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## Ezekiel 35

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Ezekiel 35.

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### Topics.

- The LORD will make Mount Seir desolate.
- The LORD will prepare blood for Mount Seir and it shall pursue them.
- The LORD will make Mount Seir a waste and a perpetual desolation.
- The LORD will Judge Mount Seir because of their hatred toward Israel.
- The LORD will make Mount Seir and all Edom desolate.

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

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Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem. After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (chpt. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead.

Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins. For a greater overview of the entire book, visit the introduction to the book of Ezekiel in chapter one.

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**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### EZEKIEL 35:1-2

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#### The LORD will make Mount Seir Desolate.

- **Ezekiel 35:1-2:** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir, and prophesy against it.

Mount Seir is also called Mount Edom it is one of the mountains of Edom among the Jordanian Mountains in the land of Edom south of Bozrah. Seir also refers to the surrounding hill country and is sometimes used as a synonym for the land of Edom. In the Greek period the name of the land was modified to Idumea. It is a mountainous and extremely rugged country, about 100 miles long.

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### EZEKIEL 35:3-6

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#### God will Prepare Blood for Mount Seir and it shall Pursue Them.

- **Ezekiel 35:3-6:** 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. <sup>4</sup>I will lay your cities waste, and you shall become a desolation, and *you shall know that I am the LORD*. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>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.

The LORD is against Mount Seir for the following two reasons:

1. They did not show compassion for Israel, but continued in hostility and extreme ill will and hatred toward them and gave them over to their enemies in the time of their calamity, suffering and final punishment.
2. They did not hate violence, war or killing.

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## EZEKIEL 35:7-9

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### The LORD will make Mount Seir a Perpetual Desolation.

- **Ezekiel 35:7-9:** I will make Mount Seir a waste and a desolation, and I will cut off from it all who come and go. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>I will make you a perpetual desolation, and your cities shall not be inhabited. *Then you will know that I am the LORD.*

The expression, "Then they will know that I am the LORD," is an expression that is regularly repeated throughout the book of Ezekiel, God firstly judged and punished His people Israel and then turned His focus toward judging all nations that harmed Israel throughout history and who mocked and scorned Israel while they were in chains, defeated and suffering in captivity at the hands of Babylon. The justice of the LORD is seen in God's actions of not judging Israel's enemies until He had firstly judged and punished his own people (Israel) and only then turning His judgment toward their enemies.

**The Wisdom of God:** throughout the book of Ezekiel the expression, "Then you will know that I am the LORD," (v9) is repeated many times. Now here is the absolute wonder and wisdom of God at the final end of God's judgment on Israel and their enemies it brought about the same result in both groups. Both Israel and their enemies came to the same conclusion which was, "The God of Israel is the only Almighty true Lord God." This also shines a light on God's justice in that God first judged His people Judah and Israel and then judged his enemies.

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## EZEKIEL 35:10-13

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### The LORD will Judge Mount Seir for their Hatred Toward Israel.

- **Ezekiel 35:10-13:** Because you said, 'These two nations (Judah and Israel) and these two countries shall be mine, and we will take possession of them'—although the LORD was there <sup>11</sup>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.* <sup>12</sup>*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.' <sup>13</sup>And you magnified yourselves against me with your mouth, and multiplied your words against me; I heard it.

The LORD is against Mount Seir because:

- They intended and planned to take possession of Judah and Israel while they were desolate and without hope and knowing that they were the LORD'S people.

- Throughout history they continually showed hatred toward Israel.
- They were resentful and envious of Israel and wanted their land and their city.
- They continually spoke words that demeaned and degraded the people of Israel and exalted themselves against God.

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### **EZEKIEL 35:14-15**

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#### **The LORD will make Mount Seir and all Edom Desolate.**

- **Ezekiel 35:14-15:** Thus, says the Lord GOD: While the whole earth rejoices, I will make you desolate. <sup>15</sup>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.*

The LORD is against Mount Seir and will make Mount Seir and all the land of Edom desolate because they rejoiced over the people of Israel when Israel's enemies destroyed their homes, their farms, their cities, Jerusalem and the temple of the LORD. Seir in this context embraces all the mountains and surrounding hill country in the land of Edom.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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