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## Ezekiel 25

(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 25.

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### Topics.

- The LORD is against the Ammonites.
  - The LORD is against Moab and Seir.
  - The LORD is against Edom.
  - The LORD is against the Philistines.
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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.

**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.

**The focus of this chapter:** God is going to judge the nations.

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### THE LORD IS AGAINST THE AMMONITES

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#### EZEKIEL 25:1-7

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- **Ezekiel 25:1-7:** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, set your face toward the Ammonites and prophesy against them. <sup>3</sup>Say to the *Ammonites*, Hear the word of the Lord GOD: Thus says the Lord GOD, Because you said, '*Aha!*' over my sanctuary when it was profaned, and over the land of Israel when it was made desolate, and over the house of Judah when they went into exile, <sup>4</sup>therefore behold, I am handing you over to the people of the East for a possession, and they shall set their encampments among you and make their dwellings in your midst. They shall eat your fruit, and they shall drink your milk. <sup>5</sup>I will make *Rabbah* a pasture for camels and *Ammon* a fold for flocks. *Then you will know that I am the LORD.* <sup>6</sup>For thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced with all the malice within your soul against the land of Israel, <sup>7</sup>therefore, behold, I have stretched out my hand against you, and will hand you over as plunder to the nations. And I will cut you off from the peoples and will make you perish out of the countries; I will destroy you. *Then you will know that I am the LORD.*

**'Aha!'** means Oh! It is expressive of grief or used when discovering something and to express triumphant satisfaction or excitement, (i.e. "Aha! I caught you in the act!"). In the context of these verses it carries the idea of mocking and scorning others, it expresses pride and the hearts-desire to see others belittled. Today the same heart attitude would be expressed in the words "Ha, Ha, I told you so."

**Ammonites:** (Ammon) the child that the younger daughter had to her father Lot was called Ben-ammi he is the father of the Ammonites. Even though they were related to Israel they refused to give Israel bread and water when they came out of Egypt, they joined with the Moabites in securing Balaam to curse Israel and they opposed the work of Nehemiah in restoring the walls of Jerusalem. The Ammonites were fierce in nature, rebellious against Israel and idolatrous in their religious practices. They threatened to thrust out the right eye of all in Jabesh Gilead. They were given to brutish murder and their chief idol was Molech to whom they were guilty of offering human sacrifices. For further information concerning their chief idol, see the title:

- Molech (at the end of chapter 23).

**Rabbah:** was the capital of the Ammonites in Samaria.

**Ammon:** see Ammonites (above).

The LORD will destroy the Ammonites and Rabbah and give them over to the people of the East for a possession for the following two reasons.

1. Because they said, 'Aha!' over the LORD'S sanctuary when it was profaned and the land of Israel when it was made desolate and the house of Judah when they went into exile. Mocking and scorning others is contrary to the Spirit of God and angers Him even when it is against our enemies, but especially when it is against His people.
2. Because they clapped their hands and stamped their feet at Israel's downfall and suffering and rejoiced with malice in their hearts against the land of Israel. Rejoicing over another person's suffering is contrary to the Spirit of God and angers Him even when it is against our enemies, but especially when it is against His people.

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The words, "Then you will know that I am the LORD," is repeated four times in this chapter (v5, 7, 11, 17). Naturally God being a God of justice He had to discipline and punish His own people first, but now after having done that He is going to show the nations who belittled, mocked and scorned His people during their suffering and loss that He is the true Almighty God the Lord God of Israel.

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## **EZEKIEL 25:8-11**

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### **The LORD is against Moab and Seir.**

- **Ezekiel 25:8-11:** Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Moab and Seir said, 'Behold, the house of Judah is like all the other nations (like unto all the heathen in KJV) <sup>9</sup>Therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities,' <sup>9</sup>therefore I will lay open the flank of Moab from the cities, from its cities on its frontier, the glory of the country, Bethjeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim. <sup>10</sup>I will give it along with the Ammonites to the people of the East as a possession, that the Ammonites may be remembered no more among the nations, <sup>11</sup>and I will execute judgments upon Moab. *Then they will know that I am the LORD.*

**Moab:** (Moabites) the child that the eldest daughter had to her father Lot was called Moab; he is the father of the Moabites. The Moabites did not meet Israel with bread and water when they came out of Egypt and Moab hired Balaam against Israel to curse them. The land of Moab was on the east side of the Jordan River (Jerusalem is on the west side).

