

God's Restoration & Redemption: From Judgment to Blessing

In Ezekiel 35 & 36, we encounter a powerful message about God's justice and the consequences of harboring hatred. The prophecy against Mount Seir (Edom) serves as a stark reminder that our actions and attitudes towards others, especially God's people, have serious implications. We see how God takes note of the 'perpetual hatred' Edom held against Israel, and how He promises judgment in return. This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts: Do we harbor resentments or rejoice in others' misfortunes? It's a call to release bitterness and align our hearts with God's love and justice. The imagery of desolation and judgment reminds us that God is not passive in the face of injustice, but actively works to defend His people and uphold His name. As we reflect on this, we're invited to trust in God's ultimate justice and to cultivate compassion, even towards those we might consider enemies.

Scripture Reference:

Ezekiel 35 & 36

Psalm 83:4-6, 12

Key Takeaways:

- God judges Edom for their perpetual hatred and actions against Israel.
- God promises to restore Israel to their land and make it fruitful again.
- God will cleanse His people and give them a new heart and Spirit.
- The restoration of Israel will serve as a testimony to God's power and faithfulness.
- God's actions are primarily for the sake of His holy name.
- True repentance leads to a hatred of past sins and appreciation for God's goodness.
- God's restoration includes both physical blessings and spiritual transformation.

Practical Applications:

- ☐ This week, make a conscious effort to replace any negative or hateful thoughts with prayers for those you struggle with or that you deem enemies.
- ☐ Reflect on areas of your life where you may be "profaning God's name" through your actions or attitudes. Commit to making a change.
- ☐ Start a gratitude journal, focusing on how God has restored or improved different aspects of your life.
- ☐ Identify one way you can be a better "representative" of God in your workplace, neighborhood, or among family and friends.
- ☐ Spend time in prayer, asking God to give you a "new heart" and to put His Spirit within you, especially in areas where you struggle to obey Him.
- ☐ Share your testimony of God's restoration with someone this week, emphasizing God's character and work rather than your own efforts.

LORD of heaven and earth, KING of the universe, Ruler in the kingdom of men, we bless Your holy name and we ask if You would help us to be better representatives of You and Your SON JESUS. As believers, we say we believe, we have no problem with believing in You and in Your SON, but we don't act like it, we don't talk like it. We ask Your forgiveness for times we doubt, times we forget to be thankful, times we have attitudes and have unjust anger, times we hold grudges, times we act ugly. Please forgive us LORD. And thank You for Your gracious mercy towards us through Your SON CHRIST JESUS. You sent Your SON into this world to deliver us and free us from sin and death. Help us LORD to walk in that newness of life, help us to understand that we no longer have to walk in darkness and sin. Help us to be the children that glorify You, children that represent their MESSIAH. Help us to be better for Your name sake. In the name of Your SON JESUS CHRIST our LORD & SAVIOR we pray. Amen.