

The Restoration of YHWH's Land:

A Most Unusual Prophecy

Ezekiel 35:1–36:15

Veritas Sabbath School

March 27, 2021

^{35:1} The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Human, set your face toward Mount Seir and prophesy against it. ³ Say to it: **Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:**

Look! I am against you, O Mount Seir!

I will raise my hand against you
and transform you into utter desolation.

⁴Your towns I will turn to ruin,
and you yourself will become a wasteland.

Then you will know that I am YHWH.

⁵ Because you have harbored longstanding enmity and handed the people of Israel over to the sword at the time of their calamity, the time of their final punishment—⁶ therefore, by my life—**the declaration of the Lord YHWH**—surely, [it was] the blood of hatred, so blood will pursue you. ⁷ I will transform Mount Seir into an utter desolation and terminate all traffic from it. ⁸ I will fill its mountains with its victims. The victims of the sword will fall on your hills and in your valleys and ravines. ⁹ I will transform you into a permanent wasteland, leaving your towns uninhabited. **Then you will know that I am YHWH.**

¹⁰ Because you have said, “These two nations and these two lands will belong to me, and we will possess them”—even though YHWH was there—¹¹ therefore, by my life—**the declaration of the Lord YHWH**—I will respond with the same anger and passion with which you in your hatred treated them. I will make myself known through them when I punish you. ¹² **Then you will know that I am YHWH.**

I have heard all the taunts you shouted against the mountains of Israel: “It has been laid waste! They have been handed over to us to devour!” ¹³ With your speech you have challenged me! With your boastful words you have defied me! I have heard [you] myself! ¹⁴ **Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** While the whole world celebrates, I will make you a desolation. ¹⁵ Just as you celebrated over the [land] grant of the house of Israel, because it was laid waste, so I will deal with you: You, Mount Seir, will become a wasteland, along with all Edom, the whole land. **Then they will know that I am YHWH.**

^{36:1} As for you, human, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say: O Mountains of Israel! Hear the word of YHWH! ² **Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** Because the enemy has declared concerning you: “Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession!”

³ Therefore, prophesy and say, **“Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** Assuredly, because they have devastated and crushed you from all sides, that you might become the possession of the rest of the nations, you have become the subject of popular gossip and calumny.”

⁴ Therefore, O Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord YHWH! **Thus has the Lord YHWH declared** to the mountains and hills, the ravines and valleys, the desolate wastes and abandoned cities, which have become targets of plunder and the object of scorn to the remaining nations round about.

⁵ **Therefore, thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** Surely, I have spoken in the fire of my passion against the rest of the nations, and against Edom, all who have claimed my land as their own possession with wholehearted delight and utter contempt, as their adjoining territory, as booty.

⁶ Therefore, prophesy about the land of Israel, and say to the mountains and the hills, the ravines and valleys: **Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** Look! In my impassioned fury I have I spoken, because

you have borne the taunting of the nations. ⁷ Therefore, **thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** I hereby solemnly swear that the nations all around you will themselves bear their own disgrace.

⁸ As for you, O mountains of Israel, you will grow your branches and bear your fruit for my people Israel, for their return is imminent. ⁹ For see now, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be tilled and sown. ¹⁰ I will multiply people on you, the entire house of Israel, all of it! The cities will be resettled, and the ruined sites rebuilt. ¹¹ I will multiply people and animals on you. They will increase and be fruitful. I will resettle you the way you once were, and I will make you more prosperous than ever before. **Then you will know that I am YHWH.**

¹² I will cause humans, my people Israel, to walk on you! They will take possession of you, and you will become their grant. You will never again rob them of their children. ¹³ **Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:** Because people are saying to you, “You are a [land] that devours humans and robs your nation of children.” ¹⁴ Therefore [hear]! Humans you will never again devour, and your nation you will never rob of children again. **The declaration of the Lord YHWH.** ¹⁵ I will never allow you to hear the insults of the nations and the taunting of the peoples you will never bear again. And you will never again rob your nation of children. **The declaration of the Lord YHWH.**

Exposition

The Restoration of YHWH’s Land (35:1–36:15)

Preamble (vv. 1–2)

A. The Prerequisite to Restoration: The Judgment of Seir (35:3–15)

1. The First Volley: YHWH’s Disposition toward Seir (35:3–4)
2. The Second Volley: YHWH’s First Case against Seir (35: 5–9)
3. The Third Volley: YHWH’s Second Case against Seir (35:10–12a)
4. The Fourth Volley: YHWH’s Disposition toward Seir (35:12b–15)

B. The Nature of the Restoration (36:1–15)

1. YHWH’s Answer for the Nations (36:1–7)
 - a. The Indictment of the Nations (36:1–2)
 - b. YHWH’s Disposition toward the Nations (36:3–5)
 - c. YHWH’s Sentencing of the Nations (36:6–7)
2. YHWH’s Answer for the Land of Israel (36:8–15)
 - a. The Promise of a New Day for the Land (36:8–11)
 - b. The Promise of a New Day for the Land’s People (36:12–15)

Lessons from Ezekiel’s Oracle against Mount Seir and for the Mountains of Israel.

1. The promises of YHWH are sure.
2. Those who position themselves in opposition to the people of YHWH render themselves enemies of God.
3. This prophecy has significant implications for the contemporary Israeli context