

world shall witness the display of His great power and justice.

The next three verses vividly picture the overwhelming destruction of mighty armies. The closest parallel to this description is found in the latter part of Revelation 19, which portrays the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over all the forces of wickedness before He establishes His great millennial kingdom.

Just about the only specific references in chapter 34 are those to Edom in verses 5 and 6. It is most probable that these verses do not refer to the Edomites as a people but to Edom as the land where the great judgment is to fall upon the armies of the wicked nations.

The succeeding verses describe the desolation which will follow God's victory. This desolation may be conceived as applying in particular to the land of Edom, where the great overthrow is to take place; yet in a sense it includes all the nations which oppose God and His will. Their power is to be reduced to utter nothingness, and some of their great palaces are to become merely abodes for wild animals. Vivid word pictures of the desolation are painted; the headquarters of sophistication and wickedness are to become the haunts of wild beasts.

Verses 16 and 17 strongly declare the certainty of these upheavals. God's people are exhorted to read the predictions in the book of the Lord. Not one of them will fail and none will lack its adequate fulfillment. All His declarations of the doom and destruction of what is wicked will come to pass. The building up of great ungodly forces may succeed during the present age, but the age will end with their complete destruction, giving absolute proof that whatever God had declared will be fulfilled in every detail.

### **Isaiah 35**

In chapter 35 we find the opposite picture. It might well be called the great chapter of comfort. It is addressed to any of God's people who are oppressed by the temporary victories of evil and wickedness and tempted to cry out, "How long, O Lord?"