

***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***  
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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 64 – Edom’s Example**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

Abraham is the father of the Jewish nation. He’s the first Hebrew, so to speak, that ever was; a nation created by God. And God told Abraham, “**...I will bless those that bless you, and... I will curse [those that curse you]...**” (**Genesis 12:3**) Do you think God really means that? Do you think God will really deal with those that curse Israel? We’ll look at it today as we look at God’s Word.

**PART ONE**

Welcome Beloved, to “Precepts for Life”. Thank you so much for wanting to know God’s Word, for wanting to understand what God has said, for desiring to discover truth for yourself, for disciplining yourself to know God, to understand His salvation, to grasp His knowledge, to have wisdom on how you are to live. Thank you for studying the Bible because you fear the Lord, because you respect Him, because you trust Him. And I want to assure you that if this is your heart, “**...[The Lord] will be the stability of your**

times....” (Isaiah 33:6) In other words: as you move through life God will be the stabilizing force. God will be the faithfulness of your life. In other words, you can know Him, and what you know about Him you can know is absolutely true. Thank you for studying. Thank you for coming along side this program. Thank you for supporting it. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to share His Word. You know I believe it is so critical in these days that we understand “...the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27, ASV) Because the Bible says in Isaiah 5 that: [His people went into captivity for a lack of knowledge.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 5:13) In other words, they didn’t believe God. And we’re going to see today as we look at Isaiah chapter 34 that God judges those to whom He gives great opportunities. And when He judges those to whom He gives great opportunities His judgment is greater. As we look now at Isaiah 34 and 35, we have moved from the “woes” that are in chapter 28 all the way through chapter 33 to now, God’s word about His judgment of the nations and His establishing of His kingdom. And it’s almost like from chapter 1 all the way through chapter 35 he’s come full circle. He has a pattern. He talks about Israel’s sin. He talks about the judgment of Israel’s sin. But He also talks about Israel’s future. He tells us that there will be a remnant, and that remnant is called the holy seed, those out of all of Israel that will believe, that will go through the fire of God’s consuming fire and yet will hold fast to Him. (See Isaiah 6:13) He also tells us in chapters 1 through 35 what He’s going to do to the nations. And this starts in chapter 13 and it goes all the way through chapter 23. In chapter 24 through chapter 27 then He talks about what He’s going to do to the earth and how He’s going to lay it waste and how out of all that shambles and that judgment He is going to bring forth Zion. (See Isaiah 24:1, 23) The centerpiece of Isaiah chapter 1 through 35, the centerpiece of it all is Zion. It is Jerusalem. Now as we come to chapter 35, 34, He is talking about His judgment of the nations. We’ve already looked at that. I don’t have time to review it, but I want you to know you can get all of this

teaching on CD, and you can listen to it any time. Or you can find us on <[Oneplace.com](http://Oneplace.com)> or you can find us on <[Lightsource.com](http://Lightsource.com)> and you can study, if you miss a program. Our passion is, to get you into the Word of God so you know truth. Now in Isaiah chapter 34, He talks about His sword being sated in heaven. He talks about it, descending for judgment upon Edom. (See Isaiah 34:6) Now just before this He's talked about how He's going to judge all the nations. But now He focuses in on Edom. And your question has to be: Why does He focus in on Edom? What is the point that He is making? Well the point is, that He's going to deal with Edom. But why is He telling us this about Edom? I think that there are other truths, other precepts for life that we need to see there. Now one of the things that we've suggested that you do is, that you mark every reference to "Edom". Since "Edom" means "red", then what I would do is, I would color it red. And I double-underline it in green because it is a country. It is a geographical location. Now when you look at a map, you see that to the east of the Jordan River; the Jordan River goes from the Sea of Galilee down to the Dead Sea. To the east of the Jordan you find Ammon, and then you find Moab just a little bit east and south of the Dead Sea. And then below that almost opposite, and this is very important, the Araba, the desert part of Israel that leads down to Elat, which is at the point, at the top of the Red Sea. Opposite the Araba is Edom. That's where Edom is. So now watch what He says about Edom. He says, **"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...."** Now Bozrah is a place in Edom. **"...A great slaughter in the land of Edom."** (Isaiah 34:6) Remember Isaiah's poetry? So he says it one way and then he says it again. It says, **"Wild oxen will also fall with them...young bulls with strong ones; [and] their land..."** color it red, **"...will be soaked with blood, and their..."** color it red for Edom, **"...dust will become greasy with fat,"** from just what spills out from the sacrifice. **"For the Lord has a**

