

Ezekiel Chapter 25

III. Prophecies Against the Gentile Nations (25:1 – 32:32).

A. Ammon, Moab, Edom and the Philistines (25:1-17).

Prophecy against Ammon

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 1 – 4:

VERSE ONE

“And the word of Yahweh came to me saying...”

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר:

(conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-imperf-3rd-m-s הָיָה/hayah "it came" + noun-m-s const. דְבַר/dabar "word of..." + proper noun יְהוָה/yhwh "Yahweh" + prep. w/ suf-1st-c-s אֵל/el "to me" + prep. ל/L [untranslated] + verb-qal-inf. const. אָמַר/'amar "saying").

VERSE TWO

“Son of man, set your face toward Ammon and prophesy against them”.

בֶּן־אָדָם שִׁים פָּנֶיךָ אֶל־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וְהִנַּבֵּא עֲלֵיהֶם:

(noun-m-s const. בֶּן/ben "son of..." + noun--s אָדָם/'adam "man" + verb-qal-imper-m-s שִׁים/siym "set" + noun-f-p. w/ suf-2nd-m-s פָּנֶיךָ/paneh "your face" + prep. אֶל/'el "toward: + noun-m-pl בְּנֵי/ben "sons of..." + proper noun עַמּוֹן/'amon "Ammon" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-niph-imper-m-s נִבֵּא/naba' "prophecy" + prep. w/ suf-3rd-m-pl עַל/'al "upon them").

VERSE THREE

“For you will say to the sons of Ammon, ‘Hear the word of Adonay Yahweh. Thus says Adonay Yahweh: on account of the fact that you have said ‘Aha’ against My sanctuary because it has been profaned and against the land of Israel because it has been devastated and against the house of Judah because they went into the captivity”.

וְאָמַרְתָּ לְבָנֵי עַמּוֹן שְׁמַעוּ דְבַר־אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה כֹּה־אָמַר אֲדֹנָי
 יְהוָה יֵעַן אֲמַרְךָ הָאֵחַ אֶל־מִקְדָּשֵׁי כִּי־נִחַל וְאֶל־אֲדֹמַת
 יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי נִשְׁמָה וְאֶל־בַּיִת יְהוּדָה כִּי הִלְכוּ בְּגוֹלָהּ:

(conj. ו/w "for" + verb-qal-perf--2nd-m-s [waw consec] אָמַר/'amar "you will say" + prep. ל/L "to" + noun-m-pl const. בֵּן/ben "sons of..." + proper noun עַמּוֹן/'ammon "Ammon" + verb-qal-imper-m-pl שְׁמַע/shama "hear" + noun-m-s const. דְבַר/dabar "word of..." + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/adonay "Adonay" יְהוָה/yhwh "Yahweh" + adv. כֹּה/koh "thus" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-m-s אָמַר/'amar "says" + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/adonay "Adonay" יְהוָה/yhwh "Yahweh" adv. יֵעַן/ya'an "on account of..." + verb-qal-inf. w/ suf-2nd-f-s אָמַר/'amar "your saying" + interj. הָאֵחַ/he'ach "aha!" + prep. אֶל/'el "unto" + noun-m-s w/ suf-1st-c-s מִקְדָּשׁ/miqedash "my sanctuary" + conj. כִּי/kiy "because" + verb-niph-perf-3rd-m-s חָלַל/chalal "it has been profaned" + conj. ו/w "and" + prep. אֶל/'el "unto" + noun-f-s const. אֲדָמָה/adamah "land of..." + proper noun יִשְׂרָאֵל/yis'ra'el "Israel" + conj. כִּי/kiy "because" + verb-niph-perf-3rd-f-s שָׁמַם/shamem "it has been devastated" + conj. ו/w prep. אֶל/'el "unto" + noun-m-s const. בַּיִת/bayith "house of..." + proper noun יְהוּדָה/yehuda "Judah" + conj. כִּי/kiy "because" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-c-pl הָלַךְ/halak "they went" + prep. ב/B "into" + noun-f-s w/ d.a. גּוֹלָהּ/golah "the captivity").

VERSE FOUR

“Therefore behold I am giving you to the sons of the east for a possession and they will set their encampments among you and they will set their tents among you. They themselves will eat your fruit and they themselves will drink your milk”.

