

Isaiah 34 - The Day of the Lord: Armageddon; The Judgment of the Nations

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

(3) Condemnation of the world (Is 24:1–35:10)

(C) Tribulation and Kingdom (Is 34:1–35:10)

(a) Tribulation (34:1-17)

(i) Judgment on all nations (34:1-4)

(ii) Judgment on Edom whose lust for Israel's land epitomizes the sin of all nations (34:5-17)

Judgment has been the theme all the way through this section. We have looked at six woes and followed a progression in this prophecy. We saw a local situation into which Isaiah spoke and then watched him move into that broader area, as he looked down through the centuries to the time of judgment that was coming in the future, which the Lord Jesus called the Great Tribulation.

There's no doubt about it. This passage directed toward the people on Earth at the End of the Age. Remember, the Lord had Jeremiah write that one of His objectives in the Great Tribulation was to completely destroy the nations (Jer 30:11). Depending on whose interpretation you favor, up to half the world's post rapture population will perish during the 7 years of Daniel's 70th week. The worst case scenario calls for an average of over 1 million deaths each day for 7 years as the most devastating time in Earth's history takes its grizzly toll. To say that chapter 34 is an intense passage would be to make one of the great understatements of all time. Even the Revelation will be hard pressed to surpass it.

Isaiah 34

(C) Tribulation and Kingdom (Is 34:1–35:10)

(a) Tribulation (34:1-17)

(i) Judgment on all nations (34:1-4)

1 Come near, **you nations**, to hear; and listen, you peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it.

1 Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it.

1 "Come near, you nations, to listen, and pay attention, you nations! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and all that comes out of it.

1 Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.

- "...you nations" - shift of emphasis to the nations, not Jerusalem or Israel, and not their specific immediate enemies

2 For the LORD'S **anger** is against all the nations, And *His* wrath against all their armies. He has utterly destroyed them, He has turned them over to slaughter.

2 For the LORD's indignation is against all the nations, And *His* wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter.

2 For the LORD is angry against all the nations, and furious against all their armies. He has doomed them to destruction, and given them up to be slaughtered.

2 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

- "...anger" - wrath of God; documented in Rev 19:19 through Rev 21; Zech 14

— These are the strongest possible expressions that could be used. The judgment is universal, and it is severe.

— Our Lord spoke of this as a time of suffering that will be unparalleled in the history of the world

3 So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood.

3 So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood.

3 Their slain will be thrown out; and as for their dead bodies— their stench will ascend; the mountains will be soaked with their blood.

3 Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

4 And all the heavenly lights will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All its lights will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.

4 And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.

4 The valleys will be split, all the stars in the heavens will fall down, and the skies will be rolled up like a scroll. All their starry host will fade away like leaves withering on a vine, or

fruit withering on a fig tree.

4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

- Matt 24:29; 2 Peter 3:10; Rev 19:11-21; Ps 102:26; Heb 1:11

- Satan and his warriors will be rounded up and he himself will be bound in chains for a 1000 year prison term (Rev 20:2-3)

(ii) Judgment on Edom whose lust for Israel's land epitomizes the sin of all nations (34:5-17)

5 For My sword has drunk its fill in heaven; Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom, And upon the people whom I have designated for destruction.

5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.

5 For my sword will be seen in the heavens. Look! It descends in judgment on Edom, on the people I have doomed to destruction.

5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.

- At the Second Coming, Jesus will first visit the Remnant in *Bozrah* (Is 63:1-6; Hab 3:3; Micah 2:12-13; Judges 5:4-5), and protect them from the Antichrist's army coming to kill them

-- This verse indicates that the slaughter will take place in Edom, specifically in *Bozrah* (v6)

-- See **(6) The 6th Stage: The Second Coming** in [Armageddon: Chronology to the Second Coming](#) for more details.

6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It drips with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

6 The LORD has a sword bathed in blood; it's covered with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, and with fat from the kidneys of rams. "For the LORD holds a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.

Edom

- Moses - denied passage (Num 20:14-21)
- David subdues them (2 Sam 9:14)
- Revolt under Jeroboam (2 Chr 21:8-10)
- Smote Judah under Ahaz (2 Chr 28:17)
- Ready to shed blood (Ezek 35:5)
- To be cut off (Obadiah 18)
- From Esau, twin of Jacob. Obadiah 3 attributes sin of pride to Edom (Jer 49:16)
- Esau to serve Jacob (Gen 25:23; 27:40)
- Rejoiced under Nebuchadnezzar's captivity (Ps 137:7; Obadiah 10-14; Lam 4:21-22; Ezek 35:10-13)
- Edom: Possession for Judah (Num 24:18)
- Cursed in Amos 1:11-12; Mal 1:3-4

The Judgment against Edom is mentioned in more OT books than it is against any other foreign nation: Is 11:14; 34:5-17; 63:1-6; Jer 9:25-26; 25:17-26; 49:7-22; Lam 4:21-22; Ezek 25:12-14; 35:15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11-12; 9:11-12; Obadiah 1-21; Mal 1:4

See [Edom & The Edomites: The Everlasting Hatred](#) for a history of the Edomites and their judgment.

