

as coming from Edom to bring destruction upon His enemies. Thus in Judges 5 the song of Deborah begins with a description of God as marching out of the field of Edom. In that instance there was no particular reference to the people of Edom, since the purpose of the song was to celebrate deliverance from oppressors that had come from the opposite direction.

The reference to Edom is paralleled with mention of Bozrah. Other Scriptural passages refer to this as one of the leading cities of Edom. It corresponds to the modern village of Buseira, about twenty miles southeast of the Dead Sea.

In some ways it is indeed a horrible picture that is contained here. The garments of the majestic figure are stained with blood. All over them are sprinkled evidence of the terrific carnage. He says, "For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come" (verse 4). It often appears in human life as if sin and injustice were in control and could never be dislodged. Yet inevitably the time comes when terrible vengeance is poured out upon those who have been guilty. Over and over in the history of the world these terrible holocausts have occurred. It would be well that we should take warning in our own country and think what terrible fate may be in store for our people if we do not again as a nation turn to God and repent of the injustice and wickedness which has multiplied so appallingly in recent years. At the end of the age people will say, "All things continue as they were from the beginning" (2 Peter 3:4). Yet the Lord declares that even as they are saying, "Peace and safety", sudden destruction will come upon them (1 Thes. 5:3). The picture in our present passage doubtless refers to the greatest overthrow of wickedness in all the history of the world--the one that is to occur at the end of the present age. Yet the principle is one which has occurred repeatedly in human history.

With verse 7 another main section of the book commences. It would be a far better place for a chapter division than the beginning of the passage which we have just examined. Study of its content and purpose must be left until next month.