

# Ezekiel 38:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

## Analysis

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This prophetic word demonstrates God's sovereign control over history and nations. Even pagan empires and hostile coalitions serve God's purposes while remaining morally accountable for their actions. This Reformed understanding of providence affirms that nothing occurs outside God's decree, yet human agents bear full responsibility for their choices. The prophecy serves pastoral purposes: assuring God's people of His protection, warning enemies of certain judgment, and demonstrating that history moves toward God's appointed end. These prophecies find layered fulfillment—immediate historical, ongoing spiritual, and ultimate eschatological.

## Historical Context

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This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָ אֵתְ	מִמְקוֹמְךָ	מִדֶּרֶכְךָ	צָפֹן	אֵתְ הַ	
And thou shalt come	from thy place	parts	out of the north		
H935	H4725	H3411	H6828	H859	
יְעַמּוּ יָם	קָבֹ: אֵתְךָ	רֹכְבֵי	סוֹסִים	כָּל מִ	
people	and a mighty	with thee all of them riding	upon horses		
H5971	H7227	H854	H7392	H5483	H3605
לְקָה לְ	גָד וּלְ	יָם יֵל	קָבֹ:		
company	a great	army	and a mighty		
H6951	H1419	H2428	H7227		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 39:2** (Parallel theme): And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

**Ezekiel 38:6** (Parallel theme): Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

**Revelation 20:8** (Parallel theme): And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

**Revelation 16:14** (Parallel theme): For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

**Revelation 16:16** (Parallel theme): And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

**Joel 3:2** (Parallel theme): I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.