

Ezekiel 35

Whenever we read scripture, we need to ask ourselves how much of the writing is based on the immediate reference and how much is serving to make a bigger and broader point. This chapter is about the judgement against the nation Edom. This is the area of south Jordan and northern Saudi Arabia. Are we primarily talking about the literal nation of Edom; or is it really more about those who live ungodly lives like Edom's founder Esau, Jacob's brother? Whatever it is it is much bigger than one man or one nation. Edom is just the prime example.

The Spirit has confirmed that we too are facing a rising hatred that is beginning again to shed the blood of the righteous. Last week it was Charlie Kirk, the Ukrainian woman and another school shooting.

¹² Because lawlessness is increased, the love of most people will grow cold.
(Matthew 24:12)

This chapter uses the phrase of *an ancient hatred*. The word for ancient is actually always and eternal. That goes beyond disagreements between Jacob and Esau. One thing that separates the spiritual man and the naturally-minded worldly man is that the worldly man is not tamable. He will never repent unto salvation. We have no clue who will repent and who won't. A spiritual man can sin with the best of them; but then he becomes depressed and deeply remorseful. He has quenched the Spirit of God living inside of him. He just cannot be at peace while living like a pig.

The tension between good and evil men predates Jacob and Esau and goes beyond their lifetime. Esau is a figurehead for all such men who think the same. His descendants followed in his footsteps. The last Edomite was King Herod, who killed a lot of Jews. He also murdered his own wife and kids. This antisemite idea goes beyond the examples of specific people and nations carrying this imbedded hatred for righteousness. How did Herod see life?

King Herod is often described as a vile man due to his ruthless actions, including the massacre of infants in Bethlehem to eliminate a potential rival, Jesus. His reign was marked by paranoia, cruelty, and a willingness to kill even his own family members to maintain power. The point is that the acorn does not fall far from the tree. They don't change.

⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. ¹¹For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, ¹²not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his

brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (1 John 3)

Read Ezekiel 35:1-9: Mount Seir is mentioned 40 times in the Old Testament. It is the mountainous range of territory given to Esau and his descendants. God told Jacob's descendants to not attack these distant relatives. The righteous are graceful to the unrighteous. We all have family members who see the world completely differently than we do. We are not like some Muslims who kill unbelievers.



The Edomites were unforgiving and hateful. Antisemitism really has no logic behind it. Esau rejected his families God and culture back when he was in line to inherit it all. The real story always lies with God's people. Esau's future was tragic, but this is ultimately about Jacob's spiritual development. All of the scary things in our life has more to do with how we just treated God than any evil actor.

Somehow the counterculture of cancelation and controlling our opinion, resulting in domination all around us feeds our spiritual growth. There is much more spiritual exercise for us who are living around hateful people than around likeminded people. You will produce stronger Christians if they have to struggle.

God has destined these hateful and jealous people for a future of destruction. We see this in this lifetime and ultimately in hell. Pride and self-ascribed authority over others cultivate similar responses in those around you. In other words, you are creating a world of hatred towards yourself when you hate on others. What you put

out there comes back. It is good that Trump calls out evil, but when we go beyond that and belittle people, we create a super-committed enemy.

Esau and his descendants are characterized as classic hateful takers of life. The Edomites wanted to snatch and possess Israel and Judah. They wanted Israel to just die. They are basically a line of killers. One interesting part of ancient history describes how this killer instinct in Esau actually protected Israel. When Esau took over the land of Edom it was populated with giants. The Edomites killed them all, and took their land; thus, making it a safer region for Israel. They wanted to see the Hebrews get wiped out and then take their land for themselves.

¹⁰ (The Emim had dwelt there in times past, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. ¹¹ They were also regarded as giants, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim. ¹² The Horites formerly dwelt in Seir, but the descendants of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their place, just as Israel did to the land of their possession which the LORD gave them.) (Deuteronomy 2)

No mercy, no regret for loss of life. Sound familiar? Heartlessness accompanies the life of the flesh.

A man was arrested and charged after he blatantly trampled the growing memorial for Charlie Kirk outside the Turning Point USA headquarters in Phoenix on Sunday. Fox News cameras were rolling as the man walked through the memorial, kicking over items including flowers, vases and flags. A mourner gathered at the memorial stepped in to stop the man's sick actions. A man in a blue polo shirt is seen yanking the man out of the memorial and throwing him to the ground. Phoenix police identified the alleged vandal as 19-year-old Ryder Corral. In video of Corral's arrest, he appears to be wearing a shirt similar to the one worn by the man suspected of assassinating Kirk.