7 Wild oxen will also fall with them And young bulls with strong ones; So their land will be soaked with blood, And their dust become greasy with fat.

7 Wild oxen will also fall with them And young bulls with strong ones; Thus their land will be soaked with blood, And their dust become greasy with fat.

7 Wild oxen will fall together with them— young steers and mighty bulls. Their land will be drenched with blood, and their soil will be swollen with fat.

7 And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.

The Cause

8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of retribution for the cause of Zion.

8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for Zion's cause.

8 For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

- The reason for Edom's perpetual desolation: their sins against Israel

The Results on Edom

9 Its streams will be turned into pitch, And its loose earth into brimstone, And its land will become burning pitch.

9 Its streams will be turned into pitch, And its loose earth into brimstone, And its land will become burning pitch.

9 Edom's streams will be turned into burning sulfur, and its dust into sulfur; its land will become pitch.

9 And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.

10 It will not be extinguished night or day; Its smoke will go up forever. From generation to generation it will be desolate; None will pass through it forever and ever.

10 It will not be quenched night or day; Its smoke will go up forever. From generation to generation it will be desolate; None will pass through it forever and ever.

10 It will burn night and day, and will never be extinguished. Its smoke will rise from generation to generation, and it will lie desolate forever and ever. And no one will pass through it.

10 It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

- Similar to Babylon; the two locations that will be desolate and uninhabited during the Messianic Kingdom. Both locations will burn with pitch and brimstone for eternity.

— Like Babylon, Edom will be an abode for demons

11 But pelican and hedgehog will possess it, And owl and raven will dwell in it; And He will stretch over it the line of desolation And the plumb line of emptiness.

11 But pelican and hedgehog will possess it, And owl and raven will dwell in it; And He will stretch over it the line of desolation And the plumb line of emptiness.

11 "But hawks and hedgehogs will possess it; owls and ravens will nest in it. God will stretch out over it a measuring line, and chaos, and plumb lines of emptiness, and its nobles.

11 But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.

12 Its nobles—there is no one there *Whom* they may proclaim king— And all its officials will be nothing.

12 Its nobles—there is no one there *Whom* they may proclaim king— And all its princes will be nothing.

12 They will name it "No Kingdom There," and all its princes will come to nothing.

12 They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing.

13 Thorns will come up in its fortified towers, Weeds and thistles in its fortified cities; It will also be a haunt of jackals *And* a habitat of ostriches.

13 Thorns will come up in its fortified towers, Nettles and thistles in its fortified cities; It will also be a haunt of jackals *And* an abode of ostriches.

13 Thorns will grow over its palaces, nettles and brambles its fortresses. It will become a haunt for jackals, a home for ostriches.

13 And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls.

14 The desert creatures will meet with the wolves, The goat also will cry to its kind. Yes, the **night-bird** will settle there And will find herself a resting place.

14 The desert creatures will meet with the wolves, The hairy goat also will cry to its kind; Yes, the night monster will settle there And will find herself a resting place.

14 And desert creatures will meet with hyenas, and goat-demons will call out to each other. There also Liliths will settle, and find for themselves a resting place.

14 The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.

- "...night-bird" - *tyliyli*, "lileth" which also means female demon. These idioms are not zoological but demonic in vocabulary (see notes on Is 13:20-22; Jer 50:39-40; Rev 18:1-2).

15 The tree snake will make its nest and lay eggs there, And it will hatch and gather *them* under its protection. Yes, the hawks will be gathered there, Every one with its kind.

15 The tree snake will make its nest and lay eggs there, And it will hatch and gather *them* under its protection. Yes, the hawks will be gathered there, Every one with its kind.

15 Owls will nest there, lay eggs, hatch them, and care for their young under the shadow of their wings; yes indeed, vultures will gather there, each one with its mate."

15 There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.

The Affirmation

16 Seek from the book of the LORD, and read: Not one of these will be missing; None will lack its mate. For His mouth has commanded, And His Spirit has gathered them.

16 Seek from the book of the LORD, and read: Not one of these will be missing; None will lack its mate. For His mouth has commanded, And His Spirit has gathered them.

16 "Study and read from the book of the LORD: And not one will be missing, each will not long for its mate. For it is the mouth of the LORD that has issued the order, and it is his Spirit that has gathered them.

16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

17 He has cast the lot for them, And His hand has divided it to them by the measuring line. They shall possess it forever; From generation to generation they will dwell in it.

17 He has cast the lot for them, And His hand has divided it to them by line. They shall possess it forever; From generation to generation they will dwell in it.

17 It is he who has allotted their portions, and his hand has divided it for them with a measuring line forever. They will possess it forever; from generation to generation they will live in it."

17 And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein.