Ezekiel 25

Gloating Neighbors: Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia

OBSERVATION · INTERPRETATION · APPLICATION

"These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."
Acts 17:11

CHAPTER THEME

God judged His own people first, but He did not forget the nations who cheered when they fell. Mocking, gloating and revenge against God's people are sins against God Himself. Every "because" in this chapter ends the same way: they will know that He is the LORD.

Ed Smith · Started 20 October 2026

Scripture in the text and key-verse cards: King James Version (public domain). Quotations in the notes: New American Standard Bible® (NASB 1995), © The Lockman Foundation; used by permission. Commentary sources: David Guzik, Enduring Word.

00 The Text

EZEKIEL 25 (KJV), MARKED

▲ Gold God — His character & actions | Green Command / instruction | ⇄ Sky Key repeated word
⚠ Rose Sin / warning | ★ Violet Promise / blessing | ◷ Amber Time / place / contrast

1 ▲ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, Green set thy face against the Ammonites , and prophesy against them;

3 And say unto the Ammonites , Green Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, ⚠ Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, ◷ when they went into captivity;

4 Behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the ◷ men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk.

5 And I will make ◷ Rabbah a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a couchingplace for flocks: and ye shall ⇄ know that I am the LORD.

6 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast ⚠ clapped thine hands, and stamped with the feet, and ⚠ rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel;

7 Behold, therefore I will ▲ stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt ⇄ know that I am the LORD.

8 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, ⚠ the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen;

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, Bethjeshimoth, Baalmeon, and Kiriathaim,

10 Unto the ◷ men of the east with the Ammonites , and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites ⚠ may not be remembered among the nations.

11 And ▲ I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall ⇄ know that I am the LORD.

12 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by ⚠ taking vengeance, and ⚠ hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them;

13 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also ▲ stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword.

14 And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom ★ by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and ▲ they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD.

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for ⚠ the old hatred;

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will ▲ stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will ▲ cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

17 And I will execute ▲ great vengeance upon them with ▲ furious rebukes; and they shall ⇄ know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

Marked in the text

- **v1** ▲ The word of the LORD came
- **v2** ▮ set thy face against the Ammonites
- **v3** ▮ Hear the word of the Lord GOD
- **v3** ⚠ Aha, against my sanctuary
- **v3** ◷ when they went into captivity
- **v4** ◷ men of the east *(every occurrence)*
- **v5** ◷ Rabbah a stable for camels
- **v5** ⇄ know that I am the LORD *(every occurrence)*
- **v6** ⚠ clapped thine hands
- **v6** ⚠ rejoiced in heart with all thy despite
- **v7** ▲ stretch out mine hand *(every occurrence)*
- **v8** ⚠ the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen
- **v10** ⚠ may not be remembered among the nations
- **v11** ▲ I will execute judgments upon Moab
- **v12** ⚠ taking vengeance
- **v12** ⚠ hath greatly offended
- **v14** ★ by the hand of my people Israel
- **v14** ▲ they shall know my vengeance
- **v15** ⚠ the old hatred
- **v16** ▲ cut off the Cherethims
- **v17** ▲ great vengeance
- **v17** ▲ furious rebukes

Marks are drawn on the KJV text. Quotations in the notes are from the NASB95, so their wording may differ from the KJV above.

01 Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

KEY VERSE · EZEKIEL 25:3 (KJV)

3 And say unto the Ammonites , ▮ Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, ⚠ Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, ◷ when they went into captivity;

Setting

Chapter 24 ended with the siege of Jerusalem beginning (24:1–2), the death of Ezekiel's wife, and his silence until a fugitive would bring news of the city's fall (24:26–27). That news does not arrive until 33:21. In between, chapters 25–32 turn from Judah to the nations around her — Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon and Egypt. Chapter 25 is undated and covers the four nearest neighbors in four short oracles. The words of v3 look at the fall of Jerusalem as already done: the sanctuary profaned, the land desolate, Judah gone into exile.

Structure

- vv1–7 — **Ammon:** "set your face toward the sons of Ammon and prophesy against them" (v2). The charge: "Because you said, 'Aha!' against My sanctuary when it was profaned," against the land, and "against the house of Judah when they went into exile" (v3). The sentence: "I am going to give you to the sons of the east for a possession" (v4); "I will make Rabbah a pasture for camels" (v5). A second charge: "Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced with all the scorn of your soul against the land of Israel" (v6). "I have stretched out My hand against you" (v7).
- vv8–11 — **Moab and Seir:** they say, "the house of Judah is like all the nations" (v8). God will open Moab's flank, its border cities (v9), to the sons of the east along with Ammon (v10). "Thus I will execute judgments on Moab, and they will know that I am the LORD" (v11).
- vv12–14 — **Edom:** "Because Edom has acted against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred grievous guilt" (v12). God will cut off man and beast from it (v13). "I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel" (v14), and "they will know My vengeance" (v14).
- vv15–17 — **Philistia:** they acted in revenge "with scorn of soul to destroy with everlasting enmity" (v15). God will "cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast" (v16). "I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes" (v17).

