EZEKIEL 35

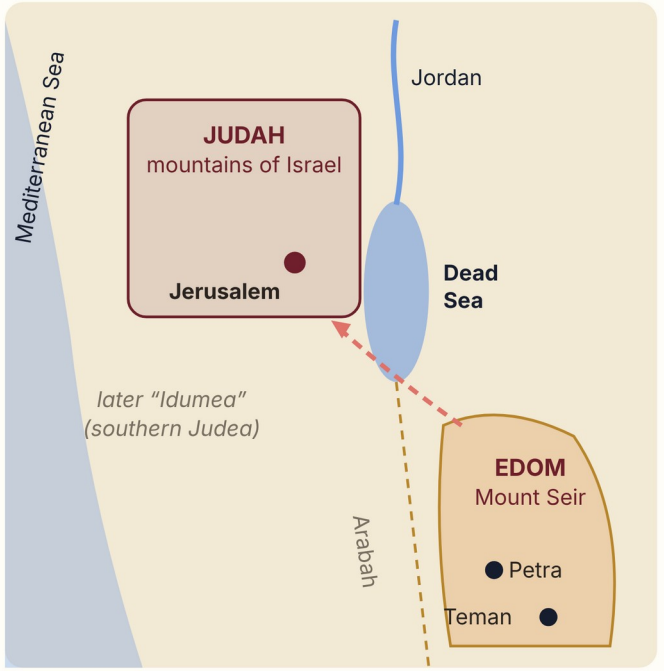
Against Mount Seir: The LORD Was There

> *“Because you have said, ‘These two nations and these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them,’ although the LORD was there,*
> EZEKIEL 35:10

Where Ezekiel has brought us

1. Jerusalem has fallen (33:21), and in chapter 34 Ezekiel promised that God Himself would shepherd and restore His scattered flock.

2. Ezekiel has already spoken briefly against Edom (25:12–14).



WHO IS EDOM?

Esau's descendants — Jacob's twin (Gen 25)

Seir = "rough, hairy"
Edom = "red"

EDOM'S CLAIM (v10)
"These two nations and these two lands will be mine"

GOD'S ANSWER (v10)
"the LORD was there"

Afterward: Nabataeans take the homeland; Edom fades from history after AD 70.

Behold, I Am Against You

God sets His face against Mount Seir

EZEKIEL 35:2

"Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir, and prophesy against it

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik observes that 'against' is repeated four times in three verses, like a drumbeat.

WHAT IT MEANS

Edom descends from Esau, Jacob's twin brother (Gen 25:23–30; 36:8–9), and Mount Seir was their rugged homeland.

Seir (שֵׂעִיר)

SE'IR · "ROUGH, HAIRY"

Se'ir means rough or hairy — the name of Edom's rugged mountain range, and a reminder of Esau, the hairy man (Gen 25:25). Edom itself ('Edom, H123) means red, Esau's other name (Gen 25:30).

Everlasting Enmity

An ancient grudge, a brother betrayed, and bloodshed that pursues

EZEKIEL 35:5

"Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end,

DAVID GUZIK

Clarke, in Guzik, traces the rivalry back to the womb, when the twins struggled (Gen 25:22).

WHAT IT MEANS

Edom kicked his brother when he was down.

enmity (אֵיבָה)
'EBAH · "HOSTILITY, HATRED"

'Ebah is hostility or hatred, and in verse 5 it is paired with 'olam (H5769) — long duration, perpetual — to make "everlasting enmity." Edom struck "at the time of their calamity" ('ed, H343, disaster, ruin).

Measure for Measure

WHAT EDOM DID		WHAT GOD RETURNS
“everlasting enmity” v5	→	“an everlasting desolation” v9
“you have not hated bloodshed” v6	→	“bloodshed will pursue you” v6
anger, envy and hatred v11	→	“according to your anger” v11
“we will possess them” v10	→	“although the LORD was there” v10
revilings, arrogant words vv12–13	→	“I have heard it” v13
rejoiced at Israel’s ruin v15	→	“so I will do to you” v15

Every sin of Edom in chapter 35 comes back on Edom in kind, because God hears and repays.

Although the LORD Was There

Edom eyed an empty land and forgot its Owner

EZEKIEL 35:10

"Because you have said, 'These two nations and these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them,' although the LORD was there,

DAVID GUZIK

Morgan, in Guzik, comments on the words "although the LORD was there": 'He is still there; and whosoever may covet it cannot hold it, for He will dispossess them.'

WHAT IT MEANS

Edom looked at the ruins and said, "These two nations and these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them" (v10). The northern kingdom was long gone; the southern kingdom had just been emptied.

envy (קִנְאָה)

QIN'AH · "JEALOUSY, ENVY"

Qin'ah is jealousy, zeal or envy. Edom acted out of envy and sin'ah (H8135), hatred (v11), and God promises to deal with them "according to your anger and according to your envy."

The Gloater Judged

Edom rejoiced over Israel's ruin; the earth will rejoice over Edom's

EZEKIEL 35:14

'Thus says the Lord GOD, "As all the earth rejoices, I will make you a desolation.

DAVID GUZIK

Feinberg, in Guzik, says of Edom's end: 'The main cities were Petra and Teman, which now lie in ruins,' and 'The prediction has been literally fulfilled.'

WHAT IT MEANS

Obadiah made the same charge against Edom: 'Do not gloat over your brother's day' (Obad 12).

rejoice (שָׂמַח)
SAMACH · "TO BE GLAD"

Samach means to be glad, to rejoice. It appears twice in these closing verses and turns the tables.

What to carry from this chapter

1

A drumbeat of “against.”

Guzik notes “against” sounds four times in three verses as God sets His face toward Mount Seir (vv2–3).

2

The name tells the story.

Seir means rough or hairy and Edom means red — both echo Esau, the hairy man also called Edom (Gen 25:25, 30).

3

A grudge from the womb.

Clarke, in Guzik, traces Edom’s hatred back to the twins struggling before birth (Gen 25:22).

4

Kicked while down.

Edom struck “at the time of their calamity” (v5), cutting off fugitives when Judah was already falling.

More to carry

5

Bloodshed pursues.

“since you have not hated bloodshed, therefore bloodshed will pursue you” (v6) — the cycle of payback ends with the one who carries it.

6

The land was never empty.

Edom planned to take Israel’s land, “although the LORD was there” (v10).

7

He hears every word.

God says of Edom’s arrogant talk, “I have heard it” (v13); nothing spoken against His people escapes Him.

8

Literally fulfilled.

Feinberg, in Guzik, notes Petra and Teman lie in ruins and the Edomites vanished from history after AD 70.

Talk it through

1. Why would God place a judgment on Edom right between promises of restoration for Israel?

2. What old grudge are you still feeding, and what is it doing to you?

3. How does bloodshed — or bitterness — end up pursuing the one who loves it?

4. Where does your life look desolate right now, and what difference does it make that the LORD is there?

5. What does it look like to refuse to gloat when someone who hurt you falls?

CLOSING

Edom carried a grudge until the grudge carried Edom away. But the land Edom coveted was never empty — the LORD was there, and He still is. Lay down the old hatred, leave the payback to God, and trust the One who hears every word.

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

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