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> Video by Daniel Boskey Signet Ring Media





The Ezekiel 37 Army

*who *what *when *where *why

and sometimes *how





The First Temple – was also the last Temple which contained both the Shechina and the Ark

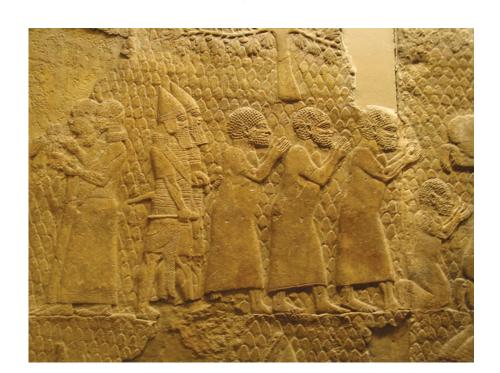
Yehoyachin king of Judah – was the last Davidic king on David's throne, for quite some time now

Ezekiel lived and prophesied at the time of these sobering events

<u>The Exile – now became part of normal Jewish existence</u>

They scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every animal of the field . . . My flock strayed through all the mountains and on every high hill. My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them . . . from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.

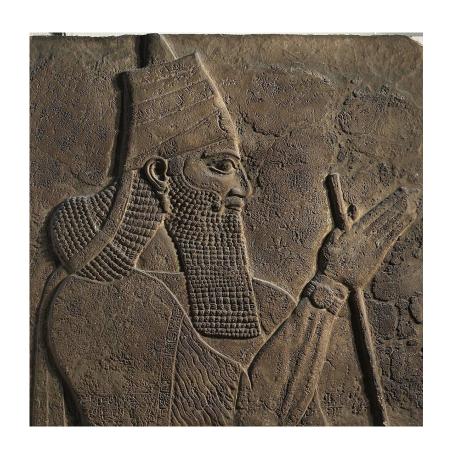
Ezekiel 34:5-6, 12



The northern kingdom of Israel – part one of its destruction and Exile

In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath Pileser the king of Assyria came and took Iyon, Avel Bet Ma'acah, Yanoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gil'ad, and Galil, all the land of Naphtali. And he led their populations into exile to Assyria.

2 Kings 15:29



<u>The northern kingdom of Israel – part two of Israel's Exile</u>

Then the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and led the people of Israel into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

Now this came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against YHVH their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods.

They also followed the customs of the nations whom YHVH had driven out from the sons of Israel, and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.

2 Kings 17:5-8

The Exile of Israel – the why

Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. And they set up for themselves memorial stones and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did that YHVH had taken into exile before them.

And they did evil things, provoking YHVH. They served idols, concerning which YHVH had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

Yet YHVH warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn back from your evil ways and keep My commandments and My statutes in accordance with all the Teaching which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in YHVH their God. They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings which He gave them.

The Exile of Israel – Judah is next in line

And they followed idols and became empty, and followed the nations that surrounded them, about which YHVH had commanded them not to do as they did. And they abandoned all the commandments of YHVH their God and made for themselves cast metal images: two calves.

And they made an Asherah, and worshiped all the heavenly lights, and served Baal.

Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and they practiced divination and interpreting omens, and gave themselves over to do evil in the sight of YHVH, provoking Him.

So YHVH was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His sight.

No one was left except the tribe of Judah.

2 Kings 17:15b-18

The Exile of Israel – continues for 2,700 years

Judah did not keep the commandments of YHVH their God either, but they followed the customs which Israel had introduced.

So YHVH rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and handed them over to plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

When He had torn Israel from the House of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel away from following YHVH and misled them into a great sin.

And the sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he committed. They did not desist from them until YHVH removed Israel from His sight, just as He had spoken through all His servants the prophets.

So Israel went into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.

2 Kings 17:19-23

The heartland of Israel now becomes 'Samaritan'/Shomroni

Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

2 Kings 17:19-24



Step aside, Assyria - here comes Babylon, conqueror of Jerusalem

Now in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month,

Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came,
he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it,
and built a siege wall all around it.

So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah/Tzidkiyahu.
On the ninth day of the fourth month
the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.
Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war fled by night
by way of the gate between the two walls that were beside the king's garden,
though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah.

