EZEKIEL 25

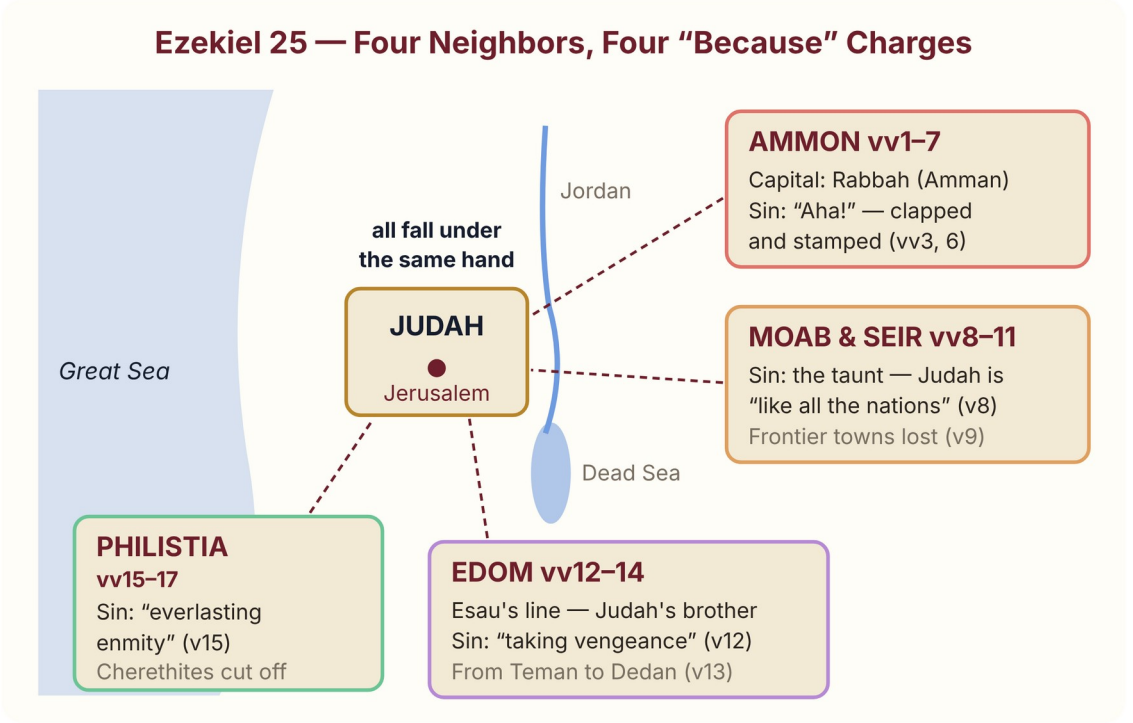
Gloating Neighbors: Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia

> *“I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes; and they will know that I am the LORD when I lay My vengeance on them.”*
> EZEKIEL 25:17

Where Ezekiel has brought us

1. Chapter 24 ended with the siege of Jerusalem beginning, the death of Ezekiel's wife, and the prophet's silence until a fugitive would bring news of the city's fall (24:26–27).

2. Chapter 25 is undated and short: four oracles against the four nearest neighbors, moving around Judah from east to south to west.



Ammon: The “Aha!” Over God's House

Ammon jeered at the profaned sanctuary, clapped and stamped — and God stretched out His hand.

EZEKIEL 25:2

“Son of man, set your face toward the sons of Ammon and prophesy against them,

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik says God had not forgotten the pagan nations while He disciplined Judah, and he quotes Wiersbe: ‘the destruction of Jerusalem wasn't just a punishment of the Jews; it was also a warning to the Gentiles.’

WHAT IT MEANS

Ammon came from Lot (Gen 19:38) and lived east of the Jordan; its capital Rabbah survives in the name of modern Amman. Ammon's sin was gloating.

Aha (הֶאָח)

HEʾACH · “AHA!”

Ammon's whole response to the temple's ruin was one word: heʾach, an exclamation of gloating, a jeer. It is the sound of a man pleased at someone else's disaster.

Because … Therefore … They Will Know

The Shape of Every Oracle in Ezekiel 25

NATION	"BECAUSE"	"THEREFORE"	RESULT
Ammon vv1–7	Said "Aha!" (v3); clapped, stamped (v6)	Given to sons of the east; Rabbah a camel pasture	"you will know" (vv5, 7)
Moab, Seir vv8–11	Judah is "like all the nations" (v8)	Frontier cities opened to the east (vv9–10)	"they will know" (v11)
Edom vv12–14	Took vengeance on its brother (v12)	God's vengeance by the hand of Israel (v14)	"know My vengeance" (v14)
Philistia vv15–17	Revenge with "everlasting enmity"	Cherethites cut off — God acts directly (v16)	"they will know" (v17)

"know that I am the LORD" — the last word of every oracle

All four oracles follow one pattern: the sin against God's people, God's sentence, and God made known.

