

Ezekiel 35:1–15 – The Danger of Bitter Hatred and the God Who Hears Every Word

Ezekiel 35 turns from Israel to their hostile neighbor, Edom (Mount Seir). Edom descended from Esau, Jacob's twin brother. What began as a family conflict grew into a deep, generational hatred—and God finally confronted it.

This chapter is not just ancient history. It exposes what happens when resentment is nursed instead of healed, when we secretly celebrate the pain of others, and when we talk big against God's people as if He is not listening. It also points us toward the only real cure for that kind of heart: the saving blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection power.

1. Mount Seir: A Story of Old Hatreds (Ezekiel 35:1–4)

“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it, and say to it, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, O Mount Seir, I am against you; I will stretch out My hand against you, and make you most desolate. I shall lay your cities waste, and you shall be desolate; then you shall know that I am the Lord.’”’” (Ezekiel 35:1–4, NKJV)

“Mount Seir” represents Edom, the descendants of Esau. They were relatives of Israel, but the old wound between Esau and Jacob never healed. Instead of repenting of bitterness, Edom held onto it and passed it down.

By Ezekiel's day, Edom had become a constant enemy of Judah. Whenever God's people were weak or under attack, Edom would jump in from the south to take advantage, grab loot, and rejoice over Judah's suffering.

God finally says, “I am against you.” That is not about the rocks of the mountain; it is about a people whose hearts hardened into hatred.

Practical Application

Old wounds are dangerous when they are not surrendered to God.

- A family conflict, a betrayal, a church split, a harsh word, a wound from a leader or a friend—if it is not handed over to God, it can become a root of bitterness that poisons generations.
- Edom is what happens when anger is kept alive instead of forgiven.

2. Perpetual Hatred and Opportunistic Violence (Ezekiel 35:5–9)

“Because you have had an ancient hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity came to an end, therefore, as I live,” says the Lord God, “I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you.” (Ezekiel 35:5–6, NKJV)

God names their sin clearly:

- They had an *ancient hatred*—they refused to let it go.
- They attacked Israel *when Israel was already under judgment*—“at the time of their calamity.” When God was dealing with Israel, Edom said, “Perfect. Now is our chance.”
- They did not grieve over bloodshed; they embraced it.

So God says, “Blood shall pursue you.” They loved violence; violence would catch up with them. Their land would become “a perpetual desolation” (Ezekiel 35:9, NKJV).

Practical Application

This is a sobering warning:

- It is not just *that* we are angry; it is what we *do* with that anger.
- To strike people when they are already broken, to “pile on” when someone is under discipline or failure, to delight in their collapse—that is deeply offensive to God.

Scripture says:

*“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;
Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him,
And He turn away His wrath from him.”* (Proverbs 24:17–18, NKJV)

God sees how we respond when others fall—even when they “deserve” it. Edom’s joy over Judah’s destruction brought judgment on their own heads.

3. Arrogant Claims and Blasphemous Talk (Ezekiel 35:10–15)

“Because you have said, ‘These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them,’ although the Lord was there, therefore, as I live,” says the Lord God, “I will do according to your anger and according to the envy which you showed in your hatred against them; and I will make Myself known among them when I judge you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord...” (Ezekiel 35:10–11, NKJV)

Edom watched Israel’s land become desolate and said, “Perfect. We will take it. It is ours now.” They acted as if God had abandoned His people and surrendered His promises.

God responds:

“Thus you have boasted against Me with your mouth and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard them.” (Ezekiel 35:13, NKJV)

They thought they were just talking about Israel’s hills and ruins. God says, “You were talking against Me—and I heard every word.”

Finally:

“As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Israel was desolate, so I will do to you... then they shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezekiel 35:15, NKJV)

The very way they treated Israel became the pattern for their own judgment.

Practical Application

Three big warnings for us:

1. God hears our words.

Not just our prayers, but our comments, our jokes, our mockery, our “venting.” What we say about God’s people, and about people made in His image, matters to Him.

2. Envy and hatred twist our thinking.

Edom looked at Israel’s suffering and saw opportunity. If we are not careful, we can treat someone else’s crisis as our advantage—a chance to look better, move ahead, or vindicate ourselves.

3. We are not free to claim what God has not given.

Edom said, “These lands will be ours,” but God had given them to Israel. When we try to take what God has reserved—recognition, position, influence, blessing—we are not just pushing against people; we are pushing against God.

Challenge for Believers

Edom is a mirror for our hearts.

- Are you carrying an “ancient hatred”—old hurts you refuse to release?
- Do you ever secretly feel glad when someone who hurt you goes through trouble?
- Do you speak harshly, mockingly, or arrogantly about other believers, other churches, or other people, as if God is not listening?

God calls us to a very different way:

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32, NKJV)

If God has forgiven us so much in Christ, how can we cling to our grudges?

Take some time before the Lord:

- Ask Him to show you any person or group you resent.
- Ask Him to bring to light any words you have spoken that dishonor Him or wound others.
- Come clean. Confess your bitterness, envy, or spite.
- Ask Him to soften your heart, to help you forgive as you have been forgiven.

The cross leaves no room for pride, hatred, or gloating. Every one of us needed mercy. Every one of us still does.

Invitation to Those Who Have Not Yet Given Their Life to Jesus

Edom's judgment is a warning, not just about politics or ancient nations, but about the danger of a stubborn heart that pushes God away and refuses to turn.

All of us, by nature, have gone our own way. Our hearts can easily become like Edom's—hard, proud, resentful, self-centered. But God has not left us there. He has acted in love.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world as the Good Shepherd. He did not come to crush you but to save you. He lived a sinless life, yet He willingly went to the cross. Jesus saved us when He shed His blood on the cross, bearing our sins and judgment in our place. He was buried, and on the third day He rose again. His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

Because of His death and resurrection:

- Your sins can be forgiven.
- Your hard heart can be made new.
- Your bitterness can be replaced with His love.
- Your future can be changed from judgment to life.

The Bible says:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8, NKJV)

“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9, NKJV)

A Personal Response

If you sense God tugging at your heart today, you do not have to stay where you are. You can turn to Jesus right now. There is no magic formula, but you might pray something like this from your heart:

“Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned. My heart has been hard, proud, and selfish. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that You shed Your blood to save me. I believe that You rose from the dead and that Your resurrection declares You are God, Savior, and Lord. I turn from my sin and surrender my life to You. Please forgive me, give me a new heart, and make me Yours. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

If that reflects what is truly in your heart, then today is the day to follow the One who loved you to the cross and rose again to give you life.

Final Encouragement

Ezekiel 35 shows us that God takes hatred, mockery, and gloating very seriously—but it also reminds us that He sees, He hears, and He acts justly.

For believers:

- Let go of ancient grudges.
- Guard your tongue.
- Let the cross shape how you treat others.

For those still undecided:

- Do not wait until judgment is at your doorstep.
- Come to Jesus while the door of grace is wide open.

He alone can take a heart like Edom's and make it new—a heart that loves instead of hates, blesses instead of mocks, and rejoices in God's mercy rather than in anyone's ruin.