

EZEKIEL 25:1-17 – “GOD’S PROCLAMATIONS AGAINST NATIONS – AMMON, MOAB, EDOM, AND PHILISTIA”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

PROCLAMATION AGAINST AMMON

Eze 25:1 *The word of the LORD came to me, saying,*

Eze 25:2 *"Son of man, set your face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them.*

Eze 25:3 *Say to the Ammonites, 'Hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you said, 'Aha!' against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into captivity,*

Eze 25:4 *indeed, therefore I will deliver you as a possession to the men of the East, and they shall set their encampments among you and make their dwellings among you; they shall eat your fruit, and they shall drink your milk.*

Eze 25:5 *And I will make Rabbah(their chief city) a stable for camels and Ammon a resting place for flocks. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."*

Eze 25:6 *'For thus says the Lord GOD: " Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced in heart with all your disdain for the land of Israel,*

Eze 25:7 *indeed, therefore, I will stretch out My hand against you, and give you as plunder to the nations: I will cut you off from the peoples, and I will cause you to perish from the countries; I will destroy you, and you shall know that I am the LORD."*

INTERPRETATION

1 After he had done prophesying to the Jews, he is bid to prophesy against the Gentiles, the nations that lay nearest the Jews: Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites were all blood relatives of the Jews. (*Dt. 2:19; 1 Sam. 11; 1 Chron. 19-20; 2 Chron 20; Neh. 2:10, 19; Ps. 83:2-7; Jer. 40:14; 41:5-7;*

2 **Son of man, set your face against the Ammonites,**.... Who were of the posterity of Lot, implacable enemies of the Jews; who hated their religion, and envied their wealth and happiness; against these the prophet is bid to "set his face"; to look that way where they lived, and to put on a frowning countenance, and a menacing aspect: "strengthen thy face", as the Septuagint and Arabic versions render it; look boldly at them: **and prophesy against them**; deliver out the following prophecy concerning them. There is no hope here for the Ammonites!

3 And say to the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus says the Lord GOD; Because You said, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned, because you rejoiced when the enemy destroyed my city and temple ; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate (all trees cut down!); and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity; This is the Word of the Lord – over 800 times in the Bible! (*Ps. 35:21; 40:15; Prov. 24:17; 1 Cor. 13:6.*)

4 Indeed or behold, therefore I will deliver you to the men, that is the Babylonians of the east for a possession, and they shall set their dwellings among you. They will chase you away, and take your gorgeous houses to dwell in., and make their dwellings in you. They shall eat your fruit, and they shall drink your milk. **10 times in this chapter, God says “I will”!!!**

5 And I will make Rabbah, called also Philadelphin, which was the chief city of the Ammonites and full of conveniences, (*2Sa 12:27*). a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a resting place for flocks. **I will...deliver you; I will cut you off; I will case you to perish; I will destroy!**

6 “Because you clapped your hands,” exulting over the downfall of Jerusalem, “I also will stretch out My hand against you” (to which *Eze 21:17* also may refer, “I will smite My hands together”). **hands ... feet ... heart** — with the whole inward feeling, and with every outward indication. *Stamping your foot means dancing for joy.*

7 **as plunder** — so the *Hebrew Margin*, or *Keri*, for the text or *Chetib*, “meat” (so *Eze 26:5; Eze 34:28*). Their *goods* were to be a “plunder to the foe”; their *state* was to be “cut off,” so as to be no more a “people”; and they were as *individuals*, for the most part, to be “destroyed.”: and **you shall know that I am the LORD.** God’s purpose in this!

APPLICATION

Ezekiel may be divided into three sections, following the prophet’s call in 1-3: (1) God’s judgment on Jerusalem, 4-24; (2) God’s judgment on the surrounding nations, 25-32; and (3) God’s restoration of the Jews in the kingdom, 33-48. Chapters 1-24 were given before the siege of Jerusalem; **chapters 25-32 during the siege**; and chapters 33-48 after the siege. Though the prophet was in distant Babylon, he was able to see events in Jerusalem through the power of the Spirit of God. Ezekiel not only proclaimed God’s message to the people, but he had to live the message before them. God commanded him to do a number of symbolic acts in order to get the attention of the people: play at war (*Eze 4:1-3*); lie on his side a certain number of days (*Eze 4:4-17*); shave his hair and beard (*Eze 5:1-4*); act like someone fleeing from war (*Eze 12:1-16*); sit and sigh (*Eze 21:1-7*); and, the most difficult of all, have his wife die (*Eze 24:15-27*). It was not easy to be a prophet.

