

## *Second Baptist Church of Doylestown*

### *Ezekiel Chapter 25-26*

*2/10/16*

### *Ezekiel Chapter 25*

#### **A Prophecy Against Ammon - Verses 1-11**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, set your face against the Ammonites and prophesy against them. <sup>3</sup>Say to them, 'Hear the word of the Sovereign LORD. This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you said "Aha!" over my sanctuary when it was desecrated and over the land of Israel when it was laid waste and over the people of Judah when they went into exile, <sup>4</sup>therefore I am going to give you to the people of the East as a possession. They will set up their camps and pitch their tents among you; they will eat your fruit and drink your milk. <sup>5</sup>I will turn Rabbah into a pasture for camels and Ammon into a resting place for sheep. Then you will know that I am the LORD. <sup>6</sup>For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet, rejoicing with all the malice of your heart against the land of Israel, <sup>7</sup>therefore I will stretch out my hand against you and give you as plunder to the nations. I will wipe you out from among the nations and exterminate you from the countries. I will destroy you, and you will know that I am the LORD.'"

**25:1-7** Chapters 25-32 are God's word concerning the seven nations surrounding Judah. The judgments in these chapters are not simply the vengeful statements of Jews against their enemies; they are God's judgments on nations that failed to acknowledge the one true God and fulfill the good purposes God intended for them. The Ammonites were judged because of their joy over the desecration of the temple (25:1-7), the Moabites because they found pleasure in Judah's wickedness (25:8-11), the Edomites because of their racial hatred for the Jews (25:12-14), and the Philistines because they sought revenge against Judah for defeating them in battle (25:15-17).

#### **A Prophecy Against Moab - Verses 8-11**

<sup>8</sup>"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Because Moab and Seir said, "Look, Judah has become like all the other nations," <sup>9</sup>therefore I will expose the flank of Moab, beginning at its frontier towns—Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon and Kiriathaim—the glory of that land. <sup>10</sup>I will give Moab along with the Ammonites to the people of the East as a possession, so that the Ammonites will not be remembered among the nations; <sup>11</sup>and I will inflict punishment on Moab. Then they will know that I am the LORD.'"

**25:8-11** This was the sin of Moab. They said that Israel was like all the other nations. In effect, they said that Israel's God was like any other god. And the Moabites laughed when the Babylonians defeated Judah (Jeremiah 48:27). Because of these insults, the \*Lord would allow Moab's enemies to destroy it. By this punishment, people will know that the \*Lord is the only real God.

#### **A Prophecy Against Edom - Verses 12-14**

<sup>12</sup>"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Because Edom took revenge on Judah and became very guilty by doing so, <sup>13</sup>therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and kill both man and beast. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to

Dedan they will fall by the sword.<sup>14</sup> I will take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel, and they will deal with Edom in accordance with my anger and my wrath; they will know my vengeance, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

**25:12-14** The Edomites were blood brothers of the Jews, both nations having descended from Isaac (Genesis 25:19-26). Edom shared its northern border with Israel, and the two nations were always in conflict. The Edomites hated Israel so much that they rejoiced when Jerusalem, Israel's capital, was destroyed. Teman was in the northern part of Edom; Dedan was in the southern part. Thus, Ezekiel was saying that the entire country would be destroyed.

#### **A Prophecy Against Philistia - Verses 15-17**

<sup>15</sup> “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Because the Philistines acted in vengeance and took revenge with malice in their hearts, and with ancient hostility sought to destroy Judah, <sup>16</sup> therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to stretch out my hand against the Philistines, and I will wipe out the Kerethites and destroy those remaining along the coast. <sup>17</sup> I will carry out great vengeance on them and punish them in my wrath. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I take vengeance on them.’”

**25:16** The Kerethites originated in Crete, from which they take their name. They were either a clan of the Philistines, or possibly a separate people who migrated from the Aegean to Palestine about the same time. The Kerethites and Philistines were closely intermixed once they were in Palestine and are often mentioned together.

## *Ezekiel Chapter 26*

#### **A Prophecy Against Tyre**

<sup>1</sup>In the eleventh month of the twelfth year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper,’ <sup>3</sup> therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. <sup>4</sup> They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. <sup>5</sup> Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. She will become plunder for the nations, <sup>6</sup> and her settlements on the mainland will be ravaged by the sword. Then they will know that I am the LORD. <sup>7</sup> “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: From the north I am going to bring against Tyre Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, with horsemen and a great army. <sup>8</sup> He will ravage your settlements on the mainland with the sword; he will set up siege works against you, build a ramp up to your walls and raise his shields against you. <sup>9</sup> He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and demolish your towers with his weapons. <sup>10</sup> His horses will be so many that they will cover you with dust. Your walls will tremble at the noise of the warhorses, wagons and chariots when he enters your gates as men enter a city whose walls have been broken through. <sup>11</sup> The hooves of his horses will trample all your streets; he will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground. <sup>12</sup> They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise; they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea. <sup>13</sup> I will put an end to your noisy songs, and the music of your harps will be heard no more. <sup>14</sup> I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to

spread fishnets. You will never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD.

**26:14** After a 15-year siege, Nebuchadnezzar could not conquer the part of Tyre located on the island; thus, certain aspects of the description in 26:12, 14 exceed the actual damage done to Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar. But the prophecy predicted what would happen to the island settlement later during the conquests of Alexander the Great. Alexander threw the rubble of the mainland city into the sea until it made a bridge to the island. Then he marched across the bridge and destroyed the island (332 B.C.). Today the island city is still a pile of rubble, a testimony to God's judgment.

#### **Verses 15-21**

<sup>15</sup> "This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Tyre: Will not the coastlands tremble at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan and the slaughter takes place in you? <sup>16</sup> Then all the princes of the coast will step down from their thrones and lay aside their robes and take off their embroidered garments. Clothed with terror, they will sit on the ground, trembling every moment, appalled at you. <sup>17</sup> Then they will take up a lament concerning you and say to you: "How you are destroyed, city of renown, peopled by men of the sea! You were a power on the seas, you and your citizens; you put your terror on all who lived there. <sup>18</sup> Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall; the islands in the sea are terrified at your collapse.' <sup>19</sup> "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: When I make you a desolate city, like cities no longer inhabited, and when I bring the ocean depths over you and its vast waters cover you, <sup>20</sup> then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago. I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, and you will not return or take your place in the land of the living. <sup>21</sup> I will bring you to a horrible end and you will be no more. You will be sought, but you will never again be found, declares the Sovereign LORD."

**26:1-21** This message came to Ezekiel in 586 B.C. Chapters 26 and 27 are a prophecy against Tyre, the capital of Phoenicia, located just to the north of Israel. Part of the city was on the coastline, and part was on a beautiful island. Tyre rejoiced when Jerusalem fell, because Tyre and Judah always competed for the lucrative trade that came through their lands from Egypt in the south and Mesopotamia to the north. Tyre dominated the sea trading routes, while Judah dominated the land caravan routes. After Judah was defeated, Tyre thought it had all the trade routes to itself. But this gloating didn't last long. In 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city. It took him 15 years to capture Tyre (586-571) because the city's back side lay on the sea so fresh supplies could be shipped in daily.