לָכֵן הִנְנִי נֹתֵנְךָ לְבָנֵי־קֶדֶם לְמִוְרָשָׁה וַיֵּשְׁבוּ טִירוֹתֵיהֶם בְּךָ
 וַנִּתְּנֵנוּ בְּךָ מִשְׁכְּנֵיהֶם הָמָּה יֹאכְלוּ פְרִי־ךָ וְהָמָּה יִשְׁתּוּ חֲלָבֶךָ:

(prep. ל/L [untransalted] + adv. כֵּן/ken "therefore" + interj w/ suff-1st-c-s הִנְנֵה/hinneh "behold I" +to be verb [supplied] "am" + verb-qal-part-m-s w/ suf-2nd-f-s נָתַן/nathan "giving you" + prep. ל/L "to" + noun-m-pl const. בֵּן/ben "sons of..." + noun-m-s קֶדֶם/qedem "east" + prep. ל/L "for" + noun-f-s מִוְרָשָׁה/morashah "a possession" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-piel-perf-3rd-c-pl [waw consec] יָשַׁב/yashab "they will dwell" + noun-f-pl w/ suf-3rd-m-pl טִירָה/tyirah "their encampments" + prep. w/ suf-2nd-f-s ב/B "amongst you" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-c-pl נָתַן/nathan "they will set" + prep. w/ suf-2nd-f-s ב/B "amongst you" + noun-m-pl w/ suf-3rd-m-pl מִשְׁכָּן/mishkan "their dwellings" + pron-3rd-m-pl הֵם/hem "themselves" +

verb-qal-imperf-3rd-m-pl אָכַל/akal "they will eat" + noun-m-s w/ suf-2nd-f-s פֵּרִי/peri "your fruit" + conj. ו/w "and" + pron הֵם/hem "themselves" + verb-qal-imperf-3rd-m-pl שָׁתָה/shatah "they will drink" + noun-m-s w/ suf-2nd-f-s חָלָב/chalab "your milk").

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 1 – 4:

1. Having given extensive details regarding the destruction of the nation of Israel, God now turns to address the evil of the Gentile nations of the Near East and their destiny. The first nation on His list is that of Ammon.
2. Ezekiel indicates that a new communication has come his way with the now all too familiar phrase, **“And the word of Yahweh came to me saying...”**
3. We do not know how much time has passed since the previous communication. Since we do not have any direction on what year it is, we have no choice but to assume that Ezekiel is receiving this prophecy in the ninth year, sometime after the previous communications regarding the sign act of chapter twenty-four.
4. He continues in verse two where Yahweh states, **“Son of man, set your face toward Ammon and prophesy against them”**.
5. Each time Ezekiel is instructed to “set his face” against a people or nation, he does so to indicate God’s displeasure with such ones (cp. Ezek. 7:2; 20:46; 21:12; 35:2).
6. While up until now, God has directed him to espouse divine displeasure toward his own people, here God begins to instruct him to do so toward the various Gentile nations surrounding Israel.
7. The nation of Ammon was one of the two nations descended from Lot’s incestuous relationship with his daughters (cp. Gen. 19:30-38).
8. The Ammonites were enemies to the Jews from the time of Judges and continued to be a thorn in their side on and off throughout the years (Judg. 3:13; 11:32; I Sam. 11:2).
9. Recall that the sons of Ammon were alluded to in verse twenty-one during a previous sign act made by Ezekiel. Recall that he was to make a sign post at the fork in the road.
10. Such demonstrated Nebuchadnezzar’s choice to go to Jerusalem as opposed to Rabbah (the capital of Ammon – Ezek. 21:1ff).
11. Perhaps when the Ammonites heard of Nebuchadnezzar’s choice to go to war against Judah they breathed a great sigh of relief. However such was only a temporary peace. Once the Babylonians destroy Judah and Jerusalem, Ammon is one of the countries that is next on the list!

12. Such is demonstrated by part two of the adventures of *the polished sword*, where it is turned on the Ammonites after it has finished its deadly task in Jerusalem (cp. Ezek. 21: 28:ff).
13. Yahweh tells Ezekiel in verse three, **“For you will say to the sons of Ammon, ‘Hear the word of Adonay Yahweh. Thus says Adonay Yahweh: on account of the fact that you have said ‘Aha’ against My sanctuary because it has been profaned and against the land of Israel because it has been devastated and against the house of Judah because they went into the captivity”**.
14. Even more than being on Nebuchadnezzar’s hit list, we must realize that they are also on God’s hit list and that is the reason He is using the Babylonians as a tool against the Ammonites in the same way he wielded the Babylonian scourge against Israel!
15. Realize that God controls all of human history to include any and all acts of war (Rom. 9:29; James. 5:4).
16. Here we find the reason of why God is looping the Babylonian Army back towards Ammon and Rabbah. It is because they have said “Aha” against the temple, land of Israel and Tribe of Judah when they saw that Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed them.
17. Our word for “aha!” is the interjection, אַחָא/he’ach, “Aha!”. However we must realize that they have not merely uttered the word, “Aha!”. They have uttered it because they had seen an opportunity to take advantage of the southern kingdom of Judah when these things occurred.
18. Hence the “Aha!” was “Aha! Here is our chance, let’s hit them while they are down!!!”
19. The Ammonites actually tried to take over part of the country after Nebuchadnezzar had subdued it.
20. Note that they waited till after so many people had been deported to make their move, at a time when there were very few able-bodied people to even attempt to stop them (Jer. 40:13-41:10; 49:1-6)!
21. As a result of their taking advantage of God’s country when His people were down, they will pay a heavy price.
22. While the Jews of Ezekiel’s day were evil and received their just desert, they were still God’s people and the actions of deemed Ammon unrighteous.
23. Ezekiel is to declare this to the sons of Ammon. However we must pause at this point and consider how and under what circumstances this will occur.
24. Realize that Ezekiel’s audience is composed of the dispersed sons of the house of Israel (Ezek. 2:3).