God is the defender against those who attack Israel! (*Gen 12:3*)

God sees those who are clapping their hands and stomping their feet and rejoicing at any problems that Israel has or is having!

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PROCLAMATION AGAINST MOAB

Eze 25:8 *Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Because** Moab and Seir say, ‘Look! **The house of Judah is like all the nations.**’*

Eze 25:9 **therefore**, behold, **I will clear the territory of Moab** of cities, of the cities on its frontier, the glory of the country, Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kirjathaim.

Eze 25:10 *To the men of the East **I will give it as a possession, together with the Ammonites**, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations.*

Eze 25:11 *And **I will execute judgments upon Moab**, and **they shall know that I am the LORD.**”*

PROCLAMATION AGAINST EDOM

Eze 25:12 *Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Because of what Edom did against the house of Judah by taking vengeance**, and has greatly offended by avenging itself on them,”*

Eze 25:13 **therefore** thus says the Lord GOD: “**I will also stretch out My hand against Edom, cut off man and beast from it, and make it desolate** from Teman; Dedan shall fall by the sword.

Eze 25:14 **I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel**, that they may do in Edom according to My anger and according to My fury; and they shall know My vengeance,” says the Lord GOD.

INTERPRETATION

8 Prophecies against Moab which lay south of Ammon, and shared Ammon’s implacable hostility to the children of Israel. Seir was close to Moab. Edom is identified with Mount “Seir” in Eze 35:1-15; and “Seir” is therefore probably coupled with “Moab” here because, being near neighbors closely leagued together, they expressed a common exultation at Jerusalem’s fall. (*Num. 22-24; 25:1-9; 31:16; Is. 16:6*)

9 Therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, ^(c) from his cities [which are] on his frontiers, the glory of the country (So that no power or strength should be able to resist the Babylonians), Bethjeshimoth, Baalmeon, and Kiriathaim,

10 Ammon and Moab, of common origin, whose lands had so often been interchanged, shall now share a common ruin. To “the men of the east” Eze 25:4 shall Moab with Ammon be given, that Ammon may be remembered no more, and judgment be executed on Moab.

11 For though the Chaldeans and Arabians were the instruments of their ruin, their destruction was of the Lord; it was his hand that was upon them, and his vengeance that was executed on them, for their hard sayings against his people; for though he had spoke against them in his providence, and chastised them for their sins, yet he will not suffer others to speak against them: **and they shall know that I am the Lord**; that takes part with Judah, and will avenge himself of all their enemies.

12 The Edomites were the most inveterate enemies of the Jews from the very earliest times, and ever did all that they could to annoy them.

13 Or “from Teman” even unto “Dedan,” “shall they fall.” Teman and Dedan were districts (not cities), the former in the south (Eze 20:46 note), the latter in the north (“over the whole country”). (*Obad. 1: 10-14*)

14 **I will lay my vengeance upon Edom** - God will not allow men to insult those whom he has cast down. His judgment is sufficient; to add more is an insult to God. **By the hand of My people Israel** - This was fulfilled by the Maccabees, who not only defeated them and brought them under complete subjection, but obliged them to receive circumcision. (*Gal. 6:7; Heb. 10:30*)

APPLICATION

Does the Bible state that Our God is the Lord God of Israel? (111x)

Moab is saying that the God of Israel has forsaken His people – wrong!