**day of vengeance....” (Isaiah 34:7-8)** And by the way, when he talks about fat, you saw in the Old Testament when He laid down the Law in Leviticus that the fat of the sacrifice—always belonged to the Lord. (See Leviticus 3:3-4) It says, **“For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.” (Isaiah 34:8)** In other words, God is doing this to Edom in vindication of what they did to Zion. It says, **“Its streams...,”** talking about Edom, **“...will be turned to pitch, and its loose dirt into brimstone, and its land will become burning pitch....”** Now that’s what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah. **“It will not be quenched by night or day; its smoke will go up forever [and ever]. From generation to generation it [Edom] will be desolate; none will pass through it forever and ever.” (Isaiah 34:9-10)** And you want to mark your time phrase there. You want to put a clock around “forever and ever”. What He’s saying is, He’s gonna clear out all the human beings and it is going to be so desolate that it’s going to stay that way forever and ever. Now He is talking about present day Jordan. Look at your geography. And Edom is present day Jordan. It’s Ammon, Moab and Edom. And this is the future of Jordan. And so what He goes on to say is, **“...Its smoke will go up forever...None will pass through it forever and ever.” (Isaiah 34:10)** Verse 11, **“But pelican and hedgehog will possess it...the owl and [the] raven will dwell in it; and He [God] will stretch over it the line of desolation and the plumb line of emptiness.” (Isaiah 34:11)** Now the symbol for our Ministry is plumb line. It’s not a plumb line of emptiness, but it’s a plumb line ’cause the Word of God is a plumb line. It’s what you use to measure something to see if it is straight. It’s a carpenter’s tool. It’s a building tool. And yet here, He is stretching it out as a plumb line of emptiness. **“Its nobles—there is no one there whom they may proclaim king—and all [of] its princes will be nothing.” (Isaiah 34:12)** There is no one to make king. There is no one to be a prince. **“Thorns [and thistles] will come up in its fortified towers, nettles and thistles in its fortified cities; it will also be a haunt of**

jackals...an abode of ostriches. The desert creatures will meet with the wolves, the hairy goat...will cry to its kind; yes, the night monster will settle there and will find herself a [nesting] place. The tree snake will make its nest and lay eggs there, and [they] will hatch and gather them under its protection. Yes, the hawks will be gathered there, every one with its kind.” (Isaiah 34:13-15) In other words, with its mate, and all the birds like that. “Seek from the book of the LORD...,” now listen, “...and read: Not one of these will be missing...;” not one of these things that he just said will be missing. “...None will lack its mate....” None of these animals will be without a mate. In other words, they will cohabitate, so to speak. They will procreate. They will multiply. It says, “...For His mouth [God’s mouth] has commanded, and His Spirit has gathered them.” You see God is over all of creation. “He has cast the lot for them...His hand has divided it....” What? Edom. You want to mark it red again. “They [these animals] shall possess it....” Put a clock there. “...Forever; from generation to generation they...,” these animals, the night monster, the snake, the tree snake, all of these things, the wolf, etc., they, “...[will] possess it...from generation to generation they will dwell in it.” (Isaiah 34:16-17) It’s not a pretty site is it? It’s a total devastation, uninhabitable. Why? Why would God do that? We’ll answer that in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

Edom: a desolate habitation. That’s what God says about the future of present day Jordan. This is what’s going to come to pass. Now the question you and I have to ask is: Why? Why would God Almighty do this to Edom? When you ask the question and you explore the Scriptures you get your answer, and then you learn a precept for life from that answer. We are looking at God’s day of vengeance. And the focus of that day of vengeance in chapter 34 of Isaiah is Edom. So I wrote down next to verse 8: “The Lord’s day of vengeance.” Then I wrote down “Edom,” and under “Edom”