25. Hence his audience consists of the dispersed Jews living in Tel Abib on the Chebar River. He is not generally permitted to leave his home (Ezek. 3:25).
26. Thus he is not being commissioned to go and preach to the sons of Ammon as Joseph had been to the people of Nineveh.
27. So it begs the question, “How exactly does he prophecy against the Sons of Ammon and say these things to them?!!!”
28. The answer lays in the fact that he is to address his speech to them even though they are not present to hear him. It is a proclamation addressed to the sons of Ammon but to be heard by the dispersed sons of Israel!
29. Yahweh states in verse four, **“Therefore behold I am giving you to the sons of the east for a possession and they will set their encampments among you and they will set their tents among you. They themselves will eat your fruit and they themselves will drink your milk”**.
30. Here we have another great example of *poetic justice* which God often delights in. Just as the Ammonites sought to take over parts of Jerusalem taking their land and agriculture, they will have their own home taken from them!
31. Note that God tells Ezekiel that he is giving the sons of Ammon into the hands of the “sons of the east”.
32. This begs the question, “Who are the sons of the East?”. The Land of Babylon dwelt east of both Judah and Ammon.
33. Hence Ammon is about to be incorporated into the Babylonian Empire the same way that the Jews had been.
34. What’s more the people are going to be given to them for “a possession”.
35. Our word translated as “a possession” is the feminine, singular noun, מוֹרָשָׁה/morashah, “a possession, inheritance, heritage”.
36. It is used of mostly of land and implies that their entire country will become the property of the Babylonian Empire (Exod. 6:8; Deut. 33:4; Ezek. 11:15; 25:4, 10; 33:24; 36:2f, 5).
37. The Babylonians will both set their encampments among them (military camps) as well as their tents (i.e. they will build homes among them).
38. In other words they are going to move right in and take up an abode in their country!
39. What’s more they will take and utilize their agriculture (fruits and milk).

40. In other words the Babylonians are going to swoop in and take what had belonged to the Ammonites.
41. Note the used of the emphatic pronouns in the final two clauses of verse four: “They *themselves* will eat your fruit” and “They, *themselves* will drink your milk”.
42. There is no question as to who is swooping in and taking advantage of the land and usurping what once belonged to the Ammonites.
43. Such is indicative of what happens when a nation faces the 5th cycle of discipline (Deut. 28:28-34).
44. Do not be surprised when you see some of the same things occurring in our own nation!

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 5 – 7:

VERSE FIVE

“And I will make Rabbah a dwelling place for camels and the sons of Ammon a resting place for flocks. For you will know that I am Yahweh”.

וידעתם כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה: וְנָתַתִּי אֶת־רַבָּה לְנוֹה גַמְלִים וְאֶת־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן לְמִרְבֵּי־צֹאן

(conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s[waw consec] נָתַן/nathan "I will give" + sign d.o. אֶת/eth [untranslated] + proper noun רַבָּה/rabbah "Rabbah" + prep. ל/L "for" + noun-m-s const. נוֹה/nawe "dwelling place for..." + noun-m-pl גַמְלִים/gamal "camels..." + conj. ו/w "and" + sign. d.o. אֶת/eth [untranslated] + noun-m-pl const. בְּנֵי/ben "sons of..." + proper noun עַמּוֹן/ammon "Ammon" + prep. ל/L "for" + noun-m-s const. מִרְבֵּי/marebets "resting place" + noun-f-s צֹאן/tson "flock" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-2nd-m-pl [waw consec] יָדַע/yada' "you will know" + conj. כִּי/kiy "that" + pron-1st-c-s אֲנִי/aniy "I" + to be verb [supplied] "am" + proper noun יְהוָה/yhwh "Yahweh").

VERSE SIX

“For thus says Adonay Yahweh ‘You have clapped your hands and stomped your feet and rejoiced in all of your contempt of spirit unto Israel’”.

