

## Ezekiel 35 – A Perpetual Hatred, Perpetual Desolations

By Holly Effiom

VV1-6

Who is “mount Seir”? Gen 25:21-26; Eze 25:12-14; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11-12; Obad 1

What is the story of Esau and Jacob?

If this is taking place in the end times, is it literal “sons of Esau”, Edomites, that are under discussion?

Does God prefer one nation over another nation? How do you know? Eze 34:30-31

So, what is God talking about, with regard to mount Seir? V5

What is the reason for God’s antipathy?

What is important to understand about the “...time of their calamity...” in V5? Dan 9:24

Is God for or against mount Seir during the end times? Isa 63:1-6

Where else in our studies did we see this scene from Isa 63:1-6? Rev 14:19; 19:17

What is meant by “...I will prepare thee unto blood...”? Eze 33:8

Who’s blood is being required at the hands of mount Seir?

**LESSON:** Gen 25:23 “...two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels...” is such a powerful scripture, because it tells the story of what is taking place within Adam as a whole today. Rebekah was experiencing such pain in her pregnancy because two different kinds of people were struggling for superiority over the other within her (similar to the parable of the wheat and tares.) The earth, our “mother”, is struggling beneath the burden of two kinds of people struggling for power over the other, *within* her. And these are not two different *ethnic* groups, they are siblings of one mother and father.

This scripture goes on to tell us that one is *bound* to be stronger than the other, and it will be the *younger* of the two. Imagine this battle with regard to time. Time produces different manner of people – those who walk the path of the tried and true, the “old” ways; and those whose path might be untried, but true nonetheless, because it is based upon the wisdom that has always existed, the “new” ways. One way is *bound* to be stronger than the other, and it will be the *younger* of the two, because it is not *set* in its ways.

There are two *ways* at struggle in the earth today, but not forever, according to scripture – the “old” v. the “new”. The old way of governance, in which a singular strong-person rules over the weak, *diverse* masses through force, trickery, deception, versus democracy – in which the *diverse* masses regularly get to *choose* who will rule. Hence, for democracy to work, it is imperative that *truth* and a sense of *justice* abound.

I’m reminded of the law governing the relationship between the master and servant (Ex 21:1-6). According to the Law of Moses, no one is a servant forever, nor should they be made to serve forever unless they wish to, for whatever reasons.

It seems to me that democracy aligns with God’s philosophy of governance, in which a person has full understanding and can make an informed choice, and that choice is respected.

VV7-10

Is God predicting prosperity for mount Seir?

Will travelers or passersby visit or will any return to mount Seir?

What is meant by “...fill his mountains with his slain men...”? How is it related to Eze 31:12-14; 32:5?

Will a specific group of people be strewn among the mountains, hills, and rivers?

Why will the desolations of Edom be *perpetual*?

What is significant about the phrase “...and thy cities shall not return...”?

Does this mean that some cities *will* return after calamity?

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What important thing happens in calamity? What good does calamity do?

How is this understanding about calamity related to Dan 9:24?

Where else did we read that a nation would no longer exist? Eze 28:19

What is significant about V10?

**LESSON:** Verse 10 of this chapter expands on the reasons for Edom's desolations and why "...thy cities shall not return..." There is only one other mention of a nation no longer existing in Ezekiel so far, "...never shalt thou be any more..." and that nation was Tyre (Eze 28:19). This section of scripture explains why Edom will cease to exist. "Because thou hast said, These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas the LORD was there..."

Imagine the *temerity* to declare that a nation, or two, *belongs* to you, and that you *own* it, *knowing* that God Himself *dwells* there! Think about that. Is this what is called "Presumptuousness"? Num 15:30-31

How might this *presumptuousness* manifest today, during these times of the final Gentile power? Would Russia declaring war on Ukraine be an example? Would the citizens of the US declaring this land belongs to us *only*, saying, "All foreigners keep out!" be an example? Consider that each and every one of these "citizens" was once a *foreigner* themself.

The Gentile world powers have made the same error of presumptuousness in its day, and this is what brings the *perpetual* desolations (spoken of in Daniel and Revelation, and here), not just upon the final power but, upon the *world*. The perpetual *hatred* of one's brothers resulted in perpetual desolations. We can understand this in the story of Jacob and Esau, and the rift that never healed.

Esau's wrath had festered into a nation (Edom, Idumea, or mount Seir) until his opportunity came to act on his wrath, in the time of Jerusalem's calamity, and seek to commit *genocide* against his brother (Ps 137:7). Make no mistake, the systematic attack and destruction of a nation's *children*, it's future, is *genocide*, intended or not. This is the result of *perpetual hatred*.

What we are seeing today, on a national level, are cases of that *perpetual hatred* in action.

- Children of men (generally *strangers*) being herded and kept in cages.
- Israel and Gaza – Gaza being on the receiving end of the *perpetual desolations* of Edom due to the nation's *perpetual hatred* of Israel.
- Ukraine and Russia – Ukraine being on the receiving end of Russia's *perpetual hatred* in its battle for power.

Recently, when contemplating *brothers* and *sisters* and the state of affairs in the United States today and the world in general, it occurred to me, there's a lot of hateful speech about people of other ethnic groups and religions, and *glorification* of one's own ethnic group and so-called "faith". Just consider the 45<sup>th</sup> US President's words and actions. But *who* does this President's grifting target? He and his friends are picking the pockets of those who look and believe like themselves; those who are distracted by their *agreement* with his *perpetual hatred*; those who *finally feel heard*. Did Russia invade the land of those who are *different*? No, Russia went right next door, to steal his *brother's* home.

Could the *loud, over-emphasis* on "differences" be the *tool* the enemy (the *thief*) uses to steal?

The mention of bodies or flesh being strewn on the mountains is repeated multiple times in these chapters since Ezekiel 30. Mountains are representative of the leadership of nations, or *seats of government*. That God is speaking to the "shepherds" and the *shepherd-hood* of "mount Seir" (Edom's seat of government)

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in this chapter, informs us that a decapitation of the leadership of nations is being described in these chapters – Assyria's in Eze 31:12, Egypt's in Eze 32:5, and now, Edom. Notice, these are the same nations mentioned in Eze 32 that will be found in the "pit" with satan (whom God describes as "Pharaoh"), along with Elam (Iran), and Meschech and Tubal (Russia) – all nations of note in these final days of the final Gentile power.

Understand, the wicked one's fight *is an existential fight*, so do not let its viciousness surprise you.

But there is also a note of hope in verse 9, in God's promise that Edom's cities/nations "...shall not return..." Further proof that destruction of the *earth* is not and never has been God's plan. We are clearly being told in this section of scripture that there will be cities/nations that *do* return. Hallelujah!

VV11-15

What will the punishment God metes out against the Edomites look like?

What is meant by "...I will do according to thine anger..."? Est 7:9-10

How will this manifest? Ps 9:16

What does this response tell us about God's nature? Is He spending time, thinking up ways to punish his children, or make them *afraid*?

How will it be known who's side God is on?

What "blasphemies" have been spoken against the "mountains of Israel"? V10; Isa 52:5-15; Jer 50:7

What is it to blaspheme then?

V10 – to be presumptuous – to set *your* seat in that place that is *God*. To say that those two nations or *this* nation will be *mine* only.

Isa 52:5 – to *lie* against the One who is truth, *God*. To manufacture reasons to punish, to enrich yourself, and *forcefully* rule over God's children.

Jer 50:7 – to *lie* against the One who is right (i.e., *justice*), *God*. To seize *opportunity* to *destroy* God's children in their time of calamity, to enrich yourself.

What are examples of blasphemy today, in these final days of the final Gentile power?

When will we know that the whole earth is rejoicing? Eze 34:22-31

Will what happens to the final Gentile power at the end be *reciprocation*? How do you know?

What does it mean to "...know that I am the LORD"?

LESSON: I remember, when studying the book of Numbers, wondering what exactly was meant by the term "presumptuous". At that time, I had spent so many years in those first 5 books of the Bible, I couldn't really *process* it because I didn't think I witnessed it in any of the stories. Yes, I had looked the word up and wrote down a definition, but in this chapter, God has answered one of the prayers I had spoken in my heart – what it means to be *presumptuous*. In fact, He has *shown* me that I've been a witness to presumption for the past three and a half, four years!

Presumption is a type of *blasphemy* (another of my *heart-prayers* for understanding). I wrote above that it is "to set *your* seat in that place that is *God*" and this chapter gave me the example, "to say that those two nations or *this* nation will be *mine* only" to the complete disregard of the fact that *God* resides there! Has the world not born witness to these *attitudes* and words?

And what is *blasphemy*? It is to lie against the Holy Spirit (Matt 12:31-32). And *who* is God's Holy Spirit? The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of

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the fear of the Lord (Isa 11:2), these are the “embodiment” of Almighty God’s very own Spirit, who He is, His *name*.

To speak lies at any time, but *especially* from a position of leadership, is to speak against His Spirit. To act *without* justice at any time, but *especially* from a position of leadership, is to speak against His Spirit, which is to blaspheme *His Holy Name*. And, using the self-righteous justification, *they* sinned against “...the LORD, the habitation of justice...”, as the Edomites did in Jer 50:7, is *not* an excuse. Remove the beam from your own eye!

“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Matt 12:31-32

There is a lot of blasphemy taking place throughout the earth today. What does this mean? Based on Jesus’s words in Matthew 12, we know that it is not *forgiven*, that it is *never* forgiven.

We know that, based on Daniel 9:24, that iniquity will have its end, at the completion of the 70 weeks. We know that, based on Eze 35:5, when calamity visits, that’s the time iniquity has an end. We know that, based on Isa 56:1-8, when we see calamity coming, God is calling us to faithfulness in being just because His righteousness is near. We are seeing and *experiencing* the things that we’re witnessing in the world *because* God’s righteousness is near.

What does this mean for believers? “Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice, for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it, that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, the LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.

“For thus saying the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

“Also the sons of the stranger that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

“The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.” Isa 56:1-8