

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 37

Chapter 34

Chapters 34 and 35 go together and are complete opposites. Chapter **34** reveals **the wrath of God** on all of the ungodly nations. Chapter 35 describes **the blessing of the future Kingdom** for Israel.

The following chart presents an outline of chapter 34:

Verses	Subject
34:1	Announcement of doom
34:2-4	The Lord's wrath against the ungodly nations and their armies
34:5-9	The sword of the Lord will destroy Edom, its people, animals, streams, and land.
34:10-15	The land will be unfit for human habitation – forever.
34:16-17	Final summons: seek and read the book of the Lord.

Let's read chapter 34 together now.

Discussion Guide

1. Who is addressed in verse 1?
2. In verses 1-4, is there anything that the nations can do to avoid their fate? Why or why not?
3. Have the events in verse 4 ever occurred? Compare Rev 6:12-14. What does this say about when the events of verses 2-4 occur?
4. By themselves, verses 5-6 appear to announce judgment on Edom and its capital, Bozrah. What clues in verses 1-4 show that the judgment is far more extensive than Edom alone?
5. Why Edom? Refer to Isa 63:1-6; Her 49:7-22; Eze 25:12-14.
6. See verses 9-13. The words “it/its” appear 18 times. To what do they refer?
7. How many animals are mentioned in Isaiah 34? They appear in two groups: verses 6-7, and verses 11-15. What is the difference between the two groups?
8. For how long with the smoke in verse 10 go up? For how long will the land remain desolate? What does that tell us? See Isa 66:24; Rev 14:16; 19:3,20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:8.
9. Isaiah uses a series of disturbing images in verses 3-15. What points does he make? Which images correspond to each? Which image do you find the most compelling (biggest impact)?
10. In verse 16, what does the Lord command, and to whom?

11. Compare and contrast verse 17 with verse 11 and Numbers 36:52-56.
12. What is the big story of chapter 34?
13. How does the imagery enhance that story?
14. What did chapter 34 mean to the original audience?
15. How does chapter 34 fit in the entire book of Isaiah? In the story of the Bible as a whole?
16. What does chapter 34 have to say to us?
17. Describe the relationship between Edom and all the ungodly nations here in chapter 34. Suggestions:
 - a. Symbol
 - b. Type
 - c. Example
 - d. Illustration
 - e. Case in point
 - f. Worst offender
 - g. Representative
 - h. First to be destroyed (See Isaiah 63:1-6, Micah 2:12-13 – Hebrew word for “pen” is “Bozrah”)