**Seir:** is one of the mountains of Edom.

**Bethjeshimoth:** is on the plains of Moab.

**Baal-meon:** was a town under Moabite control.

**Kiriathaim:** location is unknown, but it is mentioned in oracles against Moab.

The LORD will give Moab and all her allied nations into the hands of the people of the East as a possession because they said "Behold, the house of Judah is like all the other nations, (the KJV says, like unto all the heathen). Heathen in this context is an offensive term that deliberately insults somebody who does not acknowledge the God of the Bible.

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## EZEKIEL 25:12-14

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### The LORD is Against Edom.

- **Ezekiel 25:12-14:** Thus says the Lord GOD: Because *Edom* acted revengefully against the house of Judah and has grievously offended in taking vengeance on them, <sup>13</sup>therefore thus says the Lord GOD, I will stretch out my hand against Edom and cut off from it man and beast. And I will make it desolate; from *Teman* even to *Dedan* they shall fall by the sword. <sup>14</sup>And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel, and they shall do in Edom according to my anger and according to my wrath, and they shall know my vengeance, declares the Lord GOD.

**Edom (Esau):** (Edom is Jacob's Brother) Abraham and Sarah gave birth to Isaac and Isaac and Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob. The LORD told Rebekah Esau and Jacob would become two great nations. Isaac, near death and deceived by Jacob gave the blessing of the first born to Jacob making him lord over Esau. Isaac then told Esau he would live in a desert place and by war. He would serve Jacob (Israel), but eventually Israel's authority over him and the tension between Jacob (Israel) and Esau would be broken.

Esau is the father of Edom, the people are called Edomites, they settled in the land of Canaan in the hill country of Seir (also called Mount Seir). It is one of the Jordanian mountains in the land of Edom on the opposite side of the River Jordan to Jerusalem.

**Teman:** is a city in the north eastern part of Edom on the Seir mountains below Bozrah it was noted at one time for the wisdom of its people.

**Dedan:** Dedanites were called travelling tradesmen and were an important commercial people.

**God will stretch out his hand against Edom and her allied nations:** Edom grievously offended God by taking revenge against the people of Judah, (they aided Babylon in capturing them). Therefore, the LORD is going to destroy the people of Edom and their flocks and cattle by war and bring them to ruin.

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## EZEKIEL 25:15-17

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### The LORD is against the Philistines.

- **Ezekiel 25:15-17:** Thus says the Lord GOD: Because the Philistines acted revengefully and took vengeance with malice of soul to destroy in never-ending enmity, <sup>16</sup>therefore thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will stretch out my hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the rest of the seacoast. <sup>17</sup>I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes. *Then they will know that I am the LORD*, when I lay my vengeance upon them.

**Philistines:** The Philistines had five chief cities, Ashod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. They worshiped the Semitic gods Dagon, Astarte and Baalzebub and were a major contender against the Hebrews for possession of Palestine (today they are the Palestinians).

**Cherethites:** a Philistine tribe in southern Palestine.

**The Philistines had malice in their hearts:** meaning they wished to cause harm and pain to Israel. Throughout history they constantly caused Israel trouble in their desire and attempts to destroy them, therefore the LORD is going to bring them and all their allied nations along the seacoast to ruin.

**SUMMARY:** of the expression, "Then you will know that I am the LORD." When God has finished disciplining the people of Israel, He will then punish all the nations who mocked and caused them harm and at the same time vindicate the people of Israel. The Ammonites, Rabbah, Moab and Seir, Bethjeshimoth, Baal-meon, Kiriathaim, Edom, Teman, Dedan, Philistines and Cherethites would all have believed their gods were far more powerful than the God of Israel when they saw the land of Israel laying waste and Jerusalem destroyed, but now God is going to bring all these nations to ruin and then they will know that He is the LORD and the people of Israel will be justified for their faith in Him.

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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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