

Why Did God Hate Esau?

Part 5

Malachi 1:2-4

Well, this will now be the final message of this series, and it has been a very interesting study for myself. And one thing that I have learned again is that even though our God was angry with Esau, and was angry with Edom, we see again the longsuffering of God from His word, as the words of 2 Peter 3:9 says;

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God gave Esau an entire lifetime to repent. God gave Edom over a thousand years to change their ways. Being longsuffering towards them so that none would parish but that all would come to repentance.

{III. Which is Edom? }

C. From Israel's Captivity to the return of Christ

If we continue with the prophets from the Old Testament, we are still under point number 3 in asking the question ‘why did God hate Esau which is Edom’. And in this final sub point, we want to look at the prophetic words of the prophets, which speak of Edom from after the time of Israel’s captivity until the return of Christ.

But instead of listening to the prophets speaking to the people, we will now get a picture of the future. A picture of what the prophets say in regards to the future of Edom and the punishment the Lord will do to them at the end of this age.

It is interesting to see that how through one man, one man’s selfish life and disobedience to God, would come a nation so wicked and bent on sin, as to be the main focus of Christ’s return, as we will see in a moment. Esau, who was the first born of Isaac, the one who was to carry on the promises of Abraham and of Isaac in bringing the Redeemer to the world, The path through which God would bring salvation to all of mankind. This Esau for sook all of it. And from this one man came a nation, that would take the sin and failures of one man and magnify it to a level that would define them in the world. They heard of all the mighty things God did for Israel when they came up out of the land of Egypt. Edom heard of God’s power and how His name was declared in all the earth.

But even though they heard this and knew this, Edom became a nation bent on the destruction of their brother Israel, whom they knew would bring the redemption of God through the Messiah to this world. Edom became a nation that actively sought the destruction of Israel and the promise they were to bring. And this is why God has such great indignation towards them.

And so, in today's message, we have what the prophets say, will become of Edom at the end of this church age, of how God will deal with a nation, that has so vehemently opposed God in every step of history. From a grandson of Abraham to when Christ will return, this nation of Edom has never, and will never, humble themselves before God nor heed His Call.

We begin in the book of Joel, and you can turn there in your bibles. I cut out a lot of scripture to make it fit the time form this morning. Last time we looked at what some of the prophets said in the immediate sense of their ministry. Meaning the words they spoke, were directly applicable to the time and place they were living in and the people they were bringing the message to. Today the messages that these prophets bring, are ones of the future. One in where God sees and knows that the continued path and direction the Edomites are going, will lead to the wrath of God and their ultimate destruction in the end.

The major theme throughout Joel, is the Day of the Lord, and the judgment that is to come upon the nations. Joel Chapter 3 verse 9 and 10 take us from the end of this church age to the start of the tribulation by saying;

Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears;

And then in verses 11 through 15 we have the tribulation account. Then in verse 16 we have the Lord coming to Zion at the end of the tribulation as it says;

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Verses 17 and 18 then continue with this world entering the millennium, and now in verse 19, Joel gives information as to what will happen to Edom during the start of this millennial time-period;

19 "Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, Because of violence *against* the people of Judah, For they have shed innocent blood in their land.

Our world is now heading towards this time period at an alarming rate. Our entire world is becoming ripe for the return of Christ. It seems like everyone is living for self and selfish pleasures and have no regard to what is coming to this world.

Turn to the book of Isaiah chapter 34, and remember our focus now is that of Edom in the tribulation according to what the word of God tells us, Isaiah chapter 34 and I will read verses 1-6;

1 ¶ Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it.

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

3 Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as *fruit* falling from a fig tree.

5 "For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; Indeed it shall come down on Edom, And on the people of My curse, for judgment.

6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is made overflowing with fatness, 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.

