

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Book of Ezekiel*

*Message 54*

*September 18, 2016*



*'Delilah's Betrayal and Samson's Imprisonment by the Philistines' by Joos van Winghe (1544-1603).*

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The Book of Ezekiel

Message Fifty-Four

THE LORD JUDGES EDMON & THE PHILISTINES

September 18, 2016

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 25:12-17

*<sup>12</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them; <sup>13</sup>therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, I will stretch out my hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; even unto Dedan shall they fall by the sword. <sup>14</sup>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 wrath; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord Jehovah.*

*<sup>15</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with despite of soul to destroy with perpetual enmity; <sup>16</sup>therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, I will stretch out my hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast. <sup>17</sup>And I will execute great vengeance upon them with wrathful rebukes; and they shall know that I am Jehovah, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them (ASV, 1901)*

JUDGMENT OF EDMON

Ezekiel 25:12

*<sup>12</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them (ASV, 1901).*

Approximately 1834 B.C. Abraham's son Isaac married but his wife Rebecca was barren for about twenty years. The prolonged state of barrenness is meaningful because it ended with an act of divine Providence, clearly a sign that the offspring are predestined to be used for God's purposes. Isaac asked Jehovah to intervene and Rebecca finally became pregnant with twin boys. During a difficult pregnancy the two boys were unusually active within her womb. The activity was not natural and it worried Rebecca. She suspected an evil omen. In fact she feared for her life. The expressive language of Hebrew captures this activity with an unusual verb *vy-yitrotsesu* and translated it means "they crushed and thrust" one another. This foretold their future hostile relationship. Rebecca inquired of the Lord regarding this and He responded; "two nations that is, twin progenitors of two nations, were struggling in her womb." The Hebrew word for nation is *goieem*, which is indicating both Jewish and Gentile nations. Common modern Jewish usage of the word *Goy* is to reference the Gentiles. That is not the biblical Hebrew meaning. They became two entirely different people groups. One people would be stronger and the other weaker.

He concluded by stating “*the elder shall serve the younger*” (Genesis 25: 23). The first out of the womb was Esau and after him was born Jacob. Esau was of a ruddy, hairy, reddish color. This Hebrew word for reddish *admoni* is used only twice again in the Bible referring to David (I Samuel 16: 12, 17: 42). Esau’s personal name was based upon his appearance and so was the nation Edom that he eventually founded. The Jewish Publication Society commentary on Genesis provides insightful historical information about the terrain of the land Edom relative to Esau’s name.

This region probably derived its name from the shaggy nature of the terrain. The Jebel section of Edom has a relatively high annual precipitation and also benefits from snowfall on the hilltops. As a result, it was always distinguished for its woods, forests, and brush. It was not until World War I that the region became finally denuded of vegetation. The Turks cut down the forests in order to service the Hejaz Railroad.<sup>1</sup>

The text states that “*And after that came forth his brother, and his hand had hold on Esau’s heel.*” This is reflected in Hosea 12: 4 “*In the womb he tried to supplant his brother.*” Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born. The Israelis (Jacob’s descendants) and the Edomites (Esau’s descendants) have fought continuously. Esau’s descendants became additional peoples of the Arab nations. Esau attempting to retaliate against his father Isaac for not making him the covenant heir married a Canaanite woman against his father’s wishes. She was Ishmael’s daughter Mahalath that made the Arab alliance against Israel stronger. Jacob received the Abrahamic Covenant from the Lord through his father Isaac (Genesis 28: 13-15). This then is another series of nations that have continuously fought against the Jews. Like Ammon and Moab Edom was continually struggling with Israel.