כִּי כֹה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה יָדַעְתִּי וְרַקַּעְתָּ בְּרֶגְלְךָ
וְתִשְׂמַח בְּכָל־שֹׁאטְףָּ בְּנֶפֶשׁ אֶל־אֲדָמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל:

(conj. כִּי/kiy "for" + adv. כֹּה/koy "thus" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-m-s אָמַר/'amar "says" + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/adonay יְהוָה/yhwh "Adonay Yahweh" +adv. יָדַעְתִּי/yahan "because" + verb-qal-inf. const. w/ suf-2nd-m-s מָחָה/macha' "you strike" + noun-f-s יָד/yad "hand" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-inf. const. w/ suf-2nd-m-s רַקַּע/raqa' "stomp" + prep. ב/B "with" + noun-f-s רֶגֶל/regel "foot" + con. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-imperf-2nd-m-s [waw consec] שִׂמַח/she'ach "you rejoiced" + prep. ב/B "in" + noun-m-s const. כָּל/kol "all of..." + noun-m-s w/ suf-2nd-m-s שֹׁאטְףָּ/she'at "your contempt" + prep. ב/B "in" + noun-f-s נֶפֶשׁ/nephesh "spirit/soul" + prep. אֶל/'el "unto" + noun-f-s const אֲדָמָה/adamah "land of..." + proper noun יִשְׂרָאֵל/yisra'el "Israel").

VERSE SEVEN

“Therefore behold I, Myself will stretch out My hand upon you and give you over to plunder for the nations and I will cut you off from the peoples and cause you to perish from the lands and I will destroy you and you will know that I am Yahweh”.

לְכֵן הִנְנִי נֹשֵׂתִי אֶת־יָדִי עָלֶיךָ וְנִתְתִּיךָ- (לְבַג) [לְבַז] לַגּוֹיִם
 וְהִכְרַתִּיךָ מִן־הָעַמִּים וְהֶאֱבַדְתִּיךָ מִן־הָאָרְצוֹת אֲשֶׁמִּיךָ
 וְיָדַעְתָּ כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה: ם

(prep. ל/L [untranslate] + adv. כֵּן/ken "therefore" + interj w/ suf-1st-c-s. הִנֵּה/hinneh "behold I" + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s נָטָה/natah "I will stretch out" + sign. d.o. אֶת/eth [untranslated] + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s יָד/yad "my hand" + prep. w/ suf-2nd-m-s עַל/al "over you" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] w/ suf-2nd-m-s נָתַן/nathan "I will give you" + prep. ל/L "for" + בַּז/baz "plunder/spoil" + prep. ל/L "for" + noun-m-pl w/ d.a. גּוֹי/goy "the nations" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-hiph-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] w/ suf-2nd-m-s כָּרַת/karath "I will cut you off" + prep. מִן/min "from" + noun-m-pl w/ d.a. עַם/am "the peoples" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-hiph-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] w/ suf-2nd-m-s אָבַד/abad "I will cause you to perish" + prep. מִן/min "from" + noun-fpl w/ d.a. אֲרָץ/erets "the lands" + verb-hiph-imperf-1st-c-s w/ suf-2nd-m-s שָׁמַד/shamad "I will destroy you" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-2nd-m-s [waw consec] יָדַע/yada "you will know" + conj. כִּי/kiy "that" + pron-1st-c-s אֲנִי/aniy "I" + to be verb [supplied] "am" + proper noun יְהוָה/yhwh "Yahweh").

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 5 – 7:

1. Yahweh continues with His description of Ammon’s future punishment.
2. He states in verse five, **“And I will make Rabbah a dwelling place for camels and the sons of Ammon a resting place for flocks. For you will know that I am Yahweh”.**
3. Such language is fairly common in the Bible. When God overthrows a nation, permanently, it is said to be a land that supports animal life but not human existence (Isa. 13:21; 34:13; Jer. 50:39).
4. Camels and flocks of sheep and goats would not normally live in a populated city unless said city had been torn to the ground and all of the people killed or dispersed.
5. However camels and flocks do not generally wonder the desert on their own. Such speaks of travelers resting their camels and Bedouin nomads traveling with their flocks. Such will be the limit of livelihood in this once bustling city!!!