2 Kings 25:1-4



Davidic puppet-king set up by Babylon

Then he led into exile all the people of Jerusalem and all the commanders and all the valiant warriors, ten thousand exiles, and all the craftsmen and the smiths.

None were left except the poorest people of the land.

So he led Yehoyachin into exile to Babylon.

Also the king's mother, the king's wives, and his officials and the leading men of the land, he led into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

And all the valiant men, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths, a thousand, all strong and fit for war, these too the king of Babylon brought into exile to Babylon.

Then the king of Babylon made his uncle Matanyah king in his place, and changed his name to Tzidkiyahu / Zedekiah.

2 Kings 24:14-17

<u>Davidic puppet-king Zedekiah – blinded and exiled to Babylon</u>

But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and he passed sentence on him.

And they slaughtered the sons of Tzidkiyahu before his eyes, then put out Tzidkiyahu's eyes and bound him with bronze shackles, and brought him to Babylon.

2 Kings 25:5-7

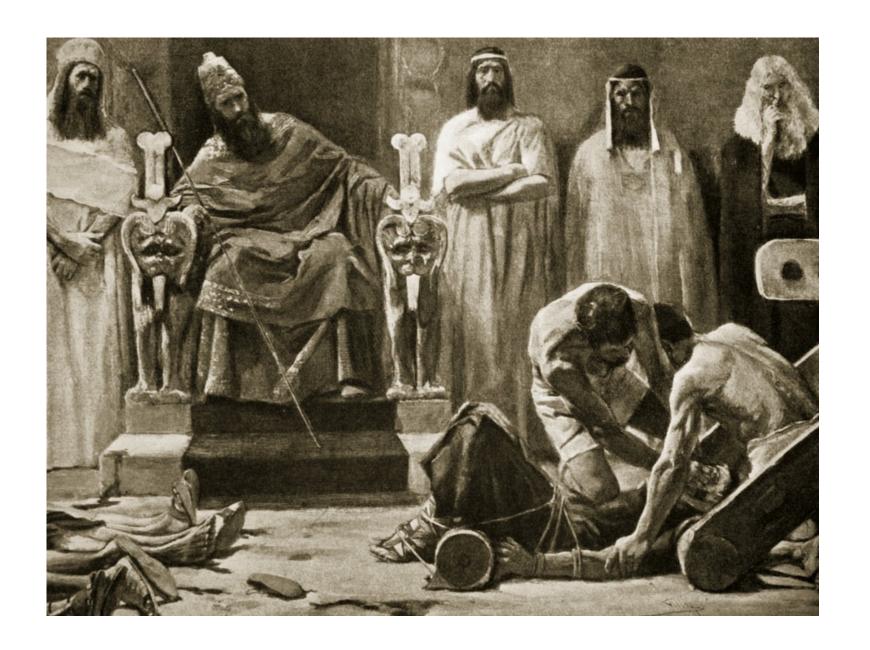
The ancient town of Riblah is on the Syrian side of the border with Lebanon.

It was located on the northern frontier of the land of Canaan,
lying on the eastern bank of the Orontes river, 35 miles north-east of Baalbek.





By Bernard Gagnon - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11003891



The Temple is burned with fire – Judah's Exile begins

Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

And he burned the House of YHVH, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem.

Even every great house he burned with fire.

So all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the bodyguards tore down the walls around Jerusalem.

Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguards, led into exile the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the people.

2 Kings 25:8-11



Shai Halevi – Israel Antiquities Authority

<u>Judah's top leadership killed – Judah's Exile begins</u>

Then the captain of the bodyguards took
Serayah the chief priest
and Zephaniah the second priest,
with the three doorkeepers.

And from the city he took one official who was overseer of the men of war, and five of the king's advisers who were found in the city; and the scribe of the captain of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city.

Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamat.

So Judah went into exile from its land.

