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The Sword of the LORD is Bathed in Blood 34: 5-8

The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood DIG: Edom was a strange target, for Edom and Israelites were blood brothers. What is the object lesson taught to Edom, representing all nations, for having refused to willingly offer sacrifice to the Lord? Why does He return to Edom? Who is leading the charge?

REFLECT: As a believer, what is encouraging about this scene? God is a promise keeper. What promises has He kept in your life? Does this slaughter seem out of character for ADONAI in your mind? Does the Bible describe Yeshua Messiah as a righteous warrior? How so? What will be His title when He returns?

God is a patient **King**, but **He** is also a warrior and here we meet **His sword. My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens (34:5a). Ha'Shem** is angry and will do battle with all the armies of **the nations** that are gathered together in **the far eschatological future** at the end of the Great Tribulation. Not all **the people** of the earth will be **destroyed**, but **their** armies will be **destroyed**. Here, **Messiah** pinpoints the specific place where **He** will destroy all these armies of the world. **See, it descends in judgment on Edom, the people I have totally destroyed (34:5b). ADONAI** swings His **sword** from heaven and finds its mark in **Edom. Isaiah** uses **Edom** as an example of **God's** judgment against the world. **The**

Edomites were descendants of **Esau** and throughout the TaNaKh, were treated as the antithesis to **Isra'el**. As such, it is typical of those **nations** that insisted upon **their** own ways in opposition to those of **the LORD**. It is as if **Isaiah** was saying, "You can choose **Edom's** way or **God's** way, but these are the results."

Today **Edom** is southern Jordan. The armies of the world gather in the Valley of Jezreel near Mount Megiddo, otherwise known as Armageddon in Galilee. Armageddon stands for *Har Mageddon*, the mountain of Megiddo. But believers today call the entire valley Armageddon. The Battle of Armageddon is a misnomer. First of all, there is no battle . . . it's a **slaughter**. Secondly, the Bible gives us a name for this final conflict but no one uses it; it is **the Battle on the Great Day of God Almighty (Revelation 16:14).** The armies of the world, under the direction of the antichrist will come south, take **Jerusalem** and proceed south to **Edom**. As for **the Edomites**, **they** are **the people** of **God's** curse; **they** too are a **people devoted to destruction** according to the book of **Obadiah**. While Amon and Mo'ab have a surviving remnant in the Millennial Kingdom, **Edom** will not.

When **Yeshua Messiah** returns a second time, **He** returns to **Bozrah** (**to see link click Kg – The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Bozrah**). At that time, **the sword of the LORD** will be **bathed in blood, it** will be **covered with fat – the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams (34:6a).** These were the parts of the slaughtered sacrifices that belonged only to **God (Leviticus 3:16-17, 7:23-27)**. **He** is **the commander of the LORD's army (Joshua 5:15)**, with **His** military triumphs being celebrated in **the Book of the Wars of the LORD (Numbers 21:14).** When **He** came the first time, **John** tells us that **He** was **the Lamb of God (John 1:29)**, but when **He** returns a second time, **he** records: **Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed (Revelation 5:5)!**

For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom (34:6b). The **slaughter** of the nations is viewed here as a massive **sacrifice** of **God (Jeremiah 46:10; Ezekiel 39:17-20; Zephaniah 1:7-8; Revelation 19:17-18).** But here **Isaiah** not only pinpoints the nation, **he** also points out the specific **city**. That **city** is **Bozrah**, or by its Greek name, Petra **(Jeremiah 49:13-14),** the fabled "red city." It is modern-day Buseirah, about 25 miles southeast of the southern end of the Dead Sea. In the time of **Yeshua**, the Nabateans built the impenetrable fortress of Sela there, carving it from sandstone rocks. Visitors can see how these ancient people used the natural rocks of **Edom** for their protection. A narrow passage of steep rocks leads to Petra **(Bozrah)**, and

many of the caves they hollowed out and ornately decorated are well-preserved to this day.[119] But there is an important principle here that we must not miss. Judgment is not merely **God** vindicating **Isra'el**. **Sacrifice** to **the LORD** is recognizing who **He** is and giving **Him His** due. Judgment is not a judicial act, nor is it a military act. It is a religious act. It is **ADONAI** claiming the honor due to **Him** as **Creator** and **Ruler** of the world. And those who do not *offer* sacrifice, *become* the sacrifice.

Why are all the armies of the earth gathered there? Because that is where the believing remnant is gathered **(Micah 2:12).** Remember the reason for the gathering of the armies of the world is for the final destruction and annihilation of the Jewish nation once and for all. Since the major body of **Jews** are in **Bozrah**, that is where the nations, the vultures of **Matthew 24**, gather together.

And the wild oxen will fall with them, the bull calves and the great bulls. The Gentile unbelievers will certainly not be using the TaNaKh sacrificial system at the end of the Great Tribulation so this cannot be taken literally. This is probably a reference to the leaders who were trying to kill every last **Jew** remaining on the earth. **They** will fall with the common people. None will be spared. **Their land will be drenched with blood, and the dust will be soaked with fat (34:7).** There will be a slaughter of great sacrifice that will permanently affect **the land (34:1-4).**

Edom is not representative of all the nations in the world, but of all the enemies of **Isra'el**. Once we understand that, we can discern the purpose of **God's** judgment. It is **to uphold Zion's cause, for the LORD has a day of vengeance,** and **a year of retribution (34:8). A day of vengeance** and **a year of retribution** are both names for the Great Tribulation in the TaNaKh. These phrases in the Hebrew are in the plural form pointing out its intensity. All indignities against **Isra'el** will then be avenged. And for **Isra'el's vengeance**, all the armies of the world will be destroyed. And especially for **Isra'el's retribution**, **the land** of **Edom** will become a burning wasteland throughout the Millennial Kingdom. The **vengeance** and **retribution,** which this involves, are expressions of **God's** commitment to those **He** has chosen to be **His** people.