Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 371 – Against The Ammonites Through The Philistines (Ezekiel 25:1-17)

1. Why was the Lord going to destroy the Ammonites?

Because they rejoiced at the judgment against Israel: *"(1) The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them; (3) And say unto the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity; (4) Behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk. (5) And I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a couchingplace for flocks: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. (6) For thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast clapped thine hands, and stamped with the feet, and rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel; (7) Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD"* (**Ezekiel 25:1-7**).

- The following point applies to the points in this chapter and the next few as well…. God had set His erring people in Judgment and part of what they would face is being mocked by the nations round about them (**Jeremiah 18:15-16**, **Lamentations 2:15-16**, **Lamentations 3:46**, and **Zephaniah 2:15**). However, God also said He wasn't just going to allow His people, erring or not, to be mocked without consequences for such (**Deuteronomy 32:41-43**, **Isaiah 51:22-23**, and **Jeremiah 50:10-12**). Judah desired God to punish those whom rejoiced over their sufferings (**Lamentations 1:20-22**). An applicable point to consider: **Proverbs 24:17-18**
- The Ammonites began as a nation when Lot's youngest daughter got her father drunk, had sex with him, and was bore his child (**Genesis 19:30-38**). At one point, they were protected (**Deuteronomy 2:19**). Their history was not favorable with God's people (**II Samuel 10:1-19** and **II Chronicles 20:1**). Their future relationship, from where we are in this study, isn't good either (**Nehemiah 4:7**).
- Aha is to be understood as those that rejoiced at the hurt others face (**Psalms 70:2-3**).
- It was God whom had His sanctuary destroyed (**Ezekiel 24:21**) because Judah had profaned it (**Ezekiel 23:38**).
- Again, including the Ammonites and the chapters coming, God's deliverance of these mocking nations into the hands of the Chaldeans was foretold (**Jeremiah 25:15-38**).
- To the end that, they may know He is the Lord (**Exodus 7:5**; **14:18**; **29:46**, **I Kings 20:28**, **Ezekiel 11:10**, etc.). This point will be made in almost every chapter from here through chapter thirty-nine in various applications.

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2. Why was the Lord going to execute judgments against the Moabites?
Because they said Judah was like unto the heathen: *"(8) Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen; (9) Therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities which are on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Bethjeshimoth, Baalmeon, and Kiriathaim, (10) Unto the men of the east with the Ammonites, and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations. (11) And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD"* (**Ezekiel 25:8-11**).

- The Moabites trace back to the eldest daughter of Lot when she got her father drunk and was impregnated by him (**Genesis 19:30-38**).
- Seir was in Edom (**Genesis 32:3**; **36:8**). We will discuss Edom in question 3.
- Ruth was a Moabite (**Ruth 2:21**) and that is significant (**Matthew 1:1**ff. / **vs. 5** specifically). The land of Moab bordered Israel's land (**Deuteronomy 34:1**ff.). They had a long history of conflict with Israel.
- They rejoiced to see Judah fall (**Ezekiel 33:15**).
- See: **Jeremiah 48:1-47** as God spelled out His judgment against the Moabites.
- While they should not have used their mouths against those that were of God, but their charge [not motive] was correct (**II Chronicles 33:1-2**; **9**). Judah knew better (**Jeremiah 10:2**).
- Opening the side, means God was going to lay them open to attacks (**Jeremiah 48:38**; **40** and **Amos 2:2**).

3. Why were the Edomites going to have the vengeance of God laid upon them?
Because Edom dealt against the house of Judah in revenge: *"(12) Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them; (13) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword. (14) And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD"* (**Ezekiel 25:12-14**).

- The Edomites are descendants of Esau (**Genesis 25:30**; **36:1**).
- They bordered Judah (**Joshua 15:1**; **21**).
- Like Moab, not highly regarded (**Psalms 60:8-12**). A long history with them too.
- God's judgment on them (**Lamentations 4:21-22** and **Obadiah**).
- God's wrath through Babylon would be the destruction of man and beast like Judah faced resulting in desolation (**Jeremiah 36:29**; **50:3**).
- Think of what it meant for them to face the anger, fury, and vengeance of God (**Micah 5:15**, **Nahum 1:2-6**, and **Hebrews 10:30-31**).

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4. Why were the Philistines going to have God's vengeful hand stretched out upon them?

Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart: *"(15) Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred; (16) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast. (17) And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them"* (**Ezekiel 25:15-17**).

- The Philistines had been a thorn in the side of Israel all the way back to the days of the Judges (**Judges 3:1-7**; **10:6**).
- God was going to punish them (**Jeremiah 47:1-7**).
- They were guilty of seeking revenge against Israel because their troubles were of many generations passed with the Philistines coming out on the bottom. Who does that make them an enemy of (**Zechariah 12:7-9**)?
- Think about "furious rebukes" (**Psalms 9:15-20**; **83:12-18**).

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