

Ezekiel 25 – When Nations Cheer at Judgment, and the God Who Still Calls Us Back

When Jerusalem fell, God also dealt with the nations surrounding Israel. These nations did not simply observe Israel's suffering—they celebrated it. Their hostility revealed hearts that rejoiced over the fall of God's people. Ezekiel 25 records a series of divine messages aimed not at Israel, but at those who mocked her downfall. These judgments remind us that God sees every motive, every word, and every celebration of another person's ruin.

But the chapter also calls us to look inward. Before we point at the nations around Israel, we must ask whether we carry the same attitudes in our hearts.

1. The Ammonites: Rejoicing in Israel's Pain (Ezekiel 25:1–7)

"Because you said, 'Aha!' against My sanctuary when it was profaned... therefore I will deliver you as a possession to the men of the East... and you shall know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 25:3–7, NKJV, condensed)

The Ammonites lived east of Israel—modern-day Jordan. When the temple was desecrated and Judah went into captivity, they didn't grieve. They cheered.

They clapped their hands.

They stomped their feet.

They danced in the streets.

They rejoiced at the suffering of God's people.

God's response?

He would hand their land over to eastern invaders. Their proud capital, Rabbah (modern Amman), would become a place for animals to lie down. And through this judgment, they too would learn who the Lord truly is.

Application:

There is something deeply wrong in the human heart when we celebrate the downfall of others. Whether it is a rival, an enemy, or someone who once offended us, hidden hatred always bears bitter fruit. When God allows discipline in another person's life, our calling is not to rejoice—it is to pray, to humble ourselves, and to examine our own hearts.

2. Moab: Treating God's People as Ordinary (Ezekiel 25:8–11)

"Because Moab and Seir say, 'Look! The house of Judah is like all the nations,' therefore... I will execute judgments upon Moab, and they shall know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 25:8–11, NKJV, condensed)

Moab mocked Judah's downfall by treating God's covenant people as "just another nation." They denied the unique calling God had given to Israel—not because Israel was superior, but because God had chosen to reveal Himself through them.

Moab would learn, through judgment, that the God who disciplines His people is also the God who defends them.

Application:

It is easy to think lightly of the people of God. But the Lord takes personally how His people are treated. In the church today, we must guard against tearing down other believers, mocking their failures, or treating lightly what God calls precious.

3. Edom: Adding Injury to Injury (Ezekiel 25:12–14)

“Because Edom acted vengefully against the house of Judah... I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel.” (Ezekiel 25:12–14, NKJV, condensed)

Edom, descended from Esau, had a long history of hostility toward Israel. When Jerusalem was collapsing, Edom used the moment to attack, plunder, and profit from Judah’s misery. They saw an opportunity and exploited it.

God declares that He will bring justice—not out of cruelty, but out of righteousness. He will not allow cruelty to stand unchallenged forever.

Application:

Taking advantage of someone else’s vulnerability is serious in God’s sight. Whether in business, relationships, or ministry, God calls us to be people who strengthen the weak—not people who exploit them.

4. The Philistines: Feeding an Ancient Grudge (Ezekiel 25:15–17)

“Because the Philistines acted in vengeance... with a spiteful heart... I will execute great vengeance on them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezekiel 25:15–17, NKJV, condensed)

The Philistines carried a deep and ancient hatred for Israel. Even in the days of David, they were fierce enemies. When Judah fell, their old bitterness resurfaced, and they struck with vengeance.

Their fury was rooted in history—old grievances that were never surrendered to God.

Application:

Old grudges have long arms. If we do not surrender bitterness to God, it hides under the surface until the right moment comes to express itself with destructive force. God’s judgment of the Philistines warns us that **resentment is not a small thing**—it poisons the soul.

A Word to Believers Today

Ezekiel 25 is not just about ancient nations. It exposes attitudes that still threaten our hearts:

- Rejoicing when someone else suffers
- Minimizing the worth of God’s people
- Exploiting weakness
- Feeding old grudges and resentments

God calls His people to something higher—to walk in mercy, humility, and prayer.

So here is the challenge:

Challenge for Believers

Are there any places in your heart where you secretly rejoice when someone you dislike struggles?

Is there resentment you have allowed to simmer for years?

Have you benefited from someone else's weakness instead of helping them?

The Lord invites you to bring these things into the light. Not because He wishes to condemn you, but because the cross of Jesus Christ offers cleansing, freedom, and new beginnings. Jesus shed His blood to save us from the power of sin—not only from outward sin, but from the bitterness and pride that hide beneath the surface.

The resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord—and through Him, we can walk in forgiveness instead of hostility.

An Invitation for Non-Believers

Ezekiel 25 is ultimately a warning to those who stand outside the grace of God. The nations surrounding Israel watched from a distance, confident that judgment would never reach them. But it did.

Likewise, sin carries consequences—not only in this life, but eternally. Yet God does not desire your destruction. Jesus Christ came into this world, shed His blood on the cross, and rose from the dead so that you do not have to face judgment alone.

He offers:

- Forgiveness for your past
- Cleansing for your heart
- Peace with God
- A new beginning
- Eternal life in Him

If you have not surrendered your life to Jesus, today He invites you to come.

You might pray:

“Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned and gone my own way. I believe You died on the cross for me and shed Your blood to save me. I believe You rose from the dead and that You are God, Savior, and Lord. I turn from my sin and give my life to You. Please forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new. In Jesus name, amen.”

If you sincerely call out to Him, He will receive you.

Conclusion

Ezekiel 25 teaches us that God sees injustice, cruelty, and hidden hatred—and He responds with righteousness. But it also reveals a God who warns before He judges, who calls before He corrects, and who invites all people into life with Him.

For those who know Jesus: walk in mercy, forgiveness, and prayer.

For those who do not: turn to the Savior who shed His blood for you and rose again in power.

May we be people who do not celebrate the downfall of others—but reflect the love and grace of the One who came to save.