

Ezekiel 25

This is another timely chapter, because it addresses some things that are happening today. That is a good sign. That means that God is talking to us; and we are listening. This chapter is about antisemitism. God calls out Ammon, Moab, Edom and the Philistines specifically. Antisemitism can come in different flavors, but it ultimately goes back to a spiritual hatred for the lineage of the messiah.

Ultimately, our association with God's Kingdom will invite hatred upon ourselves as well. If you are not rooted in Christ, you will get swept up into this world's love for self and resistance to all things from God. The Jews represent God's agency on earth to fulfill prophecy. The devil and the Muslims are trying to stop it. There have been some vain attempts to prevent the returning messiah. We know that Jesus will come back into Jerusalem through the eastern gate. It is ludicrous to think that sealing that gate and putting a cemetery in that path of travel could stop Jesus from returning. The Eastern gate was ultimately sealed shut in 1541 by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman. However, prior to this time, the gate was closed in 810 (also by the Muslims), then reopened in 1102 by the Crusaders, and then walled up again by Saladin (the first sultan of Egypt and Syria and the founder of the Ayyubid dynasty) after defeating the Crusaders in 1187 and gaining control of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem.

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:17)

There are many nations who have brought hatred upon the Jews. God allowed it to bring corrections to his people; but woe to those who played that role. They all pay a price for that demonic pride.

Therefore, as I live," Says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Surely Moab shall be like Sodom, And the people of Ammon like Gomorrah— Overrun with weeds and saltpits, And a perpetual desolation. The residue of My people shall plunder them, And the remnant of My people shall possess them." ¹⁰ This they shall have for their pride, Because they have reproached and made arrogant threats Against the people of the LORD of hosts. (Zephaniah 2)

Antisemitism Option 1: Jacob the Usurper

Read Ezekiel 25: 1-7: The first variety of antisemitism is the one that feels that some unworthy person has taken things that you deserve. This is envy. It is one thing to see others do better in life than you; but how does that become actionable resentment? Moreover, how can someone become so invested into my failure? We all tend to see ourselves as somehow being somewhat deserving.

The Jews were compared to wild boars that eat a farmer's crops. If they were not here, we would be doing better. They are scapegoats for all ills. Haters believe that if they were just eliminated, there would be more money and success for others. In reality, the Jews have just been blessed with natural abilities. They are adding value and creating a premium.

We all have the experience of a victory dance when our team wins. We have cheered, clapped our hands, stood up and perhaps even shouted. That is a normal thing for a football game. That is not a normal thing to do to an enemy when they are killed. We may be relieved; but those are still lost lives.

Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? ” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live? (Ezekiel 18:23)

Ezekiel tells us that the Ammonites were literally dancing and shouting and slapping high fives when the temple in Jerusalem was burned down. The Ammonites were clapping when the Jews went into Babylonian captivity. They were like jealous cousins. They were pointing with big smiles and brightened eyes when the nation of Israel became utterly trashed, burned and emptied. This is beyond heartless.

This would be like having a tailgate party across the street from the Auschwitz concentration camp as train loads of Jews came in and were herded into the cyanide showers. Who could have that much hatred? That goes beyond envy. That is very dark hatred. It seems supernatural because it is.

For us today it is also not a coincidence that there is a crazed nonsensical protest against conservatism and the protection of unborn children. It all goes together. Antisemitism and antichristian are similar ideals. It is ultimately a hatred for God's plans for mankind, as inspired by the devil. The Ammonites could not believe how the Babylonians just crushed Jerusalem. Like looters in a national emergency, the Ammonites started grabbing things that no longer had owners.

Suddenly, the fortunes of Ammon made a 180-degree turn. The Babylonians then turned on Ammon and Moab, and took them away too.