in pencil, so that I can move it if I want to, I've written the following Scriptures. Now there are other Scriptures than these that I could go to, but these are the main ones. So let's start in Genesis chapter 25 and we want to write down 22 through 34. Now I'm not going to read all of this to you because you can read it later. But in Genesis chapter 25 it says in verse 19, **"Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son...."** (Genesis 25:19) Abraham had Isaac. Isaac had two sons. Those two sons were twins. Look at what he says. **"But the children struggled...,"** verse 22, **"...together within her; and she said, 'If it is so, why then am I this way?' so she went to inquire of the LORD."** (Genesis 25:22) What's going on inside my belly? **"[And] the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body....'"** Now I want you to get the word "nations" and I want you to understand that each one of these twins represents a nation. **"...And one people [will] be stronger than the other; and the older [will] serve the younger."** (Genesis 25:23) You say, "But they're twins. They're born on the same day." That's right, but one is born before the other. The older that is going to serve the younger is Esau. And it says, **"When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau."** (Genesis 25:24-25) Now Esau is the father of the Edomites. That Edomite nation begins with the birth of Esau. And it says, **"When the boys grew up...,"** verse 27 **"...Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents."** (Genesis 25:27) All right now it says in verse 28, **"Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah...,"** that's Isaac's wife, **"...loved Jacob."** (Genesis 25:28) Well **"Jacob...cooked stew, Esau [comes] in from the field and he [is] famished; and Esau [says] to Jacob, 'Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff...for I am famished.' Therefore his name was called Edom."** (Genesis 25:29-30) Here he is; he comes out red. He comes hairy.

Then he sees the red stuff. He sees the stew that is red and he says, **“...Let me have....that...therefore his name was called Edom.”** Have you got it? Now watch what it says. **“But Jacob said, ‘First sell me your birthright.’ [And] Esau said, ‘Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?’ And Jacob said, ‘First swear to me’; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate...and [he] rose [up] and went on his way....”** (Genesis 25:31-34) He’s just walking off. He just sold his birthright. What is his birthright? He’s the firstborn. He has the right to be the primary inheritor of everything that his father Isaac has. And now, because he’s hungry, because of the appetite of his flesh, because he wants immediate gratification he sells his birthright. Because he thinks he’s going to die because he’s so hungry, and Jacob gets it away from him. And it says, **“...Thus Esau despised his birthright.”** (Genesis 25:34) Esau despised it. It meant nothing to him. The eternal, so to speak, the long range benefits meant nothing to him because he wanted immediate satisfaction, immediate gratification. Well this is meeting Esau, okay. You say, “Okay, he sold his birthright.” Listen, that was a very important thing because God was raising up a nation. And that nation was going to be the nation of Israel, or the nation of Jacob. God said to Abraham and it’s Genesis chapter 12, when He called him out of the Ur of the Chaldees, which is over in Babylon. He says, **“...I will make [of] you a great nation...and in you all the [nations] of the earth will be blessed.”** (Genesis 12:2-3) So what Esau did is, he said, “You know that’s not important to me. My flesh and my satisfaction of my flesh is important to me.” All right now I want you to put down Hebrews chapter 12; Hebrews chapter 12. And I want you to go there, because here is a New Testament commentary on this act. All the “T’s” are together and then you have the book of Hebrews. And in Hebrews chapter 12 it is the chapter on discipline. It is the chapter on how God disciplines His sons. And this is what he says in verse 15, **“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of**

God....” In other words, that no one fails to lay hold of the grace of God, the unmerited, unearned favor of God. He says, “...**that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many [are] defiled.**” He says, “**That there be no immoral...,**” now watch how he describes Esau, “...[no immoral] **or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.**” (Hebrews 12:15-16) He says, “That is displeasing to me.” He says, “See that there is none of you, when I am chastening you and you are going through trials, [don’t fall short of the grace of God]. (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 12:15) “...**My grace is sufficient for you, [My] power is perfected in [your] weakness....**” (2 Corinthians 12:9) Appropriate the grace of God. [Don’t be like Esau who was godless, who was immoral, who took his birthright that gave him the right to be the one in the bloodline of Isaac. He says he despised his birthright for a single meal.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 12:16) And then it goes on to say, “**For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it with tears.**” (Hebrews 12:17) He was sorry, but he did not repent. It was just a sorrow of what he missed. So when we think of Edom you’ve got to think of someone who had an opportunity to believe in the grace of God and he missed it. What about you? God has grace for you. Are you going to miss it just for the temporal, or are you going to turn to God and say, “God, I want to be in Your blood line. I want to be a child of the family of God.” We’ll deal with this more in depth in our next program. But think on it today, Precious One.