

# 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** (שְׁבַע 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

וְבָחָץ יָמָן בְּקָרְנִית שָׁלָק אַמְגָן | אַצְבָּה בְּתַשְׁתִּיבָּה בְּתַשְׁתִּיבָּה וְבָחָץ יָמָן

the weapons both the shields and the bucklers the bows and the arrows

H5402 H4043 H6793 H7198 H2671

שָׁנִים: שׁ בָּעַ  
**seven** **years**  
H7651 H8141

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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