

Reading Guide for Ezekiel 35:1-36:15

This unit is comprised of two major sections: 1) a collection of judgment oracles against Mount Seir, i.e. Edom, Judah's neighbor to the southeast (35:2-15) and 2) restoration oracles to the mountains of Israel (36:1-15). Both fall under a single message-reception formula that serves as their heading (35:1), and both begin with a command for Ezekiel to address each of them.

The single focus of the two sections is the restoration of the land of Israel. The people of Judah had been exiled from the land leaving it open for any nation to claim it as their own. Edom was such a nation that saw Israel's exile as an opportunity to possess their land. This unit reveals that not only will Edom be judged but the Lord plans to restore the land back to the exiles.

MESSAGE-RECEPTION FORMULA (35:1)

I. JUDGMENT AGAINST MOUNT SEIR (35:2-15)

This first section is a series of four oracles of judgment, each ending with the recognition formula. The first oracle begins with a challenge and pronouncement of judgment (vv. 3b-4). The second oracle gives reasons for the judgment, namely the violence done to Judah (vv. 5-9). This is followed by another judgment oracle for Edom's false claim over the land (vv. 10-12a). Finally, Edom's mockery over Judah's desolation will result in their own desolation (vv. 12b-15).

Command to Ezekiel to Prophecy to Mount Seir (35:2-3a)

The Lord is Against Edom (35:3b-4)

Quotation Formula (v. 3b)

Challenge Formula (v. 3c)

Pronouncement of Judgment (vv. 3d-4a)

Recognition Formula (v. 4b)

Edom will be Judged for Their Violence Against Judah (35:5-9)

Accusation: Edom Harbored Eternal Enmity (v. 5)

Sentence: They will Become an Eternal Desolation (vv. 6-9a)

Recognition Formula (v. 9b)

Edom will be Judged for Their Claim of Ownership of the Land (35:10-12a)

Accusation: Edom Said They Would Take the Land for Themselves (v. 10)

Sentence: They will be Judged Accordingly (v. 11)

Recognition Formula (v. 12a)

Edom will be Judged for Their Desire to Devour the Land (35:12b-15)

Edom Reviled Israel, Saying Israel is Desolated (vv. 12b-13)

Quotation Formula (v. 14a)

Pronouncement of Judgment: Edom will Itself Become Desolate (vv. 14b-15a)

Recognition Formula (v. 15b)

II. RESTORATION TO THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL (36:1-15)

Now the message turns to restoration. Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy to the "mountains of Israel," the same addressee as chapter 6. Whereas there he was commanded to deliver a message of judgment, now comes the promise of future blessing.

The first oracle in this section recapitulates (from the first section) the judgment against Edom and the surrounding nations for reviling Israel (vv. 1b-7). The last two oracles speak about the restoration of the land to its former fruitfulness (vv. 8-12), thus removing its reproach and disgrace (vv. 13-15).

Command to Ezekiel to Prophecy to the Mountains of Israel (36:1a)

Judgment on the Surrounding Nations (36:1b-7)

A Call for the Mountains of Israel to Hear (v. 1b)

Accusation: The Enemy Claiming Israel as Their Possession (v. 2)

Command to Prophecy (v. 3ab)
Resumptive Accusation: They Made Israel Desolate and a Taunt (v. 3c)
New Call to for the Mountains of Israel to Hear (v. 4a)
New Quotation Formula with Addressees (v. 4b)
Sentence: Edom and the Nations will be as Prey (v. 5)
Command to Prophecy (v. 6ab)
Accusation: The Nations Have Heaped Reproach on Israel (v. 6c)
Sentence: The Nations will Bear the Reproach (v. 7)

Restoration to the Land of Israel (36:8-12)

Promises of the Restoration of the Land (vv. 8-11a)
Recognition Formula (v. 11b)
Further Promises (v. 12)

Oracle to the Land Regarding Its Reputation (34:13-15)

Quotation Formula (v. 13a)
What People Say About the Land (v. 13b)
What the Land will Become (vv. 14-15)