Now some commentaries say that the Edom of verse 5 is a general reference to the ungodly nation of the day, nations that oppose God, but then you also have to make ‘the people of My curse’ also mean all evil people in all the nations as well. But look at the final words of verse 6, for the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah! And a great slaughter ‘in the land of Edom.’ Now to anyone who studies prophecy, that name and location should perk some ears, and with that name and location you know that we are no longer talking about a general assembly of evil people, or simply all the wicked people of the world. No, the Lord is very specific here, if you have listened to prophecy in the past, you will have heard of Bozrah before, and with that in mind, turn to Isaiah chapter 63 and I’ll read verses 1 through verse 6;

1 ¶ Who *is* this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This *One who is* glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? —“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”

Who do we believe this is? Jesus, coming to earth at His second coming and He comes first to Bozrah. My bible commentary also says and I quote;

Bozrah, the chief city of Edom. Edom symbolizes the enemies of the Lord

EOQ

I say it doesn't symbolize all the enemies of the Lord as in a general sense. If Bozrah in Edom here means all the nations and people that rebelled against God, then all the evil people would be killed, the moment he comes to Bozrah in Edom. But that's not where the Lord's wrath ends, it is where it begins. Not only is Edom an enemy of the Lord, but they are the chief enemy of the Lord. One who continually sought the destruction of the promise of the coming of the Messiah.

We have seen this in the previous messages regarding Edom, we have seen that from the beginning, that Edom and the Edomites were the enemies of God and His plan from the very beginning. Starting with Esau himself and the disregard he had for the promises of God including the plan of salvation.

For if we continue with verse 2 we see the wrath that is poured out on these people in this place;

2 Why *is* Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one *was* with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

4 For the day of vengeance *is* in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

5 I looked, but *there was* no one to help, And I wondered That *there was* no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.

6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth."

This is the future and final-end of Edom, and God has given us a window as to what will be the start of His second coming. He will come down on Bozrah, and trample in the wine press of God's wrath in that place. Not only does He give us the picture of what He will do to Edom, but then continues to give us a picture to what He will do to all the nations that continually reject His word and His Son Jesus.

If you turn your bibles to Jeremiah chapter 49 we get an interesting look at how God will deal with Edom at the end of this age. Jeremiah 49:7-22 gives us a longer, more detailed version of the second coming from what we just read in Isaiah;

7 ¶ Against Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?"

8 Flee, turn back, dwell in the depths, O inhabitants of Dedan! For I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, The time *that* I will punish him.

9 If grape-gatherers came to you, Would they not leave *some* gleaning grapes? If thieves by night, Would they not destroy until they have enough?

10 But I have made Esau bare; I have uncovered his secret places, And he shall not be able to hide himself. His descendants are plundered, His brethren and his neighbors, And he *is* no more.

11 Leave your fatherless children, I will preserve *them* alive; And let your widows trust in Me."

12 For thus says the LORD: "Behold, those whose judgment *was* not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunk. And *are* you the one who

will altogether go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, but you shall surely drink *of it*.

13 "For I have sworn by Myself," says the LORD, "that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse. And all its cities shall be perpetual wastes."

14 I have heard a message from the LORD, And an ambassador has been sent to the nations: "Gather together, come against her, And rise up to battle!

15 "For indeed, I will make you small among nations, Despised among men.

16 Your fierceness has deceived you, The pride of your heart, O you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Who hold the height of the hill! Though you make your nest as high as the eagle, I will bring you down from there," says the LORD.

17 "Edom also shall be an astonishment; Everyone who goes by it will be astonished And will hiss at all its plagues.

18 As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah And their neighbors," says the LORD, "No one shall remain there, Nor shall a son of man dwell in it.

19 "Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the floodplain of the Jordan Against the dwelling place of the strong; But I will suddenly make him run away from her. And who *is* a chosen *man that* I may appoint over her? For who *is* like Me? Who will arraign Me? And who *is* that shepherd Who will withstand Me?"

20 Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD that He has taken against Edom, And His purposes that He has proposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out; Surely He shall make their dwelling places desolate with them.

21 The earth shakes at the noise of their fall; At the cry its noise is heard at the Red Sea.

22 Behold, He shall come up and fly like the eagle, And spread His wings over Bozrah; The heart of the mighty men of Edom in that day shall be Like the heart of a woman in birth pangs.