2 Kings 25:18-21



Ezekiel - the big picture

Ezekiel - the big picture of the book

- 1. The Glory of God (1)
- 2. The sin, judgment and restoration of Israel (2-24)
- 3. The judgment of the nations (25-32)
- 4. The raising up of Ezekiel's army (33-39)
- 5. The restoration of the Temple (40-48)
 - the priesthood
 - the Twelve Tribes
 - the Land

The trail of YHVH's glory - His coming, departing and returning

YHVH's glory comes to Jerusalem - 2 Chronicles 5:13-14; 7:1-3

YHVH's glory departs from the Temple - Ezekiel 9:3; 10:4; 11:22-23

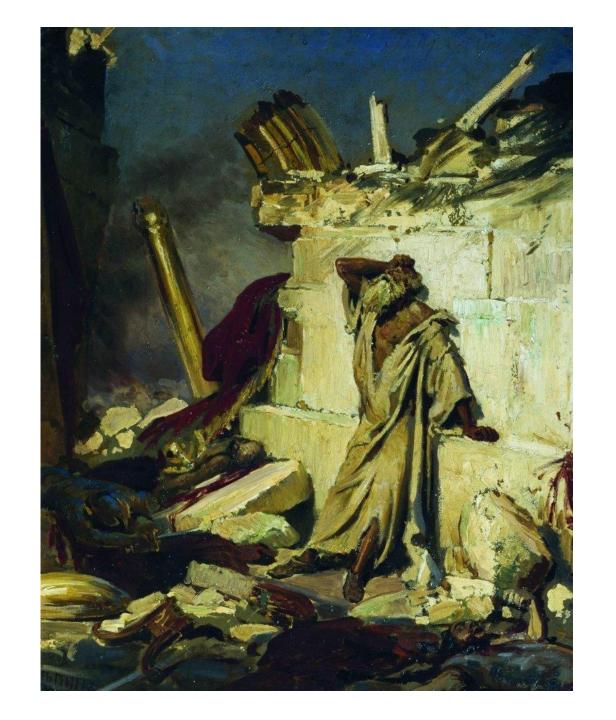
YHVH's glory returns to Jerusalem - Ezekiel 43:1-5

Judah's judgment of Exile is coming because of her sins

They will know that I am YHVH their God because I made them go into exile among the nations

Ezekiel 39:28





Judah's full Return is also eventually coming

The they will know that I am YHVH their God, because I made them go into exile among the nations.

And I will leave none of them there any longer.

Ezekiel 39:28



The Ruach HaKodesh will be poured out on the Twelve Tribes

I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the House of Israel, declares YHVH GOD.

Ezekiel 39:29



The Ezekiel 37 Army



Ezekiel's throne-room calling – prophetic ministry with a focus on the Jewish people



The spiritual condition of Ezekiel's people

Then He said to me, "Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me.

They and their fathers have revolted against Me to this very day.

Ezekiel 2:23

Then He said to me, "The guilt of the House of Israel and Judah is very, very great"

Ezekiel 9:9



Judah's Sins and God's Judgments (Chapter 2-24)

The Nations' Sins and God's Judgments (Chapters 25-32, 35)

Raising up the Great Army (Chapters 36-37)

The Battle of Gog and Magog (Chapters 38-39)

The New Temple (Chapters 40-48)



God's enemies in the crosshairs – Ezekiel 25-35



God's enemies in the crosshairs - Ammon

Say to the sons of Ammon, 'Hear the word of YHVH GOD! This is what YHVH GOD says:

"Because you said, 'Aha!' against My sanctuary when it was profaned,
and against the land of Israel when it was made desolate,
and against the House of Judah when they went into exile . . .
Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet,
and have rejoiced with all the malice in your soul against the land of Israel,
therefore, behold, I have reached out with My hand against you
and I will give you as plunder to the nations.

And I will cut you off from the peoples and eliminate you from the lands.

I will exterminate you. So you will know that I am YHVH."

Ezekiel 25:3-7



God's enemies in the crosshairs - Moab

Ezekiel 25:8-11



By Lysippos - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18653119

God's enemies in the crosshairs - Edom

YHVH GOD says this: "Because Edom has acted against the House of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred great guilt, and avenged themselves upon them," therefore this is what YHVH GOD says:

"I will also reach out with My hand against Edom and eliminate human and animal life from it.

And I will turn it into ruins.

From Teman even to Dedan they will fall by the sword.

And I will inflict My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel. Therefore, they will act in Edom in accordance with My anger and My wrath. So they will know My vengeance," declares YHVH GOD.