Against the Ammonites. Thus says the LORD: "Has Israel no sons? Has he no heir? Why then does Milcom inherit Gad, And his people dwell in its cities? ² Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will cause to be heard an alarm of war In Rabbah of the Ammonites; It shall be a desolate mound, And her villages shall be burned with fire. Then Israel shall take possession of his inheritance," says the LORD. ³ "Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai is plundered! Cry, you daughters of Rabbah, Gird yourselves with sackcloth! Lament and run to and fro by the walls; For Milcom shall go into captivity With his priests and his princes together. ⁴ Why do you boast in the valleys, Your flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? Who trusted in her treasures, saying, 'Who will come against me?' ⁵ Behold, I will bring fear upon you, "Says the Lord GOD of hosts, "From all those who are around you; You shall be driven out, everyone headlong, And no one will gather those who wander off. ⁶ But afterward I will bring back The captives of the people of Ammon," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 49)

How did this envy and hatred originally come about? After all the Ammonites were Lot's family. They were distant cousins of the Jews. Lot was saved; but his faith was somewhat suffocated by Lot's natural desires to succeed and live on his own terms. He insisted on doing things his own way. That Frank Sinatra mantra does not work for the Christian faith. He became a very unhappy guy with no spiritual lineage to leave in this world. Jesus said it well:

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. (Matthew 12:30)

The daughters of Lot took extraordinary measures to further their tribe. They committed incest. They concluded that the whole world had been destroyed. Over time Ammon and Moab became known for being unmixed and without change. Some forms of pride promote that we are the best and the strongest. Everyone else is weak. Pride leads you to believe that you are right, and everyone else is wrong. It entitles you to make your own standard as it suits you. Lot was saved; but perhaps he is what you might call a $\frac{3}{4}$ Christian. The Bible commentators figuratively describe Ruth the Moabitess as a person living off of the fringe of the field (gleaner); and never really going in all the way. God compares this to wine that is not turned. It does not produce the desired result. Pride turns us into a self-

made standard of some sort. This is the premise for a lot of country songs. This bad combination leads to arbitrary and subjective standards.

Lot kept taking the easy way out. Over time, minimizing our faith leads to the opposition to the faith. To ease up on the brakes on spiritual matters is to inadvertently accelerate towards sin. Essentially, this control puts you in the position of being God. Lot's descendants only kept falling to lower levels. When we write our own laws, the tennis net falls lower and lower.

All men are slaves to God or their flesh. We are owned by one side or the other. There are no neutral thinkers. It is a natural progression downward. It begins with keeping bad company and not using discretion to filter out unhealthy messages. It ends in being committed against God's causes. Lot pushed away from Abraham, and made his own crew.

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; (Psalm 1:1)

Ammon became proud and cruel. 1 Samuel 11 describes how the King Nahash of Ammon was going to force every male Jew to gouge out his right eye and pay tribute to their nation.

Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you." ² And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, "On this condition I will make a covenant with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel." (1 Samuel 11)

Our gods reveal who we are. The Ammonites worshipped Milcom, who was essentially known as Moloch by others. Milcom means *their king*. Milcom/Molech had the head of a bull. He is associated with strength and the stars. In addition to sexual rituals, Moloch worship included child sacrifice, or "passing children through the fire." It is believed that idols of Moloch were giant metal statues of a man with a bull's head. Each image had a hole in the abdomen and possibly outstretched forearms that made a kind of ramp to the hole. A fire was lit in or around the statue. Babies were placed in the statue's arms or in the hole. When a couple sacrificed their firstborn, they believed that Moloch would ensure financial


prosperity for the family and future children. Despite occasional efforts by godly kings, worship of Moloch wasn't abolished until the Israelites' captivity in Babylon.



The Ammonites flavor of antisemitism was a form of cruelty that resembles *controlled hunting*. There are some species of animals that need to be hunted down to extinction or low numbers because their impact on the land is detrimental. The Ammonites are cheering *the fox hunt*. "Got get them all!" They said. Similarly, the Germans compared Jews to ferrell pigs. They were seen as a pest to society.

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Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, That they might enlarge their territory. ¹⁴ But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, And it shall devour its palaces, Amid shouting in the day of battle, And a tempest in the day of the whirlwind. ¹⁵ Their king shall go into captivity, He and his princes together,” Says the LORD. (Amos 1)

We should not see this as such a phenomenon. Christians are next in line for the worldwide hatred for God.

