

ISAIAH 34

Great Slaughter in Edom

Nations Devoted to Destruction

1 Draw near, nations, to hear, and give attention, peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it. The world, and all that comes from it. 2 For Yahweh is enraged against all the nations and furious against all their host. He has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter. 3 Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise. The mountains shall flow with their blood. 4 All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.

Great Slaughter in Edom

5 For my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens. Behold, it descends for judgment upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction.¹ 6 Yahweh has a sword. It is sated with blood. It is gorged with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For Yahweh has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 Wild oxen shall fall with them, and young steers with the mighty bulls. Their land shall drink its fill of blood, and their soil shall be gorged with fat.

8 For Yahweh has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. 9 And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur. Her land shall become burning pitch. 10 Night and day it shall not be quenched. Its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste. None shall pass through it forever and ever.

Edom Wildlife Refuge

11 But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it. The owl and the raven shall dwell in it. He shall stretch the line of confusion over it, and the plumb line of emptiness. 12 Its nobles—there is no one there to call it a kingdom, and all its princes shall be nothing. 13 Thorns shall grow over its strongholds, nettles and thistles in its fortresses. It shall be the haunt of jackals, an abode for ostriches. 14 And wild animals shall meet with hyenas. The wild goat shall cry to his fellow. Indeed, there the night bird settles and finds for herself a resting place. 15 There the owl nests, lays, hatches, and gathers her young in her shadow. Indeed, there the hawks are gathered, each one with her mate. 16 Seek and read from the scroll of Yahweh:

Not one of these shall be missing. None shall be without her mate.

¹ **Is 33:1** 1 Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor, whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed. And when you have finished betraying, they will betray you.

For the mouth of Yahweh has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them. 17 He has cast the lot for them. His hand has portioned it out to them with the line. They shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.²

² Just as politicians announce what policies they will set in place if they are elected, here we get the policy of the Messianic king toward the land of Edom. All Edom will be a wildlife refuge.

Notes