Ezekiel 25:12-14





A Palestinian woman receives free sweets from a vendor as groups of locals in east Jerusalem's Old City celebrate after hearing the news of a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. (AP Photo/str)



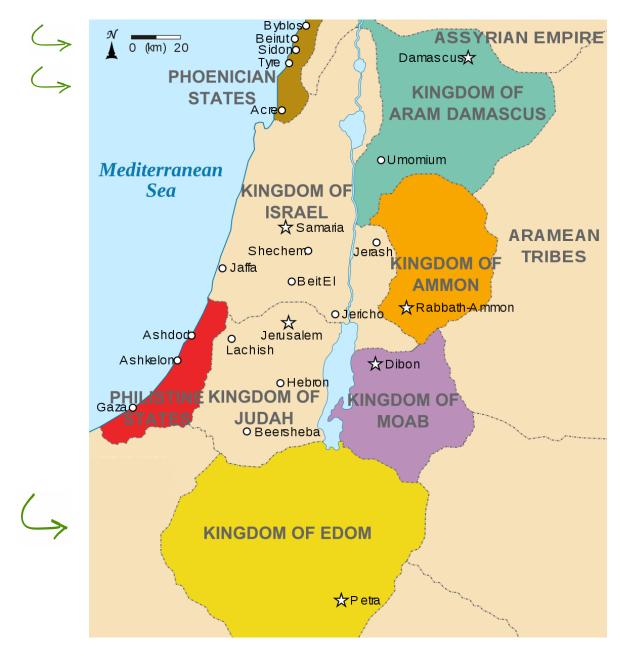
Gazans in Rafah celebrate the attack on a Jerusalem synagogue, November 18, 2014. (photo credit: REUTERS))



A group of children near east Jerusalem's Old City wave Palestinian flags and chant anti-U.S slogans as they react to the news of a terrorist attack on World Trade Center in New York Tuesday Sept. 11, 2001. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)



A Palestinian boy fires in the air at the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near the southern port city of Sidon, Tuesday Sept. 11, 2001. Palestinians in Lebanon's refugee camps celebrated the attacks in the United States by firing in the air using all kinds of weapons. (AP Photo/Mohamed Zatari)



God's enemies in the crosshairs - Tyre

"Son of man, because Tyre has said in regard to Jerusalem, 'Aha! The gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, now that she is laid waste' –

Therefore this is what YHVH GOD says:

'Behold, I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves . . . and she will become plunder for the nations."

Ezekiel 26:2-5



God's enemies in the crosshairs - Sidon

This is what YHVH GOD says:

"Behold, I am against you, Sidon, and I will appear in My glory in your midst. Then they will know that I am YHVH, when I execute judgments against her . . . Then they will know that I am YHVH.

And there will no longer be for the House of Israel

a painful thorn or a hurtful thorn bush from any surrounding them who despised them.

Then they will know that I am YHVH GOD."

Ezekiel 28:22-24



God's enemies in the crosshairs - Mount Se'ir/ Edom

Since you have had everlasting hostility and have turned over the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their disaster, at the time of the punishment of the end, therefore as I live, declares YHVH GOD, I will certainly doom you to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you. Since you have not hated bloodshed, therefore bloodshed will pursue you. I will make Mount Se'ir a waste and a desolation and I will eliminate from it one who passes through and returns.

Ezekiel 35:5-7



God's enemies in the crosshairs - Mount Se'ir/ Edom

Prophesy to the mountains of Israel ...

Because the enemy has spoken against you, [saying]

'The everlasting heights have become our possession,'

surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken

against the rest of the nations and against all Edom,

who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession

with wholehearted joy and with scorn of soul,

to drive it out for a prey."

Ezekiel 36:1-5



Insult the Jewish land → YHVH will insulted you

Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.

Therefore thus says YHVH God, I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults.

Ezekiel 36:6-7



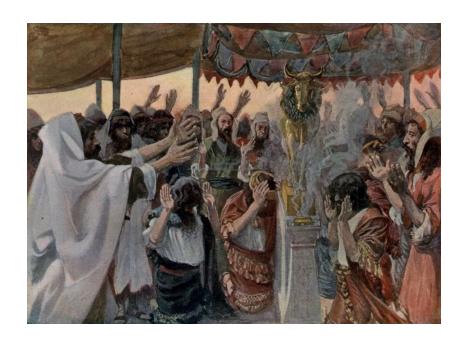
Israel's impurity → God's wrath

Son of man, when the House of Israel was living on their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds.

Their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity.

Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols.

Ezekiel 36:17-18



Israel's impurity → **Exile**

I also scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.

Ezekiel 36:19



<u>Israel's profanity</u> → <u>God will vindicate His own name</u>

Therefore say to the House of Israel, "This is what YHVH GOD says:

'It is not for your sake, House of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.

And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them.

Then the nations will know that I am YHVH," declares YHVH GOD, "when I show Myself holy among you in their sight.

Ezekiel 36:22-23



Israel's purification and restoration - prophetically guaranteed

For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the lands.
And I will bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.

And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and are careful and follow My ordinances.

And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers. So you will be My people, and I will be your God. Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness . . .





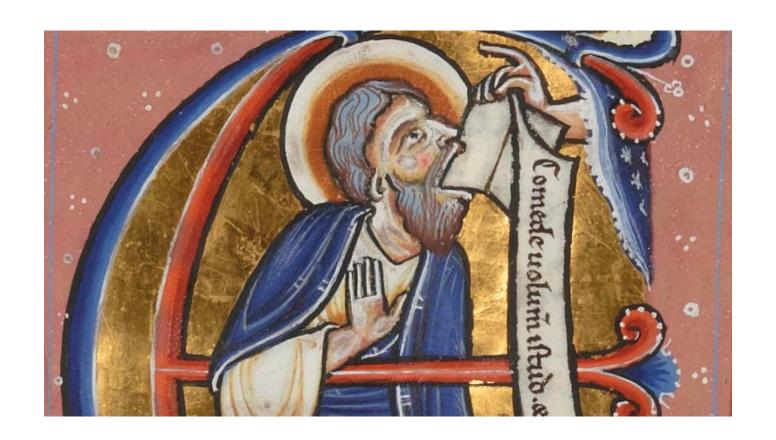




God will restore Israel – but not for Israel's sake

I am not doing this for your sake, declares YHVH GOD. Let that be known to you. Be ashamed and humiliated for your ways, House of Israel!"

Ezekiel 36:32















The Dry Bones vision

The hand of YHVH was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of YHVH and set me down in the middle of the valley. And it was full of bones. He had me pass among them all around, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley. And behold, they were very dry.

Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "Lord YHVH, You Yourself know."

Again He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'You dry bones, hear the word of YHVH. This is what YHVH GOD says to these bones: Behold, I am going to make breath enter you so that you may come to life. And I will attach tendons to you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin, and put breath in you so that you may come to life; and you will know that I am YHVH."

Ezekiel 37:1-6

The Dry Bones vision – the end game

So I prophesied as I was commanded.

And as I prophesied, there was a loud noise, and behold, a rattling.

And the bones came together, bone to its bone.

And I looked, and behold, tendons were on them,

and flesh grew and skin covered them.

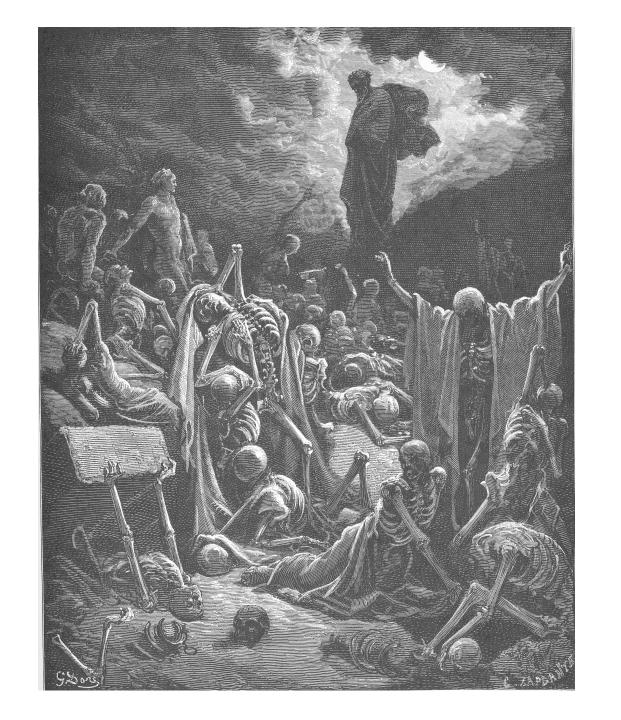
But there was no breath in them.