They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. (John 16:2)

Both the Nazis and the Ammonites saw the Jews as *wild boars* messing up otherwise good land. They are not a native species that has ruined the local landscape. They made it dirty and unpleasant by just being there. They are eating our food, taking our money and resources. *If they are just eliminated all of that 'stolen wealth' would belong to the people who deserve it.* This is the same kind of thinking that we see in the KKK. Envy for success can seem like something that is transferable to the simple mind. Hitler blamed the Jews for the weak German economy after the war. In reality, the Jews have been blessed in all of their doings in every field. The Jews brought strength and success to an otherwise failing land. It is not a zero-sum game. They have excelled in science and agriculture and finance and medicine. Envy works like that. It affords you to make imaginary justifications to make changes to make yourself the entitled one in the story of our times.

Even today, everyone seems to think that they are entitled to Israel's land. The Palestinians are the remnant of the Arabs from their 6-day war against Israel. They lost the war, and their countrymen did not allow their own displaced Arab fighters to go back home. They wanted to force Arabs to remain as disruptors and to create a growing Arab influence in Israel. The Arabs wanted that land; not because it was special. Their ideals are based on no persons with opposing world Caliphate views being present. The Jews are a light in a dark and hateful place. They expose sin merely by living in a fair and wholesome way. It is amazing that the Jews have allowed their sworn enemies to live in their land.

Most Arabs and Jews live together in peace. The extremists are the biggest problem. The Islamic extremists do not want to be culpable for abusing their own people. Judeo Christianity assigns rights to every living soul. In other words, there is antisemitism reaction that is just because of the way the Jews reflect on those who abuse their own people. Islam is about killing those who think for themselves. Today, many Arabs are defecting to the freedom in Christ, as there are more visions and movements of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (John 15)

The Ammonites and Edomites served a purpose. They displaced the giants of the land. God uses our enemies as well.

¹⁶ “So it was, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people,
¹⁷ that the LORD spoke to me, saying: ¹⁸ ‘This day you are to cross over at Ar, the
boundary of Moab. ¹⁹ And when you come near the people of Ammon, do not
harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the
people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot
as a possession.’ ” ²⁰ (That was also regarded as a land of giants; giants formerly
dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim, ²¹ a people as great and
numerous and tall as the Anakim. But the LORD destroyed them before them, and
they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place, ²² just as He had done for the
descendants of Esau, who dwelt in Seir, when He destroyed the Horites from
before them. They dispossessed them and dwelt in their place, even to this day. ²³
And the Avim, who dwelt in villages as far as Gaza—the Caphtorim, who came
from Caphtor, destroyed them and dwelt in their place.) (Deuteronomy 2)

Antisemitism Option #2: The Angry Bully

Read Ezekiel 25:8-11: Moab and Ammon came from two brothers. They were side by side countries. There is not a lot written that distinguishes Moab from Ammon. Moab is characterized as being unchanged since its beginning. Sometimes I resist change. I like things to be predictable. God has good reasons for tipping us over and mixing things up.

“Moab has been at ease from his youth; He has settled on his dregs, And has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, Nor has he gone into captivity. Therefore his taste remained in him, And his scent has not changed. ¹² “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I shall send him wine-workers Who will tip him over And empty his vessels And break the bottles. ¹³ Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, As the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel, their confidence. ¹⁴ “How can you say, ‘We are mighty And strong men for the war’? ¹⁵ Moab is plundered and gone up from her cities; Her chosen young men have gone down to the slaughter,” says the King, Whose name is the LORD of hosts. ¹⁶ “The calamity of Moab is near at hand, And his affliction comes quickly. ¹⁷ Bemoan him, all you who are around him; And all you who know his name, Say, ‘How the strong staff is broken, The beautiful rod!’ (Jeremiah 48)

The Moabites worshipped Chemosh. Chemosh was the supreme Canaanite God. In other cultures, this became Ashtar, Venus, Ares. This god is the avenger deity. It is also the god of war. It invokes curses on its enemies. The religion requires human sacrifice.

The Ammonites were more about destroying the competition; and looting them. The Moabites were more about killing people or dominating them. This type of antisemitism is more about just being hateful people.

These antisemites are bloodthirsty punishers of men. Their brand of antisemitism is just boastful rage and destruction. It's about pure domination and seeking anyone who wants to fight. They lived by the sword and they died by the sword.