6. Recall that Rabbah is the capital city of this nation, indicating that its central government and major center of trade and social life is thus erased and become a land where animals live and graze.
7. Note the final clause. God states that they will know that He is Yahweh. While they may be pagans, they will know that the God of the Jews has avenged His people!!!
8. He continues in verse six where He states **“For thus says Adonay Yahweh ‘You have clapped your hands and stomped your feet and rejoiced in all of your contempt of spirit unto Israel’”**.
9. The Ammonites were just giddy about Israel falling to Babylon. They actually celebrated her demise.
10. However realize too that they had gone the extra steps of moving in and taking over part of her land, even murdering the governor put in place by the Babylonians so as to take over the local government and begin taking advantage of Israel’s land and resources (Jer. 40:13-41:10; 49:1-6; Zeph. 2:15).
11. However make no bones about it. God is most assuredly displeased at their taking pleasure from His people’s downfall.
12. Note the phrase, “contempt of spirit”. They did not merely offer overt actions regarding their pleasure at Israel’s downfall but bore it in their heart as well.
13. It greatly displeases God even if we take pleasure in our enemy’s downfall (Prov. 24:17).
14. This will result not merely in Yahweh’s displeasure but His taking decisive action whereby he will utterly destroy the Ammonites.
15. He states in verse seven, **“Therefore behold I, Myself will stretch out My hand upon you and give you over to plunder for the nations and I will cut you off from the peoples and cause you to perish from the lands and I will destroy you and you will know that I am Yahweh”**.
16. Their taking advantage of the Jews in their time of weakness was the straw that broke the camel’s back and brings in the 5th cycle of discipline for the sons of Ammon.
17. While they had clapped their hands, Yahweh now stretches out His hand to do them harm.
18. Such language indicates something much more severe than the punishment Israel faces. They will not only be destroyed but “cut off” from the peoples” and “perish from the lands”, indicating that they lose everything and are not even a nation of people any longer!

19. Israel will be out of the land for 70 (much longer for most). No such promise is given to the sons of Ammon.
20. They will simply be given over to plunder and destroyed.
21. Note that they will be given over “to the nations”. Earlier we read that the “sons of the east” would move in and take their land and resources. Hence they are the major nation to do them in.
22. However verse seven hints at other nations or tribes moving in to take advantage as well.
23. Ironically, Ammon celebrated the Jews demise and couldn’t wait to take their land and wealth away, yet that is exactly what is going to occur in their own country as they fall victim to other nations.
24. Note that Yahweh, Himself, is the one orchestrating this declaration as He lifts up his hand against them.
25. They will be the victims of His poetic justice as the other nations will have done to them the very thing they plotted against Israel!
26. All of the language points to a final end for Ammon, which will be completely destroyed. It never came back as a nation after the destruction that God gives them via the Babylonians to this very day.
27. However there is prophecy that states she will one day be restored in the end times (Dan. 11:41; Jer. 49:1-6).
28. God ends this section by repeating the phrase, “And you will know that I am Yahweh”.
29. Again, at some point the people of Ammon will know that Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews is responsible for these actions.

Prophecy against Moab

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 8 - 11

VERSE EIGHT

“Thus says Adonay Yahweh, because you say Moab and Seir, ‘behold the house of Judah has is like all of the nations’”

כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה יַעַן אָמַר מוֹאָב וְשֵׁעִיר הִנֵּה
כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם בֵּית יְהוּדָה:

(conj. כֹּה/koh "thus" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-m-s אָמַר/'amar "says" + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/'adonay יהוה/yhwh "Adonay Yahweh" + adv. יַעַן/ya'an "because" + verb-qal-inf. const. אָמַר/'amar "say" + proper noun מוֹאָב/mo'ab "Moab" + conj. ו/w "and" + proper noun שֵׁעִיר/se'iyir "Seir" + interj. הִנֵּה/hinneh "behold" + prep. כ/K "like" + noun-m-s const. כֹּל/kol "all of..." + noun-m-pl w/ d.a גוֹי/goy "the nations" + to be verb [supplied] noun-m-s const. בַּיִת/bayith "house of..." + proper noun יְהוּדָה/yehudah "Judah").

VERSE NINE

“Therefore behold I am opening up the flank of Moab from the cities, beginning with the cities on the frontier, the beauty of the land, Beth-Jeshimoth, Baal-Meon and Kiriathaim”.

לְכֵן הִנְנִי פֹתַח אֶת־כַּתֵּף מוֹאָב מֵהָעָרִים מֵעָרָיו מִקְצֵהוּ
 צְבִי אֶרֶץ בֵּית הַיְשִׁימוֹת בַּעַל מְעֹן (וְקִרְיַת־מֵחָה) [וְקִרְיַת־יָמָה]:

(prep. ל/L [untranslated] + adv. כֵּן/ken "therefore" + interj. w/ suf-1st-c-s הִנֵּה/hinneh "behold I" + to be verb [supplied] "am" + verb-qal-part-m-s פָּתַח/patach "opening" + sign. d.o. אֶת/eth [untranslated] + noun-f-s const. כַּתֵּף/katheph "shoulder/side of..." + proper noun מוֹאָב/mo'ab "Moab" + prep. מִן/min "from" + noun-f-pl w/ d.a עָרִי/iyir "the cities" + prep. מִן/min "from" + noun-f-pl w/ suf-3rd-m-s עָרֵי/iyri "his cities" + prep. מִן/min "from" + noun-m-s w/ suf-3rd-m-s קְצֵה/qatseh "his frontier" + noun-m-s const. צְבִי/tsebiy "beauty of..." + noun-f-s אֶרֶץ/erets "land" + proper noun בֵּית הַיְשִׁימוֹת/beyth hayeshimoth "Beth-Jeshimoth" + proper noun מְעֹן בַּעַל/bayal me'on "Baal-Meon" + conj. ו/w "and" + proper noun קִרְיַת־יָמָה/qireyathayim "Kiriathaim").

VERSE TEN

“And I will give them to the sons of the east in addition to the sons of Ammon for a possession and in order that Ammon will not be remembered among the nations”.

לְבָנֵי־קֶדֶם עַל־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וְנִתְּתִיהָ לְמוֹרֶשֶׁה לְמַעַן לֹא־תִזְכָּר
 בְּבָנֵי־עַמּוֹן בְּגוֹיִם:

(prep. ל/L "unto" + noun-m-pl const. בָּנֵי/ben "sons of..." + noun-m-s קֶדֶם/qedem "east" + prep. עַל/al "on top of" + noun-m-pl const. בָּנֵי/ben "sons of..." + proper noun עַמּוֹן/'ammon

"Ammon" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] w/ suf-3rd-f-s נתן/nathan "I will give them" + prep. ל/L "for" + noun-f-s מורשה/morashah "a possession" + conj. ו/w "and" + prep. לְמַעַן/lem'an "in order that" + neg. adv. לא/lo' "not" + verb-niph-3rd-f-s זכר/zakar "she will be remembered" + noun-m-pl const. בן/ben "sons of" + proper noun עַמּוֹן/‘ammon "Ammon" + prep. ב/B "among" + noun-m-pl w/ d.a. גוֹי/goy "the nations").

VERSE ELEVEN

“And I will execute justice on Moab and they will know that I am Yahweh”.

וּבְמוֹאָב אֶעֱשֶׂה שְׁפָטִים וַיֵּדְעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה:

(conj. ו/w "and" + prep. ב/B "on" + proper noun מוֹאָב/mo'ab "Moab" + verb-qal-imperf-1st-c-s אֶעֱשֶׂה/'asah "I will execute" + noun-m-pl שְׁפָטִים/shephet "judgments" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-c-pl יָדָע/yada' "they will know" + conj. כִּי/kiy "that" + pron-1st-c-s אֲנִי/'aniy "I" + to be verb [supplied] "am" + proper noun יְהוָה/yhwh "Yahweh").

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 8 – 11

1. Yahweh shifts gears a bit here. Having discussed the fate of Ammon, He shifts to another nation which lay to Israel’s east, Moab.
2. He states in verse eight, “**Thus says Adonay Yahweh, because you say Moab and Seir, ‘behold the house of Judah has is like all of the nations’**”
3. Israel had been the recipient of very special protections from the hand of Yahweh over the years.
4. Moab, like Ammon saw an opportunity when the Jews fell to Nebuchadnezzar.
5. Indeed, she, along with Ammon had joined in with Nebuchadnezzar in his previous venture to defeat Israel and take Jehoiachin into custody (2nd siege – II Kings 24:2ff).
6. However there is no reference to the Moabites attempting to take land once Judah fell.
7. Moab, like Ammon, was descended from one of the sons of Lot whom he had with his daughter (Gen. 19:37).
8. This nation grew up right beside Israel and was a thorn in her side from time to time.
9. God has determined that she is to be destroyed due to her treachery.

10. The reference to Seir is to Mount Seir which was located in Edom. Both nations are guilty of the same crime, claiming Israel has become a mere nation just like all the rest and not special in any way. This was a hot button with God.
11. Realize that there is a rich history of the feats that God had done for the Jews and given them the land, from the miracles in Egypt to the victorious conquest (cp. Josh 2:9).
12. They are essentially stating that Israel is no longer special and God is not going to keep His promises to the Jews, when in reality God was keeping His promises by giving her the 5th Cycle of Discipline!!!
13. Edom is *alluded to* in this section, as is Ammon, as we shall see. However nothing more is said of Edom/Seir in this section.
14. God will deal with Edom more directly in vv. 12 – 14.
15. He continues in verse nine, where he states **“Therefore behold I am opening up the flank of Moab from the cities, beginning with the cities on the frontier, the beauty of the land, Beth-Jeshimoth, Baal-Meon and Kiriathaim”**.
16. Our word translated as “flank” is the feminine, singular noun, כַּתֵּף/katheph, “shoulder, side, mountain ridge or slope”.
17. It is translated “flank” as it is on one particular side of the nation that the Babylonians will attack and overrun them.
18. They start with the frontier cities on the north: Beth-Jeshimoth, Baal-Meon and Kiriathaim. However all of the nation will eventually be overrun.
19. These cities are called “the beauty of the land”, indicating that they were a desirable and valuable.
20. Walvoord and Zuck note that “Beth Jeshimoth guarded the ascent to the Medeba Plateau from the Plans of Moab by the Jordan River. Ball Meon [sic] and Kiriathaim were important fortresses on the Medeba Plateau” (p. 1276).
21. Each of these cities would be overrun, the people would be displaced and their enemies would possess them.
22. Such is poetic justice as a study of their names finds that these cities were once part of Israel and had been taken from the Jews after the deportation of the northern tribes which lived to the east of the Jordan (Num. 32:37, 38; 33:49-53; Josh 12:2, 3; 13:20, 21).
23. It is perhaps for this reason that God calls them “the beauty of the land” (cp. Jer. 3:19; Dan. 8:9; 11:16, 41).

24. Yahweh continues in verse ten stating, **“And I will give them to the sons of the east in addition to the sons of Ammon for a possession and in order that Ammon will not be remembered among the nations”**.
25. Moab will suffer the same fate as that of Ammon. They too will be given as a possession of the “sons of the east”, Babylon, which was east of each of these nations.
26. However note that God refers back to Ammon which will not be remembered among the nations anymore.
27. As previously stated, this is a final death nail for the nation which had physically moved into the land of Israel upon her demise.
28. There is prophecy which states that she will be reestablished in the end times (Jer. 49:1-6).
29. However from the time of their destruction by Nebuchadnezzar up until now, there has been no independent country of Ammon.
30. Moab on the other hand seems to have come back for a time once the Babylonian Empire declined. They are mentioned in the Bible at the time of the return of the Jews to the land after the 70 year captivity (Ezra 9:1; Neh. 13:1).
31. God finishes off the section in verse eleven by stating **“And I will execute justice on Moab and they will know that I am Yahweh”**.
32. As was the case in the previous section, Yahweh states that once they are destroyed, they will know that Yahweh is God and that it is the God of the Jews that has accomplished these actions.
33. After the dust settles from the Babylonian juggernaut, much of the land of Moab was overrun by Nabatean nomads who settled there (Taylor, p. 184).
34. Moab is mentioned as existing as a nation later on by Daniel as existing in the end times (though it is not necessary for the nations to be established by name - Dan. 11:41).
35. However they were eventually snuffed out as a people, in fulfillment of this prophecy as well as others (cp. Isa. 15, 16; Jer. 48; Amos 2:1-3; Zeph. 2:10).

Prophecy against Edom

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 12 – 14:

VERSE TWELVE

“Thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘Because Edom has acted by taking vengeance against the house of Judah and they have most assuredly committed a trespass by avenging themselves on them’”.

ה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה יַעַן עָשׂוֹת אֶדְוֹם בְּנָקָם נָקָם לְבַיִת
יְהוּדָה וַיֵּאָשְׁמוּ אֲשׁוּם וַנִּקְמוּ בָהֶם:

(conj. כֹּה/koh "thus" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-m-s אָמַר/'amar "says" + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/'adonay יהוה/yhwh "Adonay Yahweh" + adv. יַעַן/ya'an "because" + verb-qal-inf. const. עָשָׂה/'asah "acted" + proper noun אֶדְוֹם/'edom "Edom" + prep. בַּ/B "by" + verb-qal-inf. const. נָקָם/naqam "taking vengeance"+ noun-m-s נָקָם /naqam "vengeance" + prep. לַ/L "unto" + noun-m-s const. בַּיִת/bayith "house of..." + proper noun יְהוּדָה/yehudah "Judah" + conj. וַ/w "and" + verb-qal-imperf-3rd-m-pl אֲשָׁמוּ/'asham "'they trespassed" + verb-qal-inf. abs. אֲשָׁמוּ/'asham

"having trespassed" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-niph-perf-3rd-c-pl נָקַם/naqam "they have taken vengeance" + prep. w/ suf-3rd-m-pl ב/B "on them").

VERSE THIRTEEN

“Therefore, thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘I will stretch out My hand against Edom and I will cut her off from man and beast and I will make the a desolation. They will fall by the sword from Teman to Dedan’.

לְכֵן כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה וְנִשְׁתִּי יָדַי עַל-אֲדוֹם וְהִכַּרְתִּי
 מִמִּנְהָ אָדָם וּבְהֵמָה וְנִתְתִּיהָ חֲרָבָה מִתֵּימָן וְדָדָנָה בַּחֶרֶב
 יִפְּלוּ:

(prep. ל/L [untranslated] + adv. כֵּן/ken “therefore” + adv. כֹּה/koh “thus” + verb-qal-perf-3rd-m-s אָמַר/amar “says” + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/adonay יְהוִה/yhwh “Adonay Yahweh” conj. ו/w “also” + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] נָטַח/natah “I will spread out” + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s יָד/yad “my hand” + prep. עַל/al “unto” + proper noun אֲדוֹם/edom “Edom” + conj. ו/w “and” + verb-hiph-perf-1st-c-s כָּרַת/karath “I will cut off” + prep. w/ suf-3rd-f-s מִן/min “from her” + noun-m-s אָדָם/adam “man” + conj. ו/w “and” + noun-f-s בְּהֵמָה/b^ehemah “beast” + conj. ו/w “and” + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] w/ suf-3rd-f-s נָתַן/17iphah “I will make them” + noun-f-s חֲרָבָה/char^ebah “a ruin/desolation” + prep. מִן/min “from” + proper noun תֵּימָן/teman “Teman” + conj. ו/w “and” + proper noun דָּדָן/dedan “Dedan” + prep. ב/B “by” + noun-f-s w/ d.a. חֶרֶב/chereb “the sword” + verb-qal-imperf-3rd-m-pl נִפְּלוּ/17iphah “they will fall”).

VERSE FOURTEEN

“And I will My take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people, Israel. And they will execute in Edom in accordance to My anger and My wrath and they will know My vengeance declares Adonay Yahweh”.

וְנִתְתִי אֶת-נִקְמָתִי בְּאֲדוֹם בְּיַד עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעָשׂוּ בְּאֲדוֹם
 כְּאִפִּי וְכַחֲמָתִי וְיָדְעוּ אֶת-נִקְמָתִי נָאִם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: פ

(conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] נָתַן/nathan "I will take" + sign. d.o. אֶת/eth [untranslated] + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s נִקְמָה/neqamah "my vengeance" + prep. ב/B "on" + proper noun אֲדוֹם/edom "Edom" + prep. ב/B "by" + noun-f-s const. יָד/yad "hand of..." + noun-m-s w/ suf-1st-c-s עַם/am "my people" + proper noun יִשְׂרָאֵל/yisra'el "Israel" +

conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-c-pl [waw consec] עָשׂוּ/’asah "They will accomplish" + prep. ב/B "in" + proper noun אֶדְוֹם/’edom "Edom" + prep. כ/K "like" + noun-m-s w/ suf-1st-c-s אַף/aph "my anger" + conj. ו/w "and" + prep. כ/K "like" + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s חֵמָה/chemah "my wrath" conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-c-pl [waw consec] יָדָע/yada’ "they will know" + sign. d.o. אֵת/’eth [untranslated] + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s נִקְמָה/n’eqamah "my vengeance" + noun-m-s const. אָמַר/n’um "a declaration of..." + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/’adonay יהוה/yhwh "Adonai Yahweh").

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 12 – 14:

1. Yahweh continues His proclamation against Israel’s gentile neighbors in verse twelve directing His vengeance toward Edom.
2. Edom was mentioned in the previous section as having committed the same sin as Moab, celebrating Judah’s downfall and acting as if Israel were like any other nation
3. Hence God responds to this in, yet notes that Edom has gone a few steps further.
4. He states **“Thus says Adonai Yahweh, ‘Because Edom has acted by taking vengeance against the house of Judah and they have most assuredly committed a trespass by avenging themselves on them’”**.
5. Edom was the nation to Israel’s southeast; whose citizens were the descendants of Jacob’s brother, Esau (Gen. 25:30; 32:3).
6. While Rebecca was pregnant, the two boys wrestled in her womb. When she inquired of the Lord why this was occurring, God told her that two nations were in her womb and that they would be bitter enemies (Gen. 25:21-26).
7. This rivalry has continued all through history up to this very day!
8. The Edomites refused to allow the sons of Israel passage through their territory when they went out of the land of Egypt (Num. 20:18-21).
9. Edom was a thorn in Israel’s side for many years. They were finally subdued in the time of David and Solomon and placed under tribute (II Sam. 8:14; I Kings 9:26).
10. However they shook off this yoke during the reign of Jehoram (II Kings 8:20).
11. By time Israel was in decline during the time of Nebuchadnezzar, Edom took advantage of the situation to do the nation much harm (II Chron. 28:17, 18).
12. They had harbored an old grudge against the Jews and this is the “vengeance” she has taken against the house of Judah (cp. Psa. 137:7; Lam 4:21, 22 Amos 1:11; Obad. 1:9-11).

13. The Edomites joined up with Nebuchadnezzar in his war against Judah and there is evidence that the Edomites occupied southern Judah at this time (Taylor, p. 185).
14. By taking their vengeance in such a matter they have “most assuredly committed a trespass” whereby Yahweh uses a finite verb along with an infinitive absolute, literally, “committing a trