

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)*

#04-1093

Edom – Ramble & Bramble

August 15, 2010

In previous issues, we have seen that there is an on-going struggle between Esau and Jacob (#04-1089; #04-1090), that Esau is Edom (#04-1091), and that Edom is in modern Jewry (#04-1092). The last issue ended with this thought: If Edom is in modern Jewry, and there is a modern Jewish state called Israel on the land of Jacob, then Edom must be on the land that he sold to Jacob nearly 3800 years ago. He's back!

To begin, let us go back to Isaac's prophecy over his son Esau.

And by your sword you shall live, and shall serve your brother. And it shall be when you shall have the dominion [Hebrew *rood*], you shall break his yoke from off your neck.
(Genesis 27:40 MKJV)

The word *dominion* is also used in the King James Version and Young's Literal Translation. However, several versions (e.g., NASB) translate it with the word *restless*, which makes no sense.

The Hebrew word *rood* means "to tramp about, that is, to ramble (free or disconsolate)" and is translated in most versions as "have dominion," "be lord," or "rule." *Ramble* means "to grow or spread in all directions," which is what certain plants do, such as vines and brambles. Considering Edom's history, these words are quite interesting.

Ramble speaks of one who tramps about wherever he desires. Obviously, if a man occupies his own land, he can tramp about it and spread out on it as he pleases.

Bramble speaks of a nation or kingdom. In issue #04-1080, August 2, 2010, *Trees in Scripture*, I offered my opinion that at the end of our present wicked eon, the nations will have digressed from the olive tree to a bramble, which is not a tree at all but a prickly shrub that smarts or stings. At the end of Man's Day, the nations will be nothing but bramble in the sight of God, for they have rejected God's King (Psalm 2).

In this context, the word *dominion* (*rood*) prophetically signifies that through force of the sword, that is, through violence and bloodshed, Esau would break free from his brother and rule on the land he lost, but his nation would be nothing but bramble in the sight of God, something that must be cut down and burned. His nation will "smart," as in causing pain and being shrewd. One day, Esau would take dominion by force and exercise his right of birth that was lost to Jacob. The question is when and how.

The answer to this question is discovered in another prophecy about Edom that came from the Lord.

Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever." (Malachi 1:4 NASB)

Notice Edom's defiance. They are beaten down, but they vow to return to the land and rebuild. But also notice the Lord's response. It is as if He said, "Go ahead; return to the land and build to your heart's content. When you are done, I will tear it all down. Go ahead;ramble about the land, spread out on it, take dominion, but it is all bramble in My sight; it is wicked territory."

I like to boil things down into simple “if-then” logic statements. If Edom is in modern Jewry, by the Jews own admission, and there are unfulfilled prophecies about Edom, then these prophecies must be fulfilled in modern Jewry. Further, if the Jewish state of Israel represents modern Jewry, then the prophecies must be fulfilled by the Jewish state. Of course, these statements depend on whether one believes the prophecies have not been fulfilled yet. Based on a review of history, it would appear that, at best, they have been only partially fulfilled.

For example, when Jesus came on the scene over 2,000 years ago, King Herod ruled over Judea until its destruction by the Romans in 70-73 AD. Herod sat on the throne as the King of the Jews (Judah), essentially usurping the throne of Jesus, the rightful King of Judah. Herod was the political leader of the evil fig tree of Judah. However, Herod was part Idumean from his mother, which means he also represented Edom. Edom was in Jewry so that Malachi’s prophecy about tearing down what they have built could have been partially fulfilled in 70 AD when Jerusalem and Judaism, as they knew it then, were destroyed and the people scattered. I say partially fulfilled because Jerusalem has been rebuilt again and, in reference to the hardened (fired) clay pot, which are the bad figs of Judah (“this people”) and Jerusalem (“this city”), Jeremiah prophesied: **“Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Just so will I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter’s vessel, which cannot again be repaired; and they will bury in Topheth because there is no other place for burial”** (Jeremiah 19:11 NASB). Topheth is the judgment of death that Jesus called *the gehenna of fire* (not the pagan *hell* adopted by Christendom).

Edom is not only in modern Jewry but also in modern Zionism. The heart of modern Zionism is much different from the heart of the Zion of God. Modern Zionism believes that it has a right to the land in the absence of Jesus, the Christ and rightful King of Judah, ruling over the land. Modern Zionists reject Jesus as their king and have usurped His throne. They have taken dominion by force, just as Jesus warned: **“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force”** (Matthew 11:12 NASB).

This is the history of modern Zionism perpetrated by the evil figs of Judah, along with the Edomites that are in modern Jewry. They all have the same carnal mindset that would rather wield the sword and shed blood than have true peace. It could be said that the character of the bad figs of Judah, Edom, and Ishmael are all being manifested in modern Zionism. After all, as with Ishmael, the hand of the Zionists is against everyone, and everyone’s hand is against the Zionists.

The spirit of modern Zionism can be traced back to these infamous words: **“We have no king but Caesar”** (John 19:15). Of course, even these words proved to be a half-truth, for zealots stirred up the rest of the Jews to fight Rome in 70-73 AD, and they lost big time. They lost their land (birthright) and their rule (dominion). But this did not deter them, for in the 1900’s the Zionists once again rose up to seize the kingdom by force as they formed the Jewish state called Israel in 1948. Not only had they taken the land and formed a nation, usurping the throne of the rightful King of Judah, but they took the birthright name *Israel* that belongs to Joseph and his sons. Thus, they usurped both the birthright and dominion. However, fruitfulness is not in them because they are a cursed fig tree.

Contrast this to God’s Zion.

(6) “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain. (7) I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. (8) Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. (9) You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.” (Psalm 2:6-9 NASB)

The King of Zion is Jesus, God’s Son. He will shatter the earthenware, the potter’s vessel, which cannot be repaired. Edom has been grafted into this vessel. This people and its city (Jerusalem) must be broken. For Edom’s part, he has rambled long enough, and his Zionist nation is a bramble. It is shrewd and it causes pain. God’s plan is to cut down this bramble and burn it in the *gehenna* of fire.