Now do these verses sound like a general reference to all evil people and nations? No, it sounds like a focused, purposed, action against one line of people and how they will be destroyed in the end. Yet all that we see in this nation of Edom was embodied in that one man of Esau, and no matter how much it looked like everything was made right between Jacob and Esau when they reunited.

Esau passed something down to his children, and then to the grandchildren, and then to the grandchildren's children and eventually they became a nation that has completely fallen for the hatred, Esau had for Jacob at the time he stole his blessing.

If you look at the various passages I have read for us today, and of the previous messages, does God hate Edom? I would say yes. I would say that it is evident from the warnings they received from the prophets in their day when they were a nation, but also from the prophetic words of the future. When God will not only deal with Edom but all nations and individuals that have rebelled against His word. But not only with those who rebelled, but as Edom, have actively sought to destroy the promises of God, and try to end the line of the Messiah in trying to stop Him from coming.

Is this not the main reason for Gods hatred for such people? A people who time and time again try to bring God's plan of salvation for the world to an end.

Has this not been the aim of Satan from the beginning. To destroy Gods plan? Is this not what the devil tried to do in tempting Jesus when He was baptized? Is this not the reason the Devil stirred the crowd, to have Jesus crucified? To destroy the plan and salvation of God for man? Was this not the intent through the self and sin of Esau in regarding the promises as nothing?

Why did God Hate Esau?

In treating the salvation of mankind with no more value than a bowl of stew and a piece of bread? And then what of Edom. A nation who without mercy, sought to destroy the line of the Messiah by trying to destroy the line of Jacob.

Yes, the Lord was angry with Israel for failing to keep up with the commandments of the Lord and remaining true to His word, and the Lord has punished them accordingly.

But Edom on the other hand actively sought to destroy that promise. Actively persecuted Israel, actively sought the destruction of Gods promise in the coming Messiah.

IV. WHO IS IN THE CHURCH AGE

All of this now brings us to the final point of all of these messages, one that hits closest to home, and that is ‘why did God hate Esau’ Who is present in the church age.

We have looked at why God hated Esau in election, why God hated the man Esau in his life choices and actions. We looked at the nation that came from this one disobedient man and how it became a disobedient nation, an entire nation that had become bent on the destruction of Israel and lived in disobedience to God. And not only disobedient, but a nation that actively sought the destruction of Gods plan which He then established through Jacob.

By now we should have a fuller understanding of the words;

"Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

But if we go back and remember, we also know that from the beginning the Lord blessed Esau, blessed Edom, and allowed them to continue as a nation. Even though we have looked at what the Lord hates in regards to Esau and Edom we must keep in mind the words the Lord gave to Ezekiel in chapter 33 verse 11;

As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

And you can also read Ezekiel chapter 18 and get a clearer picture of what the Lords desire is regarding the wicked people of the earth. It is the true repentance of the wicked that the Lord is after, not pleasure in their death; it is the true repentance of Esau that the Lord was waiting for. It was the true repentance of Edom that God was waiting for, that they would turn and heed the call of God. And this is the theme that is found throughout the bible, that men would repent and turn from their evil ways and turn to God.

Peter says in 2nd Peter chapter 3 verse 9;

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

And that leaves us with the final question what does an Edomite look like in this church age? And I don't mean the people in the middle east next to Israel. But what does an Edomite look like today? In our world? So far, we have taken a look at the literal Esau of the Old Testament, Jacob's brother. And we have looked at the literal Edom and the Edomites of that nation in the Old Testament as well. but what does a modern-day Esau or Edomite look like today? And does God still hate such a person. Remember the words;

"Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

Are used by the apostle Paul as he was writing the New Testament.

And as I said in an earlier message, I believe that Paul is talking about the individuals with this reference, as the context of Romans chapter 9 is about Paul's focus on the children of the promise, the individual's choice in choosing God. The apostle Paul says in the New Testament, in Romans chapter 9 starting in verse 6;

6 ¶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel,

7 nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

8 That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

And then in verse 9 through 12 he shows us the line of the promise.