Moab and Seir: “Like All the Nations”

Moab said Judah was nothing special — and God opened Moab's proud frontier.

EZEKIEL 25:9

therefore, behold, I am going to deprive the flank of Moab of its cities, of its cities which are on its frontiers, the glory of the land, Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon and Kiriathaim,

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik grants that Judah's own conduct gave Moab reason to say Judah was like all the nations, but he insists their gloating made them guilty anyway.

WHAT IT MEANS

Moab, also from Lot (Gen 19:37), had opposed Israel since Balak hired Balaam (Num 22). Seir is Edom's mountain country.

judgments (שְׁפָטִ֔)
SHEPHET · “JUDGMENTS”

“Thus I will execute judgments on Moab” (v11). The word shephet means acts of judgment, penalties — not a feeling in God but a verdict carried out.

Edom: Vengeance Taken, Vengeance Returned

Edom took its own revenge on its brother; God would lay His vengeance on Edom.

EZEKIEL 25:12

'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Because Edom has acted against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred grievous guilt, and avenged themselves upon them,"

DAVID GUZIK

Feinberg, in Guzik, describes the Hebrew of verse 12 as unrelieved, unabated revenge — vengeance taken with vengeance.

WHAT IT MEANS

Edom came from Esau, Jacob's twin. Of all the neighbors, Edom should have stood by Judah.

vengeance (נְקָמָה)
NEQAMAH · "VENGEANCE"

Verse 12 piles the idea up: Edom acted "by taking vengeance" (naqam, H5358, to avenge, take revenge), "incurred grievous guilt" (ʾasham, to offend, be guilty), and "avenged themselves."

Philistia: Everlasting Enmity Cut Off

An old hatred nursed for centuries meets God's own hand — and every oracle ends with the LORD made known.

EZEKIEL 25:16

therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, even cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast.

DAVID GUZIK

Feinberg, in Guzik, brings out the wordplay of verse 16: 'cut off the cutters off.'

WHAT IT MEANS

The Philistines were Israel's oldest enemy on the coast, from the judges through David. Their sin was "everlasting enmity" (v15) — hatred handed down for centuries and still acting.

cut off (כָּרַת)
KARATH · "CUT OFF"

"I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, even cut off the Cherethites" (v16). There is a word play in the Hebrew: God will karath — cut, cut off, destroy — the Kerethim.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Judgment begins at God's house.

God disciplined Judah first, but the nations who cheered were not exempt — the principle Feinberg draws from 1 Peter 4:17–18.

2

Gloating is a sin against God.

Ammon's “Aha!” was aimed at “My sanctuary” (v3) — mocking God's people is mocking God.

3

One syllable can condemn.

Heʾach is a jeer of triumph; God heard Ammon's heart in a single word.

4

A taunt is a theology.

Block calls Moab's “like all the nations” ‘a direct assault on Yahweh himself.’

More to carry

5

Revenge belongs to God.

Edom took vengeance (v12); God says, “I will lay My vengeance on Edom” (v14).

6

The cutters cut off.

God will karath the Kerethim — Feinberg's ‘cut off the cutters off.’

7

Old hatred keeps acting.

Philistia's “everlasting enmity” (v15) was centuries old and still destroying.

8

Judgment reveals God.

Morgan: ‘Here is the one purpose of Jehovah in His dealings with all nations.’

Talk it through

1. Ammon said “Aha!” when Judah fell (v3). When have I felt that quiet satisfaction at someone else's ruin?

2. Moab said Judah was “like all the nations” (v8). How do people say that about believers today — and what does it say about God?

3. Edom settled an old family score (v12). Is there a brother or family member I am still trying to get even with?

4. What would it look like to leave my case with the God who says “I will lay My vengeance” (v14)?

5. Every oracle ends with “they will know that I am the LORD.” What is God making known about Himself in my hardest season?

CLOSING

Judah did nothing in this chapter; God did it all. He saw every jeer, every clap, every old grudge — and He stood up for His people at their lowest. Lay down the "Aha!" and the old hatred, and leave justice with the God who will make Himself known.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides and reflection journal: see the Ezekiel study page.