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OBSERVATION

PROCLAMATION AGAINST PHILISTIA

Eze 25:15 *Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Because the Philistines dealtvengefully and took vengeance** with a spiteful heart, to destroy because of **the old hatred,**”*

Eze 25:16 ***therefore*** thus says the Lord GOD: “**I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast.**

Eze 25:17 ***I will execute great vengeance on them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I lay My vengeance upon them.***” ‘ ‘ ‘

INTERPRETATION

15 (1 Samuel 13:1-14:52; 2Ch 28:18). The “old hatred” refers to their continual enmity to the covenant-people. They lay along **Judea on the seacoast at the opposite side from Ammon and Moab.** They were overthrown by Uzziah (2Ch 26:6), and by Hezekiah (2Ki 18:8). Nebuchadnezzar overran the cities on the seacoast on his way to Egypt after besieging Tyre (Jer 47:1-7). God will take vengeance on those who take the avenging of themselves out of His hands into their own (Rom 12:19-21; Jam 2:13). (**Judg. 3:31; 13-16; 2 Sam. 5:17-25; 21:15-22; 23:9-17; Jer. 25:15-32, 47)**)

16 **cut off the Cherethims** — There is a play on similar sounds in the Hebrew, hichratti cherethim, “I will slay the slayers.” The name may have been given to a section of the Philistines from their warlike disposition (1Sa 30:14; 1Sa 31:3). They excelled in archery, whence David enrolled a bodyguard from them (2Sa 8:18; 2Sa 15:18; 2Sa 20:7). They sprang from Caphtor, identified by many with Crete, which was famed for archery, and to which the name *Cherethim* seems akin. Though in emigration, which mostly tended westwards, Crete seems more likely to be colonized from Philistia than Philistia from Crete, a *section* of Cretans may have settled at Cherethim in South Philistia, while the Philistines, *as a nation*, may have come originally from the east (compare Deu 2:23; Jer 47:4; Amo 9:7; Zep 2:5). In Gen 10:14 the Philistines are made *distinct from the Caphtorim*, and are said to come from the Casluhim; so that the Cherethim were but *a part* of the Philistines, which 1Sa 30:14 confirms.

remnant of — that is, “on the seacoast” of the Mediterranean: those left *remaining* after the former overthrows inflicted by Samuel, David, Hezekiah, and Psammetichus of Egypt, father of Pharaoh-necho (Jer 25:20).

Eze 25:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out my hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, which were certain garrisons of Philistines by which they often molested the Jews, of the Cherethims, David also had a guard, (2Sa 8:18), and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

17 **Eze 25:17 And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes,.....** By way of retaliation for their vengeance and fury, wrath and malice, against his people; suggesting, that the judgments inflicted on them, for quantity and quality, should be very great: **and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them;** they shall see the hand of God in it, acknowledge His justice, and confess that their gods were idols, and that the God of Israel is the only true God.

APPLICATION

15 The issue is the Philistinian hatred of Israel!

16/17 God Himself will stretch out His hand will cut them off. He will execute great vengeance!

Do you ever rejoice over the falling of an enemy? Is your rejoicing over that, pleasing to Him? (Prov. 24:17; 1 Cor. 13:6)

What should be your response when you see someone profaning His name or His sanctuary? When they come against the land of Israel?

What is your response when someone says to you in a time of trouble - Your God doesn’t love you—He has abandoned you just like all other gods!

Is it ever the right thing for you to do to take vengeance on someone? “I’ll get even with you!!!” Do you ever exercise vengeance on another?

What did God’s judgment against Israel’s neighbors show?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Questions:

1. Do you ever rejoice over the falling of an enemy?
Is your rejoicing over that, pleasing to Him?
(Prov. 24:17; 1 Cor. 13:6)
2. What should be your response when you see
someone profaning His name or His sanctuary?
When they come against the land of Israel?
3. How many of you have met an Ammonite lately?
4. What is your response when someone says to you
in a time of trouble - Your God doesn’t love
you—He has abandoned you just like all other
gods! He’s not different at all!
5. Is it ever the right thing for you to do to take
vengeance on someone? “I’ll get even with you!!!”
Do you ever exercise vengeance on another?
6. How do you feel about disciplining your own
child, when it is deserved. How about someone
else disciplining them?
7. Do you see Babylon being judged in the Book of
Ezekiel? Why not? How about Isaiah (chaps. 13,
14, 21)? Jeremiah (chaps. 50,51)?
8. What did God’s judgment against Israel’s
neighbors show?

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to
bear!*

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

*O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

*We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in
prayer.*

*Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows
share?*

*Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in
prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of
care?*

*Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in
prayer.*

*Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in
prayer!*

*In His arms He’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace
there.*