And then Paul uses verse 13 which is a quote from Malachi chapter 1, to show us that it is still the individual choice of, each and every person either to accept God's calling or to reject it. Nothing has changed in all of world history, the choice of listening to God or walking away from Him is still and always will be the individual's choice. God has made us free moral agents, with a will to choose good or evil, righteousness or lewdness, eternal life, or eternal death. God has set out the plan, He has signed the contract with the blood of Jesus, and everyone must choose to either accept or reject that offer.

And therefore, the modern-day Esau is still one who continues to live for self, for all the selfish desires and sins he or she is enjoying. They may have heard of God, they may even know about the word of God, and maybe, have even been shown what they need to do, in order to find favor with God through salvation, but they continue to reject that calling.

Why did God Hate Esau?

God gave us the verse of John 3:16;

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The modern-day Esau is one who still continues in their vain selfish life even though he knows there is a better way, a righteous way, a way that leads to life and not death as John 3:16 says.

In Mark 8 the latter part of verse 34 to verse 37 after Jesus rebuked Peter he said

"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

35 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

36 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

37 "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Or... what will an Esau of this age give in exchange for his soul? Money, riches, a life of ease, pleasures of this world, or how about even a bowl of stew and a morsel of bread.

It is amazing what people will exchange salvation for. We see this in people all around us. People who are far too caught up, in the pleasures of this world to ever give eternity a second thought. There are so many things in this world that take them away from God. So many temporal things that are worth nothing, entertain them for years. Things that will hold people in the grips of hell for an entire lifetime.

The chapter in mark concludes with verse 38 by saying;

38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

If we go back to Romans chapter 9, verse 8 says, ‘those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God’. These are the Esau’s of the world, men and nations who reject the call of God, they reject the name of God, they reject the power of God and live for self, and their selfish desires.

Why did God hate Esau and Edom of the Old Testament? Because they rejected every call God sent them. They disregarded every promise that God gave to Abraham; and they forsook every, and all responsibility they were given regarding the salvation for the world.

The Lord said;

~~17 And the LORD said,~~ "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

18 "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation,
and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children
and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to
do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham
what He has spoken to him."

Listen, every single one of us has a choice to make in this life time,
for we all started our life as an Esau living in this Edom, no one is
exempt from this fact. Paul says in Romans chapter 3 verses 10
through 12;

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after
God.

12 They have all turned aside; They have together become
unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

But not only are there Esau's in the world but also Edomites. And I will explain what I mean with that statement. I would say an Esau is one who ignores the call of God and lives for self and the pleasures of this world. An Edomite is one, who I would describe as one who actively seeks to destroy Gods word, destroy Gods plan, actively hinder or tear down what God is doing in this world to save souls.

Like Doeg, who had no qualms about killing the priests, and an entire city in order to destroy Gods promise. Like the Edomites of the Old Testament, who relentlessly persecuted Israel not for gain, but with the intent of annihilating Gods promises.

As Isaiah 49 verse 9 says about Edom and the Edomites;

9 If grape-gatherers came to you, Would they not leave *some* gleaning grapes? If thieves by night, Would they not destroy until they have enough?

There is never enough crushing an Edomite can do to rid the world of God's plan and promise. We have an example of people like this in our world, people like Richard Dawkins and Lawrence Krauss who not only live their lives ignoring the call of God, but actively seek the destruction of all religion especially Christianity.

Quoting an article from Answers in Genesis titled ‘The Unbelievers Plan to Rid the World of God’ by Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell, says this:

Evolutionary biologist (*Richard*) Dawkins and theoretical physicist (Lawrence) Krauss recounted that when they first met they had a heated debate about, ~~as Dawkins said,~~ “whether we should have a kind of full-on attack on religion or whether we should, as Lawrence preferred, seduce them.”² Krauss explained that this is really “a strategic question.”³ They agree that both approaches have merit depending on the nature of the people being targeted. However, expressing general agreement with the more confrontational approach of the often-irascible Dawkins, Krauss said, “You’ve got to confront silly beliefs by telling them they are silly,” adding, “If you’re trying to convince people, pointing out that what they believe is nonsense is a better way to bring them around.”⁴

EOQ

Actively, purposely, intentionally driven men who have dedicated their lives, their careers, their intellect, and resources to the destruction of Christianity, of faith, of the bible, and of Jesus.