² “Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it, ³ and say to it, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, O Mount Seir, I am against you; I will stretch out My hand against you, And make you most desolate; ⁴ I shall lay your cities waste, And you shall be desolate. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. ⁵ “Because you have had an ancient hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity came to an end, ⁶ therefore, as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you. ⁷ Thus I will make Mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns. ⁸ And I will fill its mountains with the slain; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those who are slain by the sword shall fall. ⁹ I will make you perpetually desolate, and your cities shall be uninhabited; then you shall know that I am the LORD. ¹⁰ “Because you have said, ‘These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them,’ although the LORD was there, ¹¹ therefore, as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I will do according to your anger and according to the envy which you showed in your hatred against them; and I will make Myself known among them when I judge you. ¹² Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have heard all your blasphemies which you have spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, ‘They are desolate; they are given to us to consume.’ ¹³ Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard them.” ¹⁴ ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “The whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate. ¹⁵ As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Israel was desolate, so I will do to you; you shall be desolate, O Mount Seir, as well as all of Edom—all of it! Then they shall know that I am the LORD.” ’ (Ezekiel 35)

The oppressors are consumed out of the land. ⁵ In mercy the throne will be established; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, Judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.” ⁶ We have heard of the pride of Moab— He is very proud— Of his haughtiness and his pride and his wrath; But his lies shall not be so. ⁷ Therefore Moab shall wail for Moab; Everyone shall wail. (Isaiah 16)

God warned us about the hearts of men growing cold in the end times.

Antisemitism Option #3: The Bank Robbers

Read Ezekiel 25:12-14: This the antisemitism from Esau's descendants. They are not so envious as the Ammonites. They are not spoiling to brawl like the Moabites. Nobody really likes the Edomites. They pick people off and take the treasure back to their fortress. These people have no allegiances, and they are like the bank robbers, and marauders. King Saul and King David fought them regularly. They are looking to fleece the unsuspecting. Edom participated in the first siege of Jerusalem, when all of the valuables were there for the taking. They had no interest in returning in the later sieges merely to just hack up bodies for no treasure. Later on, they were called the Idumeans.

They were foes to Israel who were committed to see their plans through. They are like the Nazi era bankers who kept the artwork and the safety deposit boxes of murdered Jews. Harrod was the last Edomite. He was certainly bloodthirsty. They are all dead now. These people are set on vengeance for profit and sport. Obadiah wrote about the judgement coming to Edom. The Edomites participated to assist the Babylonians in capturing Jerusalem. They were opportunists.

“For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever. ¹¹ In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem— Even you were as one of them. ¹² “But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress. ¹³ You should not have entered the gate of My people In the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction In the day of their calamity, Nor laid hands on their substance In the day of their calamity. ¹⁴ You should not have stood at the crossroads To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress. ¹⁵ “For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. ¹⁶ For as you drank on My holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been. (Obadiah 1)

Antisemitism Option #4: Non-Stop Resistance

Read Ezekiel 25:15-17: Now comes the infamous Philistines. They were preoccupied with war. They were accomplished warriors. In fact, God knew that they could not handle this level of warrior when they set out from Egypt. This is a worthy opponent that had to be worked up to be able to handle. They had war after war with the children of Israel. They perfected various steel technologies and weapon innovations. They seemed to have the forever feud.

17 Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." (Exodus 13:17)

The Philistines are gone now, but they had five stronghold cities in Israel. They have no connection to the modern Palestinians. God used the Philistines to judge his people and press down on them with force. The Philistines were used to bring the Hebrews to repentance over and over. They were relentless.

This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites, ³from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines—the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites; (Joshua 13:2)

The Philistines worshipped Dagon (the ½ fish god), Ashtoreth and Baal. The irony is that despite having 3 gods, they were really not a very spiritual people. They only considered the physical/visible world. The Philistines are associated with long-lasting drunken parties. They were all about war. The net effect is daily resistance, confrontations, intimidation and shallowness. They were simple people who were tenacious. You could say that they were just contrary obstructionists. They opposed Israel continuously. There was no quick victory here.

More to the point is how these evil forces act upon our lives? The forces that set ancient Israel back still set us back today. You could say that the basic human weaknesses of envy and hatred and lust are all part of the Ammonites, Moabites and Edomite wars. These same weaknesses course through our minds all day long. The Philistine component to all of this is the demonic resistance to making spiritual progress. The wheels seem to just fall off the wagon as I prepare to take a step of faith. I think that the angels have a similar long-term anaerobic hand to hand battle.

12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of

Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel 10)

