

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 252 – Idumea Is To Become A Wilderness (Isaiah 34:1-17)

1. Did God want the world to see His fury?

Yes: *“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. 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” (Isaiah 34:1-2).*

- God wants this action to be known, as He has in other times (**Deuteronomy 4:26-27, Isaiah 1:2, Jeremiah 6:19, Jeremiah 22:29-23:3, and Micah 6:2**), what He is about to do.
- His indignation here will be upon all nations (**Isaiah 24:1-6, Jeremiah 25:15-16, and Zephaniah 3:8**).
- Terms like slaughter (**Isaiah 65:12**) and utterly destroyed (**Joshua 10:39**) are powerful.

2. Did the Lord desire those whom He had slain have “proper burials”?

No: *“Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood” (Isaiah 34:3).*

- Slain cast out (**Isaiah 14:19-20, Jeremiah 22:18-19, and Ezekiel 39:1-4**).
- Stink come up (**Joel 2:19-20**).
- Mountains melted [liquefied] with their blood (**Ezekiel 32:5-6**).

3. During this time of Judgment, did God do anything to show it was surely more than a battle of men?

Signs in the sky: *“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” (Isaiah 34:4).*

- **Joshua 10:12-13, Isaiah 13:1-13, Isaiah 38:6-8, and Matthew 23:37-24:34.**

4. Could it be said that the Lord used His sword to bring about a bloody slaughter?

It was said: *“For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. 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. 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” (Isaiah 34:5-7).*

- Lord’s sword (**Deuteronomy 32:39-43, Jeremiah 46:10, and Ezekiel 21:1-5**).
- Idumea is Edom (**Ezekiel 35:15**; cf. **Genesis 36:8**) and Bozrah is a city in Edom (**Isaiah 63:1**).

- Unicorns [could be a rhinoceros] were/are strong creatures (**Numbers 24:8**).
- The imagery of the creatures being sacrificed surely shows the carnage God was planning on Edom (**Ezekiel 35:1-9**). This is revenge for what they did to God's people (**Joel 3:19**).

5. When there is a day of the Lord's vengeance, can it be easily quenched?

No: *"For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. 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"* (**Isaiah 34:8-10**).

- The Lord's vengeance (**Deuteronomy 32:35**, **Psalms 94:1**, and **Romans 2:9**).
- Destruction by brimstone (**Psalms 11:5-6** and **Luke 17:29**).
- Unquenchable (**Jeremiah 7:20** and **Ezekiel 20:47-48**).
- Laid waste for generations to come (**Deuteronomy 29:19-23**).

6. How desolate was Idumea to be?

Man is gone; beasts, fowls, and wild overgrowth is there: *"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. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. 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. 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. 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"* (**Isaiah 34:11-15**).

- Desolation for Edom (**Malachi 1:1-5**).
- Safe wilderness for creatures (**Jeremiah 49:32-33** and **Jeremiah 50:34-40**).

7. How sure and lasting was this judgment on Idumea going to be?

Sure and it would last for generations: *"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. 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"* (**Isaiah 34:16-17**).

- It's written, it's sure (**Psalms 33:4-11**, **Psalms 119:89**, **Psalms 119:160**, and **II Peter 1:19-20**).
- Some places have been a wilderness short-term (**Jeremiah 9:11**; cf. **Nehemiah 2:17-18**).
- This - for generations to come as others have faced (**Isaiah 13:19-22**).