1. Edom refused to let Israel cross her land during the wilderness wandering (Numbers 20:14-21)
2. Saul fought with the Edomites (I Samuel 14:47).
3. David fought the Edomites and brought it under Israel’s suzerainty (II Samuel 8:13-14).
4. Solomon exploited Edom and made it a seaport (I Kings 9:26-28), Edom rose up against him near the end of his reign (I Kings 11:14-18).
5. Edom was a vassal state to Judah even after the civil war (I Kings 22:47-48).
6. Edom revolted against Judah and contested for control of shipping on the Transjordanian Highway (II Kings 8:20-22a).
7. Edom attacked Israel during Ahaz’s reign (II Chronicles 28:14).
8. Herod the Great was an Edomite and he evoked the hatred of the Jews because:
  - A. The Romans appointed him their king as a non-Jew.
  - B. He took additional control away from them in terms of their affairs.
  - C. He took their money.
  - D. He built Greek like buildings & dedicated them to the Romans.
  - E. He transgressed the Mosaic Law.
  - F. He employed violence including secret police to persecute them.
  - G. He killed the young children in Bethlehem

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<sup>1</sup> Sarna, N. M. (1989). *Genesis*. The JPS Torah commentary (180). Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society.

In more recent times they came against Israel several times after Israel declared their independence. They are now Southern Jordan.

#### THE LORD WILL JUDGE EDMON

Ezekiel 25:13-14

*<sup>13</sup>therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, I will stretch out my hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; even unto Dedan shall they fall by the sword. <sup>14</sup>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 wrath; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

Edom will be destroyed as will be brought out in greater later in Ezekiel. Seir is the mountain in Edom referencing them.

Ezekiel 35:6-9

*<sup>6</sup>therefore, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: since thou hast not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue thee. <sup>7</sup>Thus will I make mount Seir an astonishment and a desolation; and I will cut off from it him that passeth through and him that returneth. <sup>8</sup>And I will fill its mountains with its slain: in thy hills and in thy valleys and in all thy watercourses shall they fall that are slain with the sword. <sup>9</sup>I will make thee a perpetual desolation, and thy cities shall not be inhabited; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

God says that He will *cut off man and beast from it*. And since they did not mind shedding blood, *therefore blood shall pursue thee*. He will fill their mountain with the dead and make it *a perpetual desolation*. It shall never be inhabited again. Jeremiah also was given a prophecy regarding the destruction of Edom. He also talked about the totality of their demise because of Edom's failure to respond to the opportunity the Lord gave them to trust in Him (Jeremiah 49:11). Finally Obadiah the smallest book in the Old Testament devotes itself entirely to the destruction of Edom.

Obadiah also stated that the destruction would be total (Obadiah 1: 5–6), and would not be helped either by their friends, by their own savvy, or military prowess (Obadiah 1:8–9). When Israel has been spiritually restored early in the Messianic Kingdom (Obadiah 1:17) will also be the time of Edom's final destruction. The Lord says that this destruction of Edom will come by means of the children of Israel (Obadiah 1:18). Because Israel will be restored both houses of Israel will come against Edom like fire. Edom is described as stubble that ignites immediately when exposed to the flame. The destruction will be complete, so that none of the people or Esau's descendants will remain. However, the descendants of Esau's brother Jacob (Israel) will own and possess the mountains of Edom (Obadiah 1:19–20). It is out of Mount Zion that judgment will fall on Edom (Obadiah 1:21). As in the passage in Ezekiel chapter twenty-five the destruction of Edom will be *by the hand of my people Israel says Jehovah*. So the destruction will be complete and their will be nothing left of Edom (southern Jordan) in the Messianic Kingdom. No nation

named Edom will exist in the Kingdom with Israel assuming their territory into the Messianic Kingdom Land Granted to Abraham.

#### GOD WILL JUDGE THE PHILISTINES

Ezekiel 25:15-17

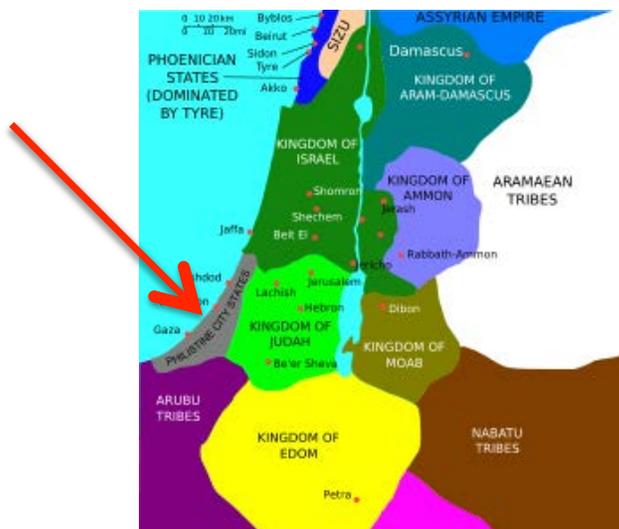
*<sup>15</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with despite of soul to destroy with perpetual enmity; <sup>16</sup>therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, I will stretch out my hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast. <sup>17</sup>And I will execute great vengeance upon them with wrathful rebukes; and they shall know that I am Jehovah, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them (ASV, 1901)*

When Israel entered the Promise Land under general Joshua they were given the mandate to take all of it.

Joshua 1:1-4

*<sup>1</sup>Now it came to pass after the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, that Jehovah spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, <sup>2</sup>Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it, as I spake unto Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness, and this Lebanon, even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border. <sup>5</sup>There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee (ASV, 1901).*

The Israelites despite God miraculous provisions for them during the Exodus and their promise by the Lord that He *will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee*, they failed God. They did not take all the land allocated to them and failed to trust in the promises of God. Because Israel did evil God used the Philistines to judge Israel (Judges 13:1)



The Philistines were a non-Semitic people called the “uncircumcised” in the Bible. (Judges 14:3; 15:18; 1 Samuel 14: 6; 31:4; 2 Samuel 1:20; 1 Chronicles 10:4) They settled in the low plains in the southwest along the coast. They were part of the invasion under Ramses III of Egypt about 1200 B.C. They had superior metallurgy skills, which gave them weaponry superior to their foes. This enabled them to conquer far larger groups and to extend their control for a time over most of Israel. The Roman Emperor Hadrian named Palestine after them in approximately A.D. 136 He made the name to celebrate the Philistines, Israel’s enemy after his disgust with the Jews following the Bar-Kochba rebellion (A.D. 135). The Philistines were the leading enemy of Israel from the time of Sampson until the middle of the reign of David. Their five cities were: Ekron, Gad, Gaza, Ashdod and Ashkelon.

The Philistines were opposed by the judges Shamgar (Judges 3:31), Samson (Judges 13–16), and Samuel (I Samuel 7:2–17). Saul’s major battles in Israel were designed to check the Philistines’ advances on the central Benjamin plateau (I Samuel 13:1–14:23) and in the Jezreel Valley (1 Samuel 28:1–4; 29:1–2, 11; 31:1–3, 7–10).

After a series of battles David stopped a Philistine challenge to his kingdom (II Samuel 5:17–25), Philistia revolted against Jehoram and sacked Judah and Jerusalem (II Chronicles 21:16–17). Uzziah reestablished Judah’s control over Philistia (II Chronicles 26:6–7), but Philistia challenged Israel during Ahaz’s reign (II Chronicles 28:16–18).

The Philistines lost their independence to Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria by 732 B.C., and revolts in following years were all crushed. Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon eventually conquered all of Syria and the Kingdom of Judah, and the former Philistine cities became part of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. There are few references to the Philistines after this time period. However, Zechariah 9:6, and I Maccabees 3 make mention of the Philistines, indicating that they still existed as a people in some capacity after the Babylonian invasion. The Philistines seemed to disappear as a distinct group by the late fifth century B.C.<sup>2</sup> They assimilated into the surrounding cultures and ceased to exist as a separate nation. God promised to curse them and they cease to exist now. The Gaza strip will be part of Israel in the Messianic Kingdom and no people group will exist by the name Philistia.

NEXT MESSAGE: THE PROPHECY AGAINST THE ARAB NATIONS CONTINUED –TYRE  
**E-mail:** [info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com](mailto:info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com) **Call: Toll Free 877-706-2479**

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<sup>2</sup> Bridger, David. Ed. *The New Jewish Encyclopedia*. NY: Behrman House, Inc. 1976 376