

When God Calls the Nations to Account

Ezekiel 25:1–17

Veritas Adult Community

October 3, 2020

The Scripture Reading**A. The Oracle against Bene-Ammon**

¹The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Human, set your face toward Bene-Ammon, and prophecy against them, ³and say, “O Bene-Ammon! Hear the word of the Lord YHWH! Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Because you exclaimed, “Aha!” against my sanctuary, when it was desecrated, and against the land of Israel, when it was laid waste, and against the house of Judah, when they went off into exile—

⁴Therefore I am handing you over to the Qedemites, as dispossessed property. They will set up their encampments and pitch their dwellings within you. They will devour your produce and drink your milk.

⁵But I will transform Rabbah into a pastureland for camels, and Bene-Ammon into a resting place for flocks. Then you will know that I am YHWH.

⁶For thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Because you clapped your hand, and stamped your feet, and celebrated with utter contempt over the land of Israel, ⁷therefore see, I have stretched out my hand against you, and I will hand you over as booty to the nations. I will cut you off from among the peoples and destroy you from the countries. I will eliminate you. Then you will know that I am YHWH.

B. The Oracle Against Moab

⁸Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Because Moab is saying, “Look! The house of Judah is just like all the nations.” ⁹Therefore, I will open up the flank of Moab, removing the cities, its cities from all its territory, the pride of the land: Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-Meon and Kiriathaim. ¹⁰And I will deliver it, along with Bene-Ammon, to the Qedemites as dispossessed property, so that Bene-Ammon might not be remembered among the nations. ¹¹Thus I will execute judgments in Moab, and they will know that I am YHWH.

C. The Oracle Against Edom

¹²Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Because Edom has treated the house of Judah with bitter vengeance, and incurred grievous guilt by taking revenge against them—

¹³Therefore, thus has the Lord YHWH declared: I will stretch out my hand against Edom, cutting off from it both human and beast and turning it into a wasteland. From Teman to Dedan they will fall by the sword.

¹⁴And I will inflict my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel. And they will deal with Edom according to my wrath and according to my fury. Then they will know my vengeance. The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

D. The Oracle Against the Philistines

¹⁵Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Because the Philistines have acted with vengeance, and taken bitter revenge with utter contempt, destroying with everlasting enmity—

¹⁶Therefore, thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Look! I will stretch out my hand against the Philistines, cutting off the Cherethites, and destroying the survivors of the seacoast. ¹⁷I will execute extreme vengeance upon them, with furious wrath. And they will know that I am YHWH when I have inflicted my vengeance upon them.

Exposition

1. **Who are the Targets of YHWH's attention in these oracles proclaimed by the prophet in exile in Babylon?**
 - a. Beney-Ammon (vv. 1–7)
 - b. Moab (vv. 8–11)
 - c. Edom (vv. 12–14)
 - d. Philistia (vv. 15–17)

2. **What is YHWH's Problem with these peoples?**

Schadenfreude

Psalm 137

3. **What will YHWH do to Jerusalem's neighbors?**

- a. He takes decisive action against them.
- b. He uses "little guys" to dispose of them.

4. **What implications does this have for Israel?**

- a. He has renewed the triangular covenant relationship.
- b. He uses Israel once more as his agent of revelation.

5. **What lessons are there here for us?**

- a. We find great comfort in rediscovering that YHWH is sovereign over the affairs of all the nations.

Ezekiel 17:24

1 Samuel 2:6–10

Luke 1:49–55

Daniel 2:20–23

- b. We find comfort in knowing that God keeps his promises to Israel, but we also learn that his primary motive in calling Israel was not to make Israel feel good about themselves and smug in their relationship to God and the nations.

- c. We must guard ourselves against *Schadenfreude*. (Romans 11:17–24).