

Ezekiel Part 41 (Ezekiel 35)

1. It is interesting that the message of judgment to come against Edom is given twice.
2. Edom had taken territorial possession of portions of Judah especially in the south.
3. If there was to be a future restoration of the land to the Jews, one obvious question would have been, "What about the territory taken over by the Edomites?"
4. This is the sequel to the prophecy of 25:12–14.
5. The message against Edom has two parts, the declaration of judgment against Edom and the reasons for the judgment of Edom.
6. **35:1–4** The Edomites were descendants of Esau. (Genesis 25:25)
7. Genesis 27; 32 reveals the enmity that existed between Jacob and Esau.
8. The Edomites inhabited the region southeast of the Dead Sea and south of Moab around Mount Seir.
9. Esau's descendants were known as a cruel (Amos 1:11–12), vengeful (Ezekiel 25:12–14), warring (Genesis 27:40), idolatrous (2 Chronicles 25:14, 20), and proud people (Isaiah 49:16–17).
10. God was "against" them (verse 3) because they consistently took sides with the enemies of His people and even helped them in attacks against Israel. (2 Chronicles 20:10)
11. Therefore God promised that Edom would one day be desolate because of their obsession with revenge against the Hebrews.
12. **35:5–15** Ezekiel provides at least five specific reasons for the judgment of Edom.
13. First, Edom was to be judged for its "ancient" enmity against the Hebrews, still harbored after hundreds of years following the deception of Esau by Jacob. (verse 5)
14. Second, the Edomites had encouraged Israel's enemies to execute the Jews by the sword.
15. They missed no opportunities to endorse and even to participate in attacks against Israel. (verse 5; Obadiah v10-14)
16. Third, their desire to possess the land of Israel was fueled by their feelings that the land still belonged to them because Jacob had obtained it by deception. (v. 10; Genesis 27:1–40)

17. Because of these feelings God said they would be victims of bloodshed since they perpetrated bloodshed and violence against Israel. (verse 6)
18. So Edom was to be destroyed (v. 7), and the land, filled with the slain, would remain a perpetual desolation (v. 8).
19. The cities of Edom would vanish, never to return. (v. 9)
20. The accuracy of this prophecy is confirmed by the absence of Edom from the family of nations and the desolation of the region they formerly inhabited.
21. Fourth, the Edomites blasphemed the mountains of Israel. (verse 12)
22. Their words were blasphemous because they disregarded God's desire for the allotment of the land to Israel.
23. Fifth, they had spoken against God "without restraint." (verse 13)
24. This spirit of defiance was the subject of Malachi's message and insight into the bitterness of the descendants of Esau (Mal 1:1-5).
25. They exhibited an attitude of defiance that ignored God's will for themselves as well as for the Israelites.
26. God promised judgment for Edom and announced that since the Edomites rejoiced over Israel's downfall - the whole world would rejoice over its destruction. (verse 14)
27. Gloating over Israel and trying to confiscate the territory caused the destruction, desolation, and loss of their land and national identity. (verse 15)