

Ezekiel – The Two Mountains

©2025 Mike Whyte

Copyright Notice: this document may be used freely for personal study, preaching, and teaching.
No part of it may be used under any circumstances for commercial purposes or to attain personal gain or advantage.

Chapters 35 and 36 are the last material in Ezekiel dealing with the situation of the Exiles. God, through Ezekiel, contrasts **the way of the world**, “**world city**”, **Mount Seir**, with **the Way of God**, **Mount Zion**, the “**mountains of Israel**”. The actions of Edom at the fall of Jerusalem are used to emphasize that God will accomplish his Plan. The nation of **New Israel** will accomplish God’s purpose to be **an example nation to teach all the nations of the world** (Es35:14-15a, 36:8-10a,36).

Mount Seir: Mount Seir, the area along the Arabah south of the Dead Sea, is the traditional territory of Edom. God identifies Edom for particular punishment in order to bring about repentance (Ez35:1-4, Mt1:2-4). Edom is punished for “**perpetual enmity**” towards Israel (Ez35:5-6). Mount Seir will be made a “**perpetual desolation**” (Ez35:7-9, Ps137:7, Lm4:21-22).

Edomites Take the Land: During the exile, Edomites moved into the territory of Israel as far north as Hebron: the area became known as “**Idumea**”. Edom’s appropriation of Israelite territory was a personal affront to God (Ez35:10-13). The traditional territory of Edom was taken over by the **Nabatean Arabs**. The area was known as “Idumea” from Persian times up until New Testament times. In about 120BC, **John Hyrcanus** forced the Idumeans to accept Judaism – **the last remnants of “Edom” were absorbed into the “Jews”**.

The Fate of Edom: Jeremiah prophesies a restoration of the nations of Moab and Ammon, but NOT so for Edom (Jr48:47a, 49:6, Ez35:14-15). In many prophecies, **Edom is a symbol for “world city”**, the nations of the world, under the sway of Satan the Devil, who stand in opposition to God (Is34:2, 5, Am9:11-12, At15:16-18).

The Mountain of GOD: Mount Seir is symbolic of “the world”: the nations of the world under the sway of Satan standing in opposition to God. “**The Mountain of God**” is symbolic of **the Kingdom of God** (Mc4:1-2). In Ezekiel chapter 36, the “mountains of Israel” are initially the physical land, but they come to represent the Kingdom of God. God personifies the “mountains of Israel” by addressing them as though they were sentient. First, the mountains are taken as spoil by the nations (Ez36:1-4); then, the nations are then particularized to “Edom”, “world city” (Ez36:5-7).

Second Exodus and New Israel: God then addresses the “mountains of Israel” as **the destination of the Second Exodus** and the **home of New Israel** (Ez36:8-11). Old Israel practiced idolatry on the “mountains of Israel” and was destroyed for it – “devoured”. This will not happen with New Israel (Ez36:12-15).

The Plan of God: God is identified by his Name. God’s name was “profaned”, rendered “common”, not held up as “Holy”, by the sins of Israel; hence, **Israel was scattered among the nations**. God’s concern for his “Name” is implicit in the working out of his Plan. **God has said “I will accomplish my Plan”** (Ez36:16-21, Lv26:33, Is14:24).

The New Covenant: The creation of the New Israel is NOT due to any merit on the part of any person called: **God is strictly acting according to his prerogative of “election” to accomplish his Plan** (Ez36:22-23a). In Exodus chapter 34, God cut the “**Covenant of Performance**” with Moses. By this covenant, God promised unequivocally to accomplish his purpose through Israel (Ex34:10). In Ezekiel chapter 36, **God affirms that he will accomplish this promise with the New Israel through the New Covenant** (Ez36:23b). **The “New Covenant” is between God and the New Israel**. Those called to the New Israel will be called to “conversion”. Jesus began the “New Covenant” with the Apostles at the first Christian Passover. Since then, it has been available only to those called to the New Testament Church. In the World Tomorrow the New Covenant will become available to all (Ez36:24-27). **Those called to the New Israel** will have survived the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHWH, somewhere on the earth. They **will be ready to embrace the Way of God**. God will provide for the nation (Ez36:28-30). The New Covenant requires “**repentance**” and “**knowledge of God**” (Ez36:31-32).

The Wonderful World Tomorrow: The New Israel will fulfill God’s purpose of being an example nation to teach all the nations of the world (Ez36:33-36). In the World Tomorrow it will come to pass among all peoples in all nations that “**then they will know that I am the LORD**” (Ez36:37-38)

The PowerPoint slides for this presentation are available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>.