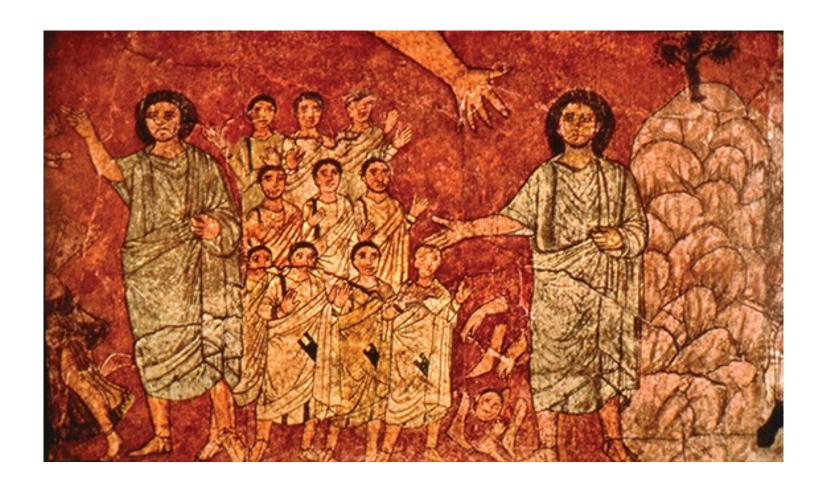
Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'YHVH GOD says this:

Come from the four winds, breath, and breathe on these slain, so that they come to life."

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Ezekiel 37:7-10









Benno Elkan - Valley of Dry Bones - The Knesset menorah, Jerusalem

One of God's major Last Days strategies involves a restored Jewish nation in a restored Jewish homeland transformed into a prophesied army





A paradigmatic foreshadowing of this mighty army

From the Gadites there came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear, and whose faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as the gazelles on the mountains

1 Chronicles 12:8

Ezekiel's prophetic army will not primarily be a Jewish evangelistic outreach:



The context of Ezekiel 34-39 involves

- intense physical combat
- a united Arab and Middle Eastern foe
- a solid international military enemy backup

These points should shape our strategies -

- as a Messianic Jewish community
- as people of prayer
- as those who reach out to the Jewish people





Has our hope perished?

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the entire house of Israel. Behold, they say,

'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'

Ezekiel 37:11

The Israeli national anthem HATIKVA quotes a phrase from the verse, but tweaks it:

avda tikvatenu אָבְדָה תִקְנָתֵנוּ

to

Od lo avda tikvatenu עוד לא אָבְדָה תּקְוָתֻנוּ

God's interpretation of the vision

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the entire house of Israel.

Behold, they say,

'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished.

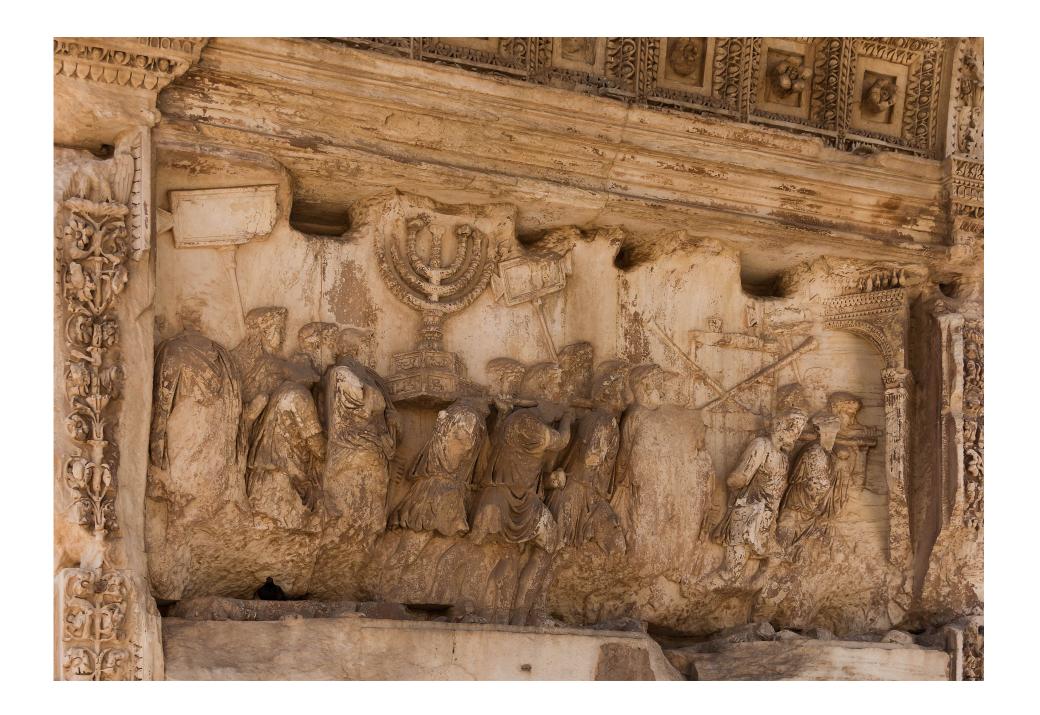
We are completely cut off.'

Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'This is what YHVH GOD says:
Behold, I am going to open your graves
and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people.
And I will bring you into the land of Israel.
Then you will know that I am YHVH,
when I have opened your graves
and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.
And I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life,
and I will place you on your own land.
Then you will know that I, YHVH, have spoken and done it, declares YHVH."

Ezekiel 37:11-14

The restoring of what Titus robbed





The restoring of what Titus robbed





The vision and its interpretation

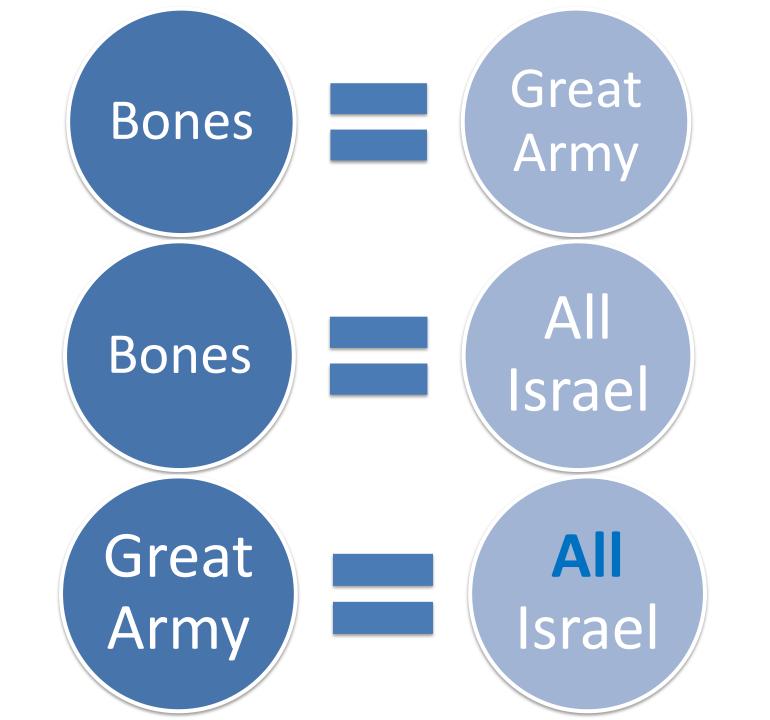
And the bones came together, bone to its bone.
And . . . they came to life and stood on their feet,
an exceedingly great army . . .
Then He said to me,
"Son of man, these bones are the entire House of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:7, 10-11









What does this army do?



A sharp threshing sledge on the nations

But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend

I have chosen you . . . I will strengthen you . . . I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored. Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.

Behold, I turned you into a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges; You will thresh the mountains and pulverize them, and make the hills like chaff. You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, and the storm will scatter them.

But you will rejoice in YHVH; You will boast in the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 41:8-16



By Jayaseerlourdhuraj - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17402571







From the grave of Menna, the agricultural scribe of the Pharaoh. Scene: Threshing of grain. c. 1422-1411 BCE; The Yorck Project Gesellschaft $f\tilde{A}^{1}/4r$ Bildarchivierung GmbH.







Biblical use of the term 'mountains' to represent nations

<u>Isaiah 41:15</u>: "Thresh the mountains - hills like chaff."

