)

- **Of all Israel and Judah's neighbors, the Edomites were the only ones not promised any mercy from God.**
- **This was because they looted Jerusalem and rejoiced at the misfortunes of Israel and Judah.**
- **They betrayed their blood brothers in times of crisis and aided their brothers' enemies.**



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.

EZEKIEL 35:6

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. (Ek.35:6)

- **Four times in Ezekiel 35:6 God referred to bloodshed (*dām*, lit., “blood”). This may be a wordplay on Edom’s name (“to be red”).**



- **Edom, with its red mountains, was now red with blood.**

- **Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.**

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. (Ek.35:6)

- **The sovereign Lord swore, He would turn the Edomites over to others who would shed their blood.**

- **Since they had not tried to prevent bloodshed in Israel, they would experience bloodshed in Edom.**



Thus I will make Mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns.



EZEKIEL 35:7



Thus I will make Mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns. (Ek.35:7)

- Many people would be slain and her towns would become desolate, no longer inhabited.
- God would make Mount Seir a desolate waste, such a desolation that few people would visit it.
- “the one who returns” means the land will be made so desolate that it will put a stop to coming and going.
- There will be nothing to encourage any kind of traffic.



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.

EZEKIEL 35:8

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. (Ek.35:8)

- **The Edomites would fall slain in all parts of their land (Ek.6:3, 7).**

- **Not taken too literal, this means that dead people will be seen in all places named.**



I will make you perpetually desolate, and your cities shall be uninhabited; then you shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 35:9

I will make you perpetually desolate, and your cities shall be uninhabited; then you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.35:9)

- Because Edom had assisted in Israel's slaughter, God would assist in her slaughter.
- Edom would suffer the same fate she had tried to inflict on Israel.
- They would never recover from this judgment, and their cities would remain uninhabited.
- This was a harsher fate than even what God inflicted on Egypt (Ek.29:14) or Ammon (Je.49:6).
- Then the Edomites would know that Yahweh is the only true God.



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

EZEKIEL 35:10

Because you have said, 'These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them,' although the LORD was there, (Ek.35:10)

- **Edom also sinned in her desire to possess the land God had promised to Judah and Israel.**

- **Edom had said those two nations would become her possession.**



Because you have said, 'These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them,' although the LORD was there, (Ek.35:10)

- **The Edomites had wanted to take over the lands of both Israel and Judah even though they were the lands of Yahweh (Ek.36:12).**
- **Ancient Near Easterners viewed the lands of nations as the domain of the gods of those nations.**
- **To take a nation was to overcome its god.**
- **In trying to take over Israel's land Edom tried to discredit Yahweh since “the Lord was there.”**



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.

EZEKIEL 35:11

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. (Ek.35:11)

- Ezekiel again used the “because/therefore” formula.
- God’s judgment corresponded to Edom’s guilt (“according to the envy”).
- Edom had dared plot against God’s Chosen People, so she would now experience the consequences.
- People would know that He had done this when He judged them.



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.'

EZEKIEL 35:12

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.' (Ek.35:12)

- God severely chastised Israel and Judah for their sin, but He never abrogated His promises made to Abraham and his descendants.
- This would teach them that the Lord had heard the hateful words that the Edomites had spoken against "the mountains of Israel" (Ek.35:2-3, 7; 35:15; 36:1, 4, 8).



Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard them.

EZEKIEL 35:13

Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard them. (Ek.35:13)

- Edom was trying to usurp Israel's title deed to the land which had been guaranteed by God.
- In her boast against God Edom rejoiced when Israel became desolate.
- God will make Edom desolate. Her treatment of Israel determined her own fate.
- By speaking against the Israelites the Edomites had spoken against Yahweh since He was their God.



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



EZEKIEL 35:14



Thus says the Lord GOD: "The whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate. (Ek.35:14)

- Edom became an object lesson for all nations.
- When God restores Israel's fortunes in the future, He will judge the world's other nations based on their treatment of Israel (Mt.25:31-46).
- They will be measured by their actions toward Israel.
- The Lord would cause all the earth to rejoice when He made Edom a laughingstock in the world, just as it had rejoiced when Israel became desolate (Ek.36:5).



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.

EZEKIEL 35:15

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. (Ek.35:15)

- Mount Seir and all of Edom would become absolutely desolate (Ek.36:10).
- Edom would not exist when the Lord restored His people to their land.
- Then the Edomites would learn that Yahweh is God.



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. (Ek.35:15)

- The prediction has been literally fulfilled. Edom was first subjugated by Babylon, then Medo-Persia, and then in 126B.C. by John Hyrcanus the Hasmonean, who compelled them to become Jews.

- There is no trace of the Edomites now, although their desolate cities can still be identified, as predicted by Obadiah (Ob.1:18) and Jeremiah (Je.49:13).



FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 35