

**Study 70: Isaiah, Part 26 Isaiah 34****Isaiah 34**

Come near, you nations [goyim 1471 גוֹיִם],<sup>1</sup> and listen;  
pay attention, you peoples!

Let the earth [eretz 776 אֶרֶץ] hear, and all that is in it,  
the world [tebel 8398 תֵּבֵל],<sup>2</sup> and all that comes out of it!

2 The Lord is angry with all nations;  
his wrath is on all their armies.

He will totally destroy<sup>3</sup> them,  
he will give them over to slaughter.

3 Their slain will be thrown out,  
their dead bodies will stink;  
the mountains will be soaked [*melted*] with their blood.

4 All the stars in the sky will be dissolved  
and the heavens rolled up like a scroll;  
all the starry host will fall  
like withered leaves from the vine,  
like shriveled figs from the fig tree.

5 My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; [Cp Deut 32:40-42]  
see, it descends in judgment on **Edom**,  
the people I have totally destroyed.

6 The sword of the Lord is bathed in blood,  
it is covered with fat—  
the blood of lambs and goats,  
fat from the kidneys of rams.

For the Lord has a sacrifice in **Bozrah**  
and a great slaughter in **the land of Edom**.

7 And the wild oxen will fall with them,  
the bull calves and the great bulls.

Their land will be drenched with blood,  
and the dust will be soaked with fat.

8 For the Lord has **a day of vengeance**,  
**a year of retribution**, to uphold Zion's cause.

[Compare Isa 61:1-4; Luke 21:22. Edom fell to the Babylonians some time after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Edom, as the descendants of Esau, become a type here of those who have rejected their birthright. The anti-type was Israel of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, which rejected their own Messiah, and thus traded their birthright for a “mess of pottage.” Notice that Jesus used Isaiah's prophecy as a “template” for His own prophetic statements. How true it is that those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.]

9 **Edom's** streams will be turned into pitch,  
her dust into burning sulfur;  
her land will become blazing pitch!

10 It will not be quenched night or day;  
its smoke will rise forever.

From generation to generation it will lie desolate;  
no one will ever pass through it again.

11 The desert owl and screech owl will possess it;

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in brackets are Strong's reference numbers.

<sup>2</sup> This Hebrew word is the equivalent of the Greek word οἰκουμένη (oikoumene), which means “the inhabited world.”

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 34:2 The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them; also in verse 5. This is sometimes referred to as a burnt offering or “holocaust.”

the great owl<sup>4</sup> and the raven will nest there.

God will stretch out over **Edom**

the measuring line of chaos  
and the plumb line of desolation.

12 Her nobles will have nothing there to be called a kingdom,  
all her princes will vanish away.

13 Thorns will overrun her citadels,  
nettles and brambles her strongholds.

She will become a haunt for jackals,  
a home for owls.

14 Desert creatures will meet with hyenas,  
and wild goats will bleat to each other;

there the night creatures [3917 Lilith לִילִית, but probably a screech owl] will also lie down  
and find for themselves places of rest.

15 The owl [or possibly *arrow snake*] will nest there and lay eggs,  
she will hatch them, and care for her young

under the shadow of her wings [*under her shadow*. The word “wings” is not in the Hebrew text here];  
there also the falcons [*a bird of prey*] will gather,  
each with its mate.

[The emphasis here is on the lonely desolation left behind and the mournful cries of the creatures that will inhabit the ruined country.]

16 Look in the scroll [*book*] of the Lord and read:

None of these will be missing,  
not one will lack her mate.

For it is his mouth that has given the order,  
and his Spirit will gather them together.

17 He allots their portions;  
his hand distributes them by measure.

They will possess it forever  
and dwell there from generation to generation.

[The picture here is similar to the allotment of the land to the Israelites after the conquest of Canaan. Edom was located in what is now Jordan. Petra was its capitol city.]

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<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 34:11 The precise identification of these birds is uncertain.