



Prophecies of the Nations in Ezekiel

Introduction

The prophet **Ezekiel** ministered during one of the most turbulent times in **Israel's history**: the Babylonian exile of the sixth century B.C. While much of his prophecy focused on the sins and restoration of Israel, Ezekiel also recorded detailed oracles against surrounding nations. These **prophecies** reveal God's sovereignty over all peoples and demonstrate that He is the Lord not only of Israel but of the whole earth.

Ezekiel's oracles against the nations are both **judgments** of their pride and cruelty and reminders of God's universal plan. As the Lord declared: "And they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 25:17). These prophecies testify that God rules over history and that His purposes extend to every nation.

Nations Addressed by Ezekiel

Ezekiel's prophecies cover a wide range of nations surrounding Israel:

- **Ammon** (Ezekiel 25:1-7)
- **Moab** (Ezekiel 25:8-11)
- **Edom** (Ezekiel 25:12-14)
- **Philistia** (Ezekiel 25:15-17)
- **Tyre** (Ezekiel 26-28)
- **Sidon** (Ezekiel 28:20-24)
- **Egypt** (Ezekiel 29-32)

Each nation is judged according to its sins—whether pride, violence, betrayal, or idolatry.

Judgment on Ammon

Ammon rejoiced at Israel's downfall. God declared: "Because thou saidst, Aha, against my sanctuary... behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession" (Ezekiel 25:3-4).

Ammon's sin was schadenfreude—mocking God's people in their suffering. Their judgment was conquest by foreign invaders. This reminds us that gloating over others' downfall



invites God's wrath.

Judgment on Moab

Moab belittled Judah, claiming its people were like any other nation. God responded: "Behold, I will open the side of Moab... unto the men of the east" (Ezekiel 25:9-10).

Moab's sin was denying Israel's uniqueness as God's covenant people. The judgment demonstrated that God defends His chosen nation.

Judgment on Edom

Edom, descendants of Esau, held a bitter grudge against Israel. God declared: "Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance... I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom" (Ezekiel 25:12-13).

Edom's sin was perpetual hostility against their brother nation. God raised up Israel itself as an instrument of judgment against Edom (Ezekiel 25:14).

Judgment on Philistia

The Philistines acted "with despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred" (Ezekiel 25:15). Their centuries-long hostility toward Israel led to destruction. God's justice shows that ancient grievances cannot justify violence.

Prophecy Against Tyre

Ezekiel devoted three chapters to Tyre, the wealthy trading city. Tyre rejoiced at Jerusalem's fall, saying, "Aha, she is broken... I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste" (Ezekiel 26:2).

God foretold Nebuchadnezzar's siege and Tyre's eventual downfall. The prophecy even predicted that Tyre would be scraped bare like a rock, becoming a place for spreading nets (Ezekiel 26:14). History confirms that Alexander the Great later fulfilled this prophecy by scraping rubble into the sea to build a causeway.

The Fall of Tyre's King



In Ezekiel 28, the prophet described the king of Tyre with imagery that goes beyond a human ruler: “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God... thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” (Ezekiel 28:13–15).

This dual prophecy may reflect both the arrogance of Tyre’s king and the pride of Satan himself. It warns of the danger of exalting oneself against God.

Prophecy Against Sidon

Ezekiel also condemned Sidon, declaring that God would send pestilence and blood into her streets (Ezekiel 28:23). Yet even in judgment, God promised that Israel would one day dwell securely (Ezekiel 28:26).

Prophecies Against Egypt

Chapters 29–32 contain a series of prophecies against Egypt, portraying Pharaoh as a prideful dragon in the Nile (Ezekiel 29:3). God declares that Egypt will become desolate and subject to Babylon.

One striking prophecy predicted that Egypt would be uninhabited for forty years (Ezekiel 29:11–12)—a unique judgment that demonstrates God’s control over mighty empires.

Theological Themes

Ezekiel’s prophecies of the nations teach:

- **God’s sovereignty:** He rules over all peoples, not just Israel.
- **God’s justice:** Pride, cruelty, and mockery invite judgment.
- **God’s faithfulness:** He defends His covenant people.
- **God’s universal plan:** Judgments on nations foreshadow Christ’s reign over the whole earth.

As Paul affirmed: “For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Romans 13:1).

Conclusion

Ezekiel’s oracles against the nations demonstrate that God is Lord of history. Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, and Egypt all fell under His judgment for their pride,



cruelty, and mockery of Israel. These prophecies remind us that no nation can exalt itself above God or harm His people with impunity. Ultimately, they look forward to Christ's reign, when every nation will bow before Him.