

God's Plan Moves Forward

Lesson 8

Ezekiel 35-36

Prophecy Against Edom - Ezekiel 35

The theme of judgment against the nations continues with the nation of Edom being singled out for special judgment. The Edomites shared the same heritage as Israel, descendants of Abraham and Isaac and from Esau (later called Edom) the twin brother of Jacob (later called Israel).

1. Why did the Lord say, "*I am against you,*" to Edom? (Ezekiel 35:5 & 10)
2. How did the Lord say He would treat Edom? (Ezekiel 35:11)
3. He also said that He had heard all the contemptible things Edom had said against the mountains of Israel. What had Edom been saying? (Ezekiel 35:12 & 13)
4. Make a list of the things Edom had done when Babylon captured Jerusalem. (Obadiah 1:11-14 & 16)
5. Why had Edom become so proud, arrogant, and convinced that nothing could bring them down? (Jeremiah 49:16)
6. What would be the resulting punishment from the Lord? (Ezekiel 35:15a & b)
 - Why? (Ezekiel 35:15c)

Prophecy to the Mountain of Israel - Ezekiel 36

7. In prophetic language, "mountains" are symbolic of strength and power; and "ancient heights" refers to the Promised Land. In this prophecy to the mountains of Israel, her enemies had already taken possession of the Promised Land and ravaged it leaving it desolate and barren. To whom is this next prophecy addressed? (Ezekiel 36:4)

8. Then the Lord took an oath assuring that what He said would take place. Using Ezekiel 36:7-9, what did He say about:
 - The nations?

 - Israel?

 - Why?

9. Each of these events and prophecies are part of the same big picture--God's plan. When the Lord said, "I will look on you with favor," what was the bigger picture to which He was referring? (Leviticus 26:9)

10. What seven promises does that include? (Genesis 12:1-3)

11. This covenant, called the "Abrahamic Covenant," is unconditional; meaning it is not based upon man's ability, but upon God's. When the descendants of Abraham - Isaac - Jacob were taken out of Egypt, they became that great nation of Israel. The Lord made another covenant with the nation called the "Mosaic Covenant" (or the Law). This did not replace the Abrahamic covenant but was another covenant. The Mosaic covenant, however, is a conditional covenant. What are the conditions?
 - Deuteronomy 28:1 & 2

 - Deuteronomy 28:15

- Deuteronomy 28:62

 - Deuteronomy 28:64a
12. The Lord made the Mosaic Covenant with Israel just prior to their taking possession of the (ancient) Promised Land. Deuteronomy 29:13-15 states that this covenant was made not just with those standing before the Lord on that day, but also with all Israel's future generations. On that day Moses told Israel that in the future they would disobey and they would be scattered among the nations. However, even after all he had forewarned them about had taken place, God's unconditional covenant would still stand. What does Moses say the Lord would be looking for among His scattered people? (Deuteronomy 30:1 & 2)
13. When that takes place, what did Moses say the Lord would do? (Briefly summarize Deuteronomy 30:3-10)
14. Ezekiel reaffirms what the Lord had said through Moses, using the "I will" language. I will increase your numbers and I will cause my people to again walk on the land. The Lord told "Son of man" that even when they are scattered among the nations, they are still His people and He will still judge them. What will His judgment be based upon? (Ezekiel 36:19)
15. What particularly angered the Lord? (Ezekiel 36:20)
- Why? (Ezekiel 36:21)
16. What was the Lord's reason that Ezekiel was to give the people? (Ezekiel 36:22 & 23)
17. At the time of restoration, the Lord said, "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean." This refers to the ceremonial purification given in the Mosaic Covenant (Numbers 19). What would they finally be cleansed from? (Ezekiel 36:25)

18. What else does He say, "I will do," at that time? (Ezekiel 36:26-30)
19. Using today as your reference point, do you think these things have taken place, are future, or both? Explain your answer.
20. "Then the people will remember their evil ways and loathe themselves for their sins." The Lord again emphasized that He is not doing this for their sake and their response should be shame and disgrace because of their conduct.
- For whom does He say He is doing this? (Ezekiel 36:22)

 - Why? (Ezekiel 36:23)
21. How does the Lord say He will accomplish this? (Ezekiel 36:33)
22. After this is accomplished, what will those who pass through the land say? (Ezekiel 36:35)
- Why? (Ezekiel 36:36-38)

Are you able to see the "big picture" of God's plan? The covenant the Lord made with Abraham must go forward. But during Ezekiel's time this was all still in the future. The Messiah would be born in Israel because it was God's plan that through Jesus Christ the way would be made for reconciliation between God and mankind.

But looking at their current situation, the Judean exiles must have shaken their heads in disbelief as Ezekiel spoke about a glorious future. How could this be possible? Jerusalem, their capital city lay in ruins; anything of value had been removed, the city walls were broken down and the homes had been burned. Very few people still remained in the land.

And even before the fall of Jerusalem, the Assyrians had destroyed the northern kingdom and its capital, Samaria, then deported the people. Now an unknown and mixed population lived in what was once the northern kingdom of Israel. The nation of Israel that God had promised Abraham appeared to be dead. Soon there would be nothing left but a pile of dried bones.