

Ezekiel 39:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

Analysis

They that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth—survivors emerge from defensive positions to burn enemy weaponry. The comprehensive list—**shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, handstaves and spears**—represents complete military arsenal. Israel **shall burn them with fire seven years** (שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים, sheva shanim), the number of completion/covenant (Genesis 2:2, Leviticus 25:8).

Seven years of fuel from weapons symbolizes total victory—so many armaments that Israel needs no other energy source. This is prophetic hyperbole illustrating absolute defeat: Gog's war machine becomes Israel's peacetime provision. The imagery reverses Isaiah 2:4 ('swords into plowshares')—here weapons serve domestic life through destruction, not transformation, demonstrating judgment's thorough nature.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare left battlefields littered with abandoned weapons (wooden shields, spear shafts). Seven years' fuel represents staggering quantities—either literal (vast army) or symbolic (complete provision). For exiles facing bleak future, this image promised reversal: enemies' resources would sustain restored Israel. The

number seven connects to sabbatical cycles (Leviticus 25), suggesting the defeat inaugurates rest-era for God's people.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision through defeated enemies demonstrate His sovereignty over circumstances?
2. What does the 'seven years' timeframe teach about the completeness and lasting effects of divine victory?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּצֵא ו	וַיָּשֶׁבּוּ יוֹ	עַרְיָ	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וַיִּבְעֵר ו	וַיִּשְׂקֵן
shall go forth	And they that dwell	in the cities	of Israel	and shall set	and burn
H3318	H3427	H5892	H3478	H1197	H5400
בְּנֵי שִׁקָּ	וַיִּמְגְּ	וַיִּצְנֶה	בְּקֵי שֵׁת	וַיִּבְחֹצֵ יִם	
the weapons	both the shields	and the bucklers	the bows	and the arrows	
H5402	H4043	H6793	H7198	H2671	
וַיִּבְמֹקֵן ל	וַיִּד	וַיִּבְרֹ מַח	וַיִּבְעֵר ו	וַיִּבְהֶם	אֵשׁ
H4731	and the handstaves	and the spears	and shall set	H0	on fire
	H3027	H7420	H1197		H784
שִׁנָּיִם:	שִׁבְעָ				
seven	years				
H7651	H8141				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 46:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

Isaiah 66:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Joshua 11:6 (References Israel): And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for to morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hough their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.

Malachi 1:5 (References Israel): And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.