Antifa	
	
Symbol commonly used by antifa depicting an anarchist flag overlaying a socialist flag, based on the logo of the German antifa movement	
Country	United States
Motives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to right-wing politics Opposition to fascism Opposition to Donald Trump
Ideology	Anti-fascism Anti-authoritarianism Anti-capitalism Anti-statism Anti-Trumpism Anarchism Socialism Communism
Political position	Left-wing
Major actions	Direct action Community organizing Mutual aid Harassment Digital activism Doxing Picketing Political violence Protest marching
Status	Active

Why do we have to deal with this craziness? Ever since Adam and Eve fell we entered a world filled with resistance and tension. God does not do things to just make life worse or to rub our nose in it. We may be out of bounds in other aspects of our life requiring a re-set. He does it to be forced to deal with our lives differently (better the next time). He creates experiences that do not smell good or taste good or feel good, if we are not spiritually healthy.

Evil people have their own sources of inspiration. Spiritual warfare is demonic influence intended to bring harm. At the same time, we know that all things are

good for those who are called according to his purposes. Spiritual warfare is a tricky thing. It is natural to have hard feelings against those who hurt you. In fact, I think that I may have a history of really hanging on to feeling *stepped on* by others. I used to feel incensed by those who completely disregarded what I am trying to accomplish. I missed some opportunities to grow. God would not have allowed it if I did not need it. Evil people are actually one of our best teachers. Just like the devil, they expose what we are like deep inside. You need to drop a tea bag in hot water to see what flows out.

There are added ways that opposing forces can bless us. Jesus probably taught by contrast as much as he taught by comparison. Every time that the Pharisees butted in and tried to stop Jesus, it became the subject of another great bible study. In reality, spiritual warfare and resistance are a process of personal transformation. We can mistakenly hate the evildoers and turn to violence against them. Once we get drug into *the arena of the flesh* and hatred, we lose...no matter how noble our position. It takes a lot of love to get past hate. Fighting fire with fire is exactly what the devil wants. Overcoming evil can only be done by walking towards God. Everything else become less important background noise.

Speaking of static, our whole arena of life has become an offending atmosphere. Covid forced us to make more use of mass communications. The social media and internet advances have created an environment where we have to hear everything on everyone's mind. Having odd neighbors in times past was not a big issue. Now we hear way too much from too many oddballs who are keyboard warriors weighing in on every aspect of life. Those who are not contributors to society seek the most airtime. Our news has become editorialized and weaponized. The algorithms and favored content were designed to deceive and bias the public. The resulting tribalism has seeped into our corporate culture. Cancel culture, misinformation and propaganda are found everywhere.

These truths about unbelieving men in scripture are not just written for unbelievers. We too can cross the line in the name of *doing good* and not know it. God gives us a taste of our own medicine when we blindly step all over others. We all can become *nose blind* as we justify the way we do things.

The desire that the Edomites had for the blood of others would also re-visit them. God uses *poetic justice* to remind us of what we are sowing. We are a biased jury when it comes to our own behavior. The hatred Edom had for Israel returned to them. The difference is that Israel survived, and Edom did not. They reaped what they sowed. The bullies got beat up badly. The terrorists became terrorized by Babylon. The displacers became displaced. The ones who desired to drive Israel into the sea no longer exist.



God says that Edom will become perpetually desolate. Is this true?

Malachi 1:3-4 states:

“but Esau I have hated, and I have made his mountains a wasteland and left his inheritance to the jackals of the desert. Though Edom may say, ‘We have been devastated, but we will rebuild the ruins,’ this is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’”

These verses address the descendants of Esau, known as the Edomites, who inhabited a rugged and mountainous region southeast of the Dead Sea. The claim in Malachi is that

Edom's land would be laid waste and remain desolate. Questions often arise as to whether archaeology and recorded history confirm or contradict this prophecy's fulfillment.

Location and Importance of the Edomite Territory

The territory of Edom stretched from the southern end of the Dead Sea down to the Gulf of Aqaba. Key cities included Bozrah and Sela (often associated with the later site of Petra). Given its strategic position along major trade routes, Edom became a center for commerce, particularly noteworthy for its copper mines (e.g., Timna) and trade with surrounding civilizations.

Despite these advantages, biblical prophecy repeatedly pronounces judgment on Edom (see Isaiah 34:5-10; Jeremiah 49:7-22; Obadiah 1-21), emphasizing that their land would face initial desolation and never again thrive as a lasting, independent kingdom. Malachi further highlights that even efforts at recovery would be thwarted.

Archaeological Findings in Former Edomite Sites

1. Deserted Strongholds and Sparse Habitation

Archaeological surveys in the Arabah and areas around Bozrah and Petra indicate a marked decline in permanent settlement following the Babylonian and later invasions. Small-scale occupation layers sometimes appear, but they do not show robust reestablishment of the Edomite political or cultural identity.

What were Edom's transgressions against Israel?

- They were *hostile to God's people*
 - The first historical point of conflict between the Hebrews and Edomites took place around the year 1200 BC, when the Hebrews left Egypt in the Exodus. As the Hebrews wandered throughout the Sinai Desert on their way to what would become their home in Canaan, they had to pass through Edom. Edom refused to grant passage. They clearly refused to help the Israelites in any way. Even so, this incident came right after the people were grumbling about God's provisions. The harsh circumstances may have come to humble and refocus God's people.

