
EZEKIEL 25: 1 the LORD's word came to me, saying,

This chapter contains threatenings of the heavy judgments of God against the Ammonites, Eze 25:1-7; Moabites, Eze 25:8-11; Edomites, Eze 25:12-14; and Philistines, Eze 25:15-17; on account of their hatred to his people, and their insulting them in the time of their distress. These prophecies were fulfilled by the instrumentality of Nebuchadnezzar, about five years after the destruction of Jerusalem. The same events were predicted by several of the other prophets, as may be seen from the citation of parallel texts in the margin.

Verse 1

The word of the Lord - The chronological order of this chapter is after Eze 33:21, etc. See Abp. Newcome.

EZEKIEL 25: 2 Son of man, set your face toward the children of Ammon, and prophesy against them:

Verse 2

Set thy face against the Ammonites - We have already seen, Eze 21:19, etc., that when Nebuchadnezzar left Babylon he was in doubt whether he should besiege Riblath, the capital of the Ammonites, or Jerusalem, the capital of the Jews, first: and having used his divination. he was determined, by the result, to attack Jerusalem the first. He did so and the Ammonites, seeing the success of his arms, made friends with him, and exulted in the ruin of the Jews. God resents this, and predicts their downfall with that of Edom, Moab, and the Philistines. The fulfillment of this prediction is not noted in Scripture: but Josephus tells us, that about five years after the taking of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar turned his arms against the Ammonites and Moabites, and afterwards against Egypt; and having subdued those nations, he returned to Babylon. Joseph. Antiq., 50 x., c. 2. Berosus states, as quoted by Josephus, contra App., that Nebuchadnezzar subdued Syria, Arabia, Phoenicia, and Egypt: and consequently, that he had brought under his dominion the Ammonites, Moabites, and Idumeans, who were included among the Philistines. See Calmet.

EZEKIEL 25: 3 and tell the children of Ammon, Hear the word of the Lord GOD: Thus says the Lord GOD, Because you said, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was made desolate; and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity:

EZEKIEL 25: 4 therefore, behold, I will deliver you to the children of the east for a possession, and they shall set their encampments in you, and make their dwellings in you; they shall eat your fruit, and they shall drink your milk.

Verse 4

Will deliver thee to the men of the east - Probably the Scenite Arabs, Ishmaelites, and people of Kedar, who seized upon the provinces of the vanquished Ammonites, etc. The following description

suits this people only, living on fruits, the milk of their flocks, using camels, etc. Some think the people of the east mean the Chaldeans.

EZEKIEL 25: 5 I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the children of Ammon a resting place for flocks: and you shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 25: 6 For thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have clapped your hands, and stamped with the feet, and rejoiced with all the despite of your soul against the land of Israel;

EZEKIEL 25: 7 therefore, behold, I have stretched out my hand on you, and will deliver you for a plunder to the nations; and I will cut you off from the peoples, and I will cause you to perish out of the countries: I will destroy you; and you shall know that I am the LORD.

Verse 7

I will cause thee to perish - Except in history, the name of the Ammonites does not now exist.

EZEKIEL 25: 8 Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Moab and Seir say, Behold, the house of Judah is like all the nations;

Verse 8

Moab and Seir do say - Seir means the Idumeans. It appears that both these, with the Ammonites, had made a league with Zedekiah, Jer 27:3, which they did not keep; and it is supposed that they even joined with the Chaldeans.

EZEKIEL 25: 9 therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities which are on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kiriathaim,

Verse 9

I will open the side - קֶתֶף ketheph, the shoulder, the strongest frontier place. Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim were strong frontier towns of Moab.

EZEKIEL 25: 10 to the children of the east, to go against the children of Ammon; and I will give them for a possession, that the children of Ammon may not be remembered among the nations.

Verse 10

That the Ammonites - The Syriac has, "That Rabbah of the sons of Ammon be not remembered."

EZEKIEL 25: 11 and I will execute judgements on Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 25: 12 Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Edom has dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has greatly offended, and revenged himself on them;

Verse 12

Because that Edom hath dealt - The Edomites were the most inveterate enemies of the Jews from the very earliest times, and ever did all that they could to annoy them.

EZEKIEL 25: 13 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, I will stretch out my hand on Edom, and will cut off man and animal from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; even to Dedan shall they fall by the sword.

Verse 13

I will make it desolate from Teman - Teman and Dedan were both cities of the Moabites, and apparently at each extremity of the land.

EZEKIEL 25: 14 I will lay my vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel; and they shall do in Edom according to my anger and according to my wrath; and they shall know my vengeance, says the Lord GOD.

Verse 14

I will lay my vengeance upon Edom - God will not allow men to insult those whom he has cast down. His judgment is sufficient; to add more is an insult to God.

By the hand of my people Israel - This was fulfilled by the Maccabees, who not only defeated them and brought them under complete subjection, but obliged them to receive circumcision, Joseph. Antiq. 50 xiii., c. 17; 1 Maccabees 5:65; 2 Maccabees 10:16.

EZEKIEL 25: 15 Thus says the Lord GOD: Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with despite of soul to destroy with perpetual hostility;

Verse 15

Because the Philistines - They were as inimical to the Jews as the Ammonites, etc., were. Nebuchadnezzar punished them because they had assisted the Tyrians during the time he was besieging their city.

I will cut off the Cherethims - See the note on 2Sam 8:18.

The remnant of the sea coasts - The different seignories of the Philistines inhabited the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, from Judea to Egypt. For other matters relative to these prophecies, see Jer 47:4 (note).

EZEKIEL 25: 16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will stretch out my hand on the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

EZEKIEL 25: 17 I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance on them.