- Isaiah 13:4: "The sound of a tumult is on the mountains the sound of an uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathering together! YHVH of armies is mustering a host for battle."
- <u>Habakkuk 3:6</u>: "He looked and shook the nations. Then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low."
- <u>Jeremiah 51:24-25</u>: "I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all the evil that they have done in Zion Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain."

The Great Army threshes the nations

Now many nations are assembled against you, saying,

"Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion."

But they do not know the thoughts of YHVH.

They do not understand his plan,
that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion,
for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze.

You shall beat in pieces many peoples,
and shall devote their gain to YHVH,
their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth."

Micah 4:11-13



The Great Army defeats invading nations

Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the peoples around.

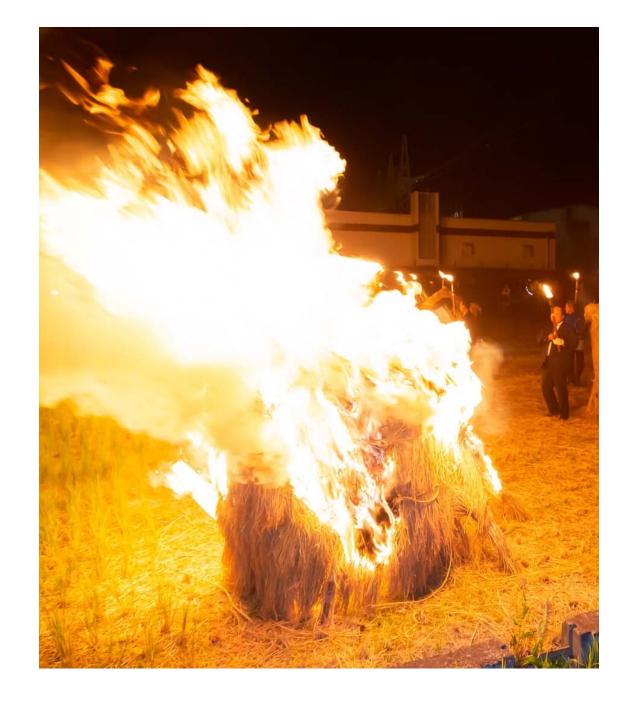
And when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about on that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples.

All who lift it will injure themselves severely.

And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts,
"The inhabitants of Jerusalem are a strong support for us
through YHVH of armies, their God."
On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood
and a flaming torch among sheaves.

Zechariah 12:2-6



The Great Army is as powerful on the battlefield as David was

They will consume on the right and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again live on their own sites in Jerusalem . . . On that day YHVH will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them on that day will be like David, and the House of David will be like God, like the angel of YHVH before them.

And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." Zechariah 12:6b-9



The Great Army defeats invading nations in Jerusalem



Jerusalem bitterly mourns over our rejection of Yeshua

And I will pour out on the House of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of pleading, so that they will look at Me whom they pierced.

And they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Zechariah 12:10



Some conclusions

- Despite the sins of the people of Israel, God will not turn a blind eye to the nations who persecute us.
- 1. Despite the impurities of the people of Israel, God will bring us back to our native land for the sake of His holy name.
- 3. While in the Land of Israel, God will purify us, the people of Israel, and will place within us a new spirit that will lead to the raising up of the exceedingly great army.
- 4. God will use this great army filled with the Ruach HaKodesh as a threshing sledge to judge the nations that rise up against Him and against us, His people Israel.

Raising up the prophetic army of Ezekiel 37

The Bible's Last Days vision of E₃₇ is radically connected to the national salvation of Israel

God is calling out to us to participate in the deepening intercession for this final move of God

The People of Israel

in the Land of Israel

walking in the New Covenant of Israel >

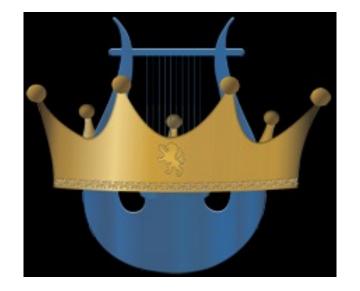
The mighty army of Ezekiel's vision



The mighty army "much much"

- ✓ Isaiah 41:13-16
- **✓** *Ezekiel* 37:10
- ✓ *Psalm* 110:1-3
- ✓ Zechariah 12:1-9
- ✓ etc...





www.davidstent.org

Final Frontier Ministries Nashville, TN USA