¹⁷ *Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have*

passed through your territory. ' " 18 Then Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through my land, lest I come out against you with the sword. " 19 So the children of Israel said to him, "We will go by the Highway, and if I or my livestock drink any of your water, then I will pay for it; let me only pass through on foot, nothing more. " 20 Then he said, "You shall not pass through. " So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand. 21 Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory; so Israel turned away from him. (Numbers 20)

- *They boasted against Israel and rejoiced when Jerusalem fell to Babylon*

The prophet Obadiah speaks specifically about Edom.

- They were a prideful people (Obadiah 1: 3)
- They were violent towards Israel (Obadiah 1:10)
- They rejoiced when Jerusalem was crushed (like those who celebrated Chalie Kirk's death) Obadiah 1:12
- They were opportunists looting and plundering the belongings of the Jews when they were sacked (Obadiah 1:13)
- They actually captured escaping Jews and sold them to the Babylonians (Obadiah 1:14)

Did this legacy really start with Esau...or is he just the prototype of all fleshly men going back to Cain? The book of Hebrews boils the life of Esau down to its simplest terms. The people who live according to the flesh do not regard the things of God at all. So much so, that Esau traded his connection with God for a bowl of stew! His belly and his desires always outdid any desire to be with God. The natural man will always choose to hunt or watch sports or pursue pastimes or work instead of going near a church. There is just nothing of interest to him there. That is not to say that Esau did not regret the consequences of his choices.

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. (Hebrews 12)

The word used in Hebrews for profane means that anything goes. No boundaries. The Bible describes how men can come from the same parents but be of two totally different spiritual people at their core. The people of the flesh always resist the people of the spirit. It is not a nationality thing; though the Edomites carried the hatred of their fathers for generations. Any curse becomes generational if you do

not break the chain and feuding with salvation. A big part of being saved is to wave goodbye to all of the things others have done to harm you. Now you work for God; and you need to turn the page. Paul warns us about going back to our old natural ways for obvious reasons.

²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If all is well, why am I like this?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.” ²⁴ So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷ So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. ²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. (Genesis 25)

Read Ezekiel 35:10-15: A lot of the bible is about how God wants us to provide the same for others that we want for ourselves. How badly do you have to want something to kill them? The Edomites wanted the land of Israel and Judah for themselves. Ironically, Esau had it all in hand as the older brother, and he traded it to Jacob for a bowl of chili. There are all kinds of entitlement-minded people who do not put in the effort but expect to receive the fruits.

Envy plays into all of the woke ideology as well as the DEI agenda. Socialism is laziness and envy. Nobody’s else’s stuff belongs to you. At some point you just have to realize that you cannot blame others. We all get our own opportunities. Somebody has to be the parent and put up the effort to build.

Convenient ideals that involve no effort will come to roost. Edom visualized Israel and Judah getting crushed, because they wanted their assets. Edom participated heavily in bringing about the fall of Jerusalem. God made the envious and hateful curses made against Israel fall on the Edomites. Nations that have abused Israel paid a price. God built in a payment-in-kind retribution system for Israel.

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12)

It is also a general biblical truth that what we put on others comes back to us.

²⁷ *Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. (Proverbs 26)*

Esau (and all worldly men) do not want to live under God's rules. That is what unites the transgenders, Muslims, illegal aliens, the drug dealers, human traffickers, and those taking bribes.

Trump represents a return of former moral standards. These unspiritual people would still hate Trump, even if he was the nicest guy in the world. They similarly hated George Bush, Jr., Dan Quayle, Charlie Kirk, etc... because they want to sin with impunity. There is no other reason to support Kamala, Biden or Newsome. Calling out their sin infuriates them.

Esau wanted to live free and marry multiple Canaanite women. He stressed out his mother, who saw the way he lived.

³⁴ *When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. ³⁵ And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah. (Genesis 26)*

Rejecting God is not an escape from anything. Rather, it adds to your problems. God is telling us here and elsewhere that when we reject his laws, he lets us get judged by our own declared laws. We need to perform according to the same expectations that we place on others. We need to be found guilty for the same standards we declare for others. The curses Edom declared on Israel fell on themselves.

¹⁴ *When Gentiles, who do not have the Law [since it was given only to Jews], do instinctively the things the Law requires [guided only by their conscience], they are a law to themselves, though they do not have the Law. ¹⁵ They show that the essential requirements of the Law are written in their hearts; and their conscience [their sense of right and wrong, their moral choices] bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or perhaps defending them ¹⁶ on that day when, as my gospel proclaims, God will judge the secrets [all the hidden thoughts and concealed sins] of men through Christ Jesus. (Romans 2)*