Repeated words

Because (vv3, 6, 8, 12, 15); know that I am the LORD (vv5, 7, 11, 17); vengeance / revenge (vv12, 14, 15, 17); stretch out My hand (vv7, 13, 16); cut off (vv7, 13, 16); sons of the east (vv4, 10); the house of Judah (vv3, 8, 12).

Contrasts

Ammon's "Aha!" over God's sanctuary (v3) ⟷ God's hand stretched out against Ammon (v7). "Judah is like all the nations" (v8) ⟷ God's judgments showing He is the LORD (v11). Edom taking its own vengeance (v12) ⟷ God laying His vengeance on Edom (v14). Everlasting enmity (v15) ⟷ a remnant of the seacoast destroyed (v16). Judah's neighbors gloating at her fall ⟷ every one of them falling under the same hand.

Chapter theme (my words)

God judged His own people first, but He did not forget the nations who cheered when they fell. Mocking, gloating and revenge against God's people are sins against God Himself. Every "because" in this chapter ends the same way: they will know that He is the LORD.

02 Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

KEY VERSE · EZEKIEL 25:14 (KJV)

14 And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom ★ by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and ▲ they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD.

Why the nations now? (25:1)

Ezekiel has spent twenty-four chapters warning Judah. Now, with Jerusalem under siege, he turns to the nations. Guzik says God had not forgotten the pagan nations, and quotes Wiersbe: "the destruction of Jerusalem wasn't just a punishment of the Jews; it was also a warning to the Gentiles." Feinberg, in Guzik, applies the principle of 1 Pet 4:17–18 — if judgment begins with the household of God, the nations will not escape it. Placing these oracles here also tells the exiles that Judah's fall is not the end of the story: the God who disciplined them still rules the world.

Ammon (vv1–7)

Ammon descended from Lot (Gen 19:38) and lived east of the Jordan; its capital Rabbah survives in the name of modern Amman. Their sin was gloating. They cried "Aha!" when the temple was profaned (v3), and clapped and stamped with contempt when Israel fell (v6). Ammon had been involved in plots against Babylon (21:20 shows Nebuchadnezzar choosing between Rabbah and Jerusalem), and after the fall its king Baalis sent the man who murdered Gedaliah (Jer 40:14; 41:1–2). Wright, in Guzik, notes that Ammon took advantage of Babylon's victory to seize land. The "sons of the east" (v4) are the desert peoples beyond the Jordan; Feinberg, in Guzik, lists Bedouin, Ishmaelites or Babylonians as proposals. Clarke, in Guzik, cites Josephus that Nebuchadnezzar attacked Ammon and Moab about five years after Jerusalem fell, though Scripture does not record it. Ammon vanished as a nation; Feinberg says Ammon and Moab were eventually absorbed by the Arabs.

Moab and Seir (vv8–11)

Moab, also from Lot (Gen 19:37), had opposed Israel since Balak hired Balaam (Num 22). Seir is Edom's mountain country. Their taunt — "the house of Judah is like all the nations" (v8) — denied that Israel was God's chosen people. Guzik grants that Judah's conduct gave them reason to say it, but their gloating made them guilty. Block, in Guzik, calls the taunt "a direct assault on Yahweh himself." The three towns of v9 guarded Moab's northern plateau — "the glory of the land." Taylor, in Guzik, notes the Nabateans later overran Ammon and Moab and ended their independent existence.

Edom (vv12–14)

Edom, Esau's descendants, should have been Judah's brother. Instead, when Babylon struck, Edom cheered and helped (Ps 137:7; Lam 4:21–22; Obadiah 10–14). The Hebrew piles up the idea: vengeance taken with vengeance — Feinberg, in Guzik, calls it unrelieved, unabated revenge. God's answer: "I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel" (v14). Commentators quoted by Guzik (Wright, Clarke) point to the Maccabean era, when John Hyrcanus subdued Edom (Idumea) about 109

B.C. and had the Idumeans circumcised. Some interpreters also see a future fulfillment, since Edom stands in the prophets for the nations hostile to God (Isa 63:1–6; Amos 9:12); the commentators Guzik quotes rest on the historical fulfillment.