These are not only men who are living for self and their sin, but openly and actively persecute the promise.

These are Edomites. They are out there, and they will stop at nothing, there will never be enough destruction of Christianity, there will never be enough eradication of religion, there will never be enough brain washing that they can do in order to put out any and every light of faith that is in this world.

Quoting the same article it says;

The interviewer concluded by asking the pair, "Is it your hope or expectation that you can, in your words, rid this world of religion?"

"I'm not sure how soon," Dawkins answered. "I think that religion is declining, that Christianity is declining throughout Christendom."²¹ Looking to the future, he adds, "And I think that that's going to continue. If we look at the broad sweep of history, it's clear that the trend is going in the right direction. I'm not so optimistic that it will be in my lifetime, but it will happen."²²

Krauss is later quoted as saying

"I would have thought that by now religion would be gone. I thought religion was on the way out [in the 1960s], so I was kind of surprised and disappointed in some ways by the resurgence of fundamentalism in my country"

EOQ

No regard to the plan, No regard to the promises, and no regard to the purpose God has for this world. Dawkins and Krauss are Edomites who will continue to forge ahead with the destruction with what has been Satan's aim from the time of Esau, from the time of Adam. Even though these men are 'without excuse' as the bible says, they willingly continue with that evil purpose.

But it doesn't have to be that way, and they know it. God has given us a word, a book, to show us our sin, to show us our failures, but also to show us life, an eternal life with God, as Paul says in Romans chapter 10 verse 13;

For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

And then verse 17;

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

It all comes back to the bible every gospel message, every gospel track, every missionary outreach, every preacher preaching the gospel, every hymn of worship, every word of praise, every answer to atheism, every doubt in design, every case against Christ, everything comes back to the bible.

If men disregard the truth and revelation of this book, as Dawkins and Krauss are doing, if men actively try to destroy the promises of God, they aren't going anywhere but hell. Everything must and will be centered around what God has said in this book. And one day, even Dawkins and Krauss will understand what this book says, hopefully before they die, but that is their choice.

Because it will all come back to the words of God and of faith. Jacob heard God and had faith and believed the promises, if there was one thing that separated Jacob and Esau, it is faith. The one thing that separates the old man I once was, and the life I was living, from the new man that I am now... it is faith.

If you are truly born again and have put your faith in Jesus Christ according to word of God, then you are counted as the seed and heir of the promise.

Paul says in the end of Romans chapter 9 verses 30;

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;

YES! YES, they have, including me! For Peter says this in 1st Peter chapter 2 verse 9 and 10;

9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

What a great promise and privilege we as gentiles have been given, to become partakers of the promises of Abraham and can be counted as the seed of that promise. To be part of that promise of eternal glory with God in eternity and living with Jesus, the redeemer of our souls forever.

Paul quoting Hosea in chapter 9 verse 25 says;

~~25~~ As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved."

26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

It all comes down to the words of this book and faith.

And so, in conclusion, why did God hate Esau? Because the choices he made, the life he lived and the disregard he had for the worlds salvation in selling salvation for a bowl of stew and a piece of bread. Its all in the bible. Why did God hate Edom? Because what Esau was as a man, became perpetuated and magnified and multiplied into a nation of the same. They had every opportunity to change, but chose not to, and therefore God has dealt with them accordingly and will deal with them in the future as well.

It comes down to every individual's choice, to either become like Jacob and live by faith in God or remain an Esau and live for self.

That choice is your choice, that choice, is my choice, it is Dawkins' choice, it is Krauss' choice, everyone has that choice!

All the world has that choice!

To either cast yourself at the mercy of God and His Grace in salvation. Or stand opposed to God and His word until your dying breath, it is your choice.

You can choose the path of Esau, however, if you do, you do not get to choose the consequences in the end. That choice will be made for you.

2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved;

3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."

4 Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever.

Let us choose to be the one whom God loves and not the one on whom the Lord will have indignation forever.