

# EZEKIEL

## Chapter 35

### *Prophecy Against Mount Seir*

**The word of the LORD came to me: 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, I am against you, Mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against you, and I will make you a desolation and a waste. 4 I will lay your cities waste, and you shall become a desolation, and you shall know that I am the LORD. 5 Because you cherished perpetual enmity and gave over the people of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final punishment, 6 therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; because you did not hate bloodshed, therefore blood shall pursue you. 7 I will make Mount Seir a waste and a desolation, and I will cut off from it all who come and go. 8 And I will fill its mountains with the slain. On your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those slain with the sword shall fall. 9 I will make you a perpetual desolation, and your cities shall not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD. 10 “Because you said, ‘These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will take possession of them’—although the LORD was there— 11 therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will deal with you according to the anger and envy that you showed because of your hatred against them. And I will make myself known among them, when I judge you. 12 And you shall know that I am the LORD. “I have heard all the revilings that you uttered against the mountains of Israel, saying, ‘They are laid desolate; they are given us to devour.’ 13 And you magnified yourselves against me with your mouth, and multiplied your words against me; I heard it. 14 Thus says the Lord GOD: While the whole earth rejoices, I will make you desolate. 15 As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so I will deal with you; you shall be desolate, Mount Seir, and all Edom, all of it. Then they will know that I am the LORD.**

**Ch 35** God promised great things in ch 34. Now He declares that Edom (Mount Seir) will not be able to prevent the restoration of Israel. All attempts to seize the Promised Land would fail, even though Jerusalem lay in ruins and the whole country was open to invasion. Instead, Edom would be reduced to a waste and a desolation (vv 1–9). The wicked design to devour what once was the two nations of Judah and Israel would end in dismal failure (vv 10–15). Edom, already denounced in 25:12–14, is not only the epitome of hostility to the ancient people of God but also typifies every evil counsel and will that God must hinder and break if His kingdom is to come (cf Ps 137:7).

The brevity of this chapter might give the careful reader his first clue that there is something different about it. If he reads further, he soon discovers that chapter 35 should be counted as only half a chapter and should really be paired with 36:1–15, where the next chapter should begin. It must rate as one of the most egregiously misleading chapter divisions in the OT. (CC)

**35:2-4** Beginning with the hostile orientation formulae, “set your face against” and “I am against you,” the initial oracle uses typical Ezekelian doom language in the second person of direct address. No reason is given at this point for Yahweh’s fundamental opposition. (CSB)

**35:2** *Mount Seir.* Edom (v. 15), Israel’s relative (Jacob and Esau being twins, Ge 25:21–30) and constant enemy, from whom brotherhood was sought but seldom found (cf. Am 1:11). Edom had to be dealt with before Israel could find peace (cf. Ge 32–33). (CSB)

Though mentioned by name only once in ch 35, Edom is immediately identified by the mountain range that traverses its territory south of the Salt Sea. (TLSB)

**35:4** *know that I am the LORD.* Repeated throughout ch 35 to emphasize God's action in judgment. (TLSB)

**35:5** *perpetual enmity.* Beginning with Jacob's deception of Isaac for Esau's blessing (Ge 27; see especially v. 41) and continuing later (Nu 20:14–21; 2Sa 8:13–14; 1Ki 9:26–28). (CSB)

*time of their calamity.* Edom looted Jerusalem in 586 B.C. (see Ob 11–14). (CSB)

**35:6** *bloodshed will pursue you.* Retributive justice based on Ge 9:6. (CSB)

Ominous imagery, perhaps referring to the practices of blood vengeance in tribal society. Cf 1Ki 2:31. (TLSB)

**35:9** *perpetual desolation.* To experience no restoration like Egypt's (see 29:13–16). (CSB)

**35:10** *These two nations.* Israel and Judah. (CSB)

*the LORD was there.* For a time, it seemed that God had abandoned the Holy Land when He let the Babylonians desecrate and denude it. Yet it was to remain the land of deliverance and hope. For in it, God would begin to fulfill the promises of mankind's freedom from spiritual tyranny. When the "inheritance of the house of Israel" (v 15) no longer would have geographic boundaries and Jerusalem would be the spiritual mother of the redeemed from all nations, it would be called "The LORD Is There" (48:35; cf Gal 4:26).(TLSB)

**35:13** *You magnified yourselves against me.* Cf. Ob 12; Zep 2:8, 10; also Ps 35:26; Jer 48:26, 42. (CSB)

**Ch 35** Although God has spoken against Edom (25:12–14), He does so again. Nothing can hinder God's plan of salvation. He will push out those who interfere, so all may know that He is God (vv 4, 9, 11–12, 15). Today, we often think about God's grace in terms of what God has provided. This is good. However, we should also consider what God has prevented. God has prevented many calamities from striking us as part of His work of salvation for our lives. • Father, we rejoice knowing that You are the God of promises kept and disasters prevented. When the troubles of life do not make sense to us, strengthen us in faith through Christ. Amen. (TLSB)