Philistia (vv15–17)

The Philistines were Israel's oldest enemy on the coast, from the judges through David. Their sin was "everlasting enmity" (v15) — hatred nursed for centuries. There is a word play: God will "cut off" (*karath*) the Cherethites (*Kerethim*). Feinberg, in Guzik, brings out the wordplay: "cut off the cutters off." Vawter and Hoppe, in Guzik, observe that Philistia is the only nation in the chapter whose punishment names no human agent — God acts directly.

"They will know that I am the LORD."

Every oracle ends on God's self-revelation (vv5, 7, 11, 17; v14 "they will know My vengeance"). Morgan, in Guzik: "Here is the one purpose of Jehovah in His dealings with all nations." Feinberg, in Guzik, notes all four nations showed hostility to Israel and ignored God's promise to Abraham (Gen 12:3). Feinberg, in Guzik, also connects the chapter to Matt 25, where the nations are judged by how they treated the Lord's people.

Word study (Hebrew)

- **Aha — *heʾach* (H1889):** an exclamation of gloating, a jeer.
- **sanctuary — *miqdash* (H4720):** a holy place, the temple.
- **profaned — *chalal* (H2490):** to pollute, defile, treat as common.
- **exile — *golah* (H1473):** captivity, the body of exiles.
- **east — *qedem* (H6924):** the east, the front; the peoples of the eastern desert.
- **clapped — *machaʾ* (H4222):** to strike the hands together.
- **stamped — *raqaʿ* (H7554):** to stamp, beat down.
- **scorn — *sheʾat* (H7589):** contempt, malice.
- **judgments — *shephet* (H8201):** acts of judgment, penalties.
- **taking vengeance — *naqam* (H5358):** to avenge, take revenge.
- **vengeance — *neqamah* (H5360):** vengeance, retribution.
- **incurred grievous guilt — *ʾasham* (H816):** to offend, be guilty.
- **enmity — *ʾeybah* (H342):** hostility, hatred.
- **cut off — *karath* (H3772):** to cut, cut off, destroy.
- **wrathful — *chemah* (H2534):** heat, rage, fury.
- **rebukes — *tokechah* (H8433):** correction, punishment.
- **know — *yadaʿ* (H3045):** to know, come to recognize by experience.

Cross-references

Gen 12:3; Gen 19:36–38; Num 22:1–6; Deut 23:3–6; Ps 83:4–8; Ps 137:7; Prov 24:17–18; Jer 40:14; Jer 48–49; Lam 4:21–22; Ezek 21:20; Ezek 35:1–15; Amos 1:6–15; Obadiah 10–15; Zeph 2:8–11; Matt 25:40; Rom 12:19; 1 Pet 4:17–18.

03 Application

HOW DOES IT CHANGE ME?

KEY VERSE · EZEKIEL 25:2 (KJV)

2 Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites , and prophesy against them;

Command to obey — "Hear the word of the Lord GOD!" (v3)

Even the pagan nations were summoned to listen. I'll hear this chapter as God speaking to me about the way I react when others fall. Scripture says it plainly: "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls" (Prov 24:17). For the men I disciple — men who have been hurt, betrayed, sometimes testified against — this is hard. But the word is the same for them as for me: don't cheer at anyone's ruin.

Sin to confess — gloating

Ammon clapped and stamped over Judah's ruin (v6). I'll confess the quiet satisfaction I've felt when someone who wronged me got what was coming. That "Aha!" in my heart is the same sin, just quieter. God saw Ammon's heart; He sees mine.

Warning to heed — revenge

Edom and Philistia took vengeance with "everlasting enmity" (v15). Old hatred doesn't stay old; it keeps acting. In prison and on the street, revenge feels like justice and grudges get handed down. God's word is: "Never take your own revenge" (Rom 12:19). Vengeance belongs to Him, and He is very good at it (v14).

Promise to trust — they will know that I am the LORD

The God who disciplined Judah did not abandon her to her mockers. He stood up for His people when they were at their lowest. For the man who feels mocked and finished — whose family, neighbors or record say he's "like all the rest" — God has not forgotten him. The last word belongs to the LORD, not to the people laughing.

Example to follow — leave justice with God

Judah did nothing in this chapter; God did it all. I want to follow that pattern: when I've been wronged, I'll take it to God, pray for my enemies, and trust Him to make it right in His way and time.

Worship

The LORD rules the nations, not just Israel. He sees every gloating heart, defends His people, and will make Himself known. His justice is sure, and His judgments are right.

Prayer

Lord GOD, You see the nations and You see my heart. Forgive me for every "Aha!" I've felt at someone else's fall. Take the old hatred out of me and out of the men I walk with. Teach us to leave vengeance with You, to pray for those who hurt us, and to rest in knowing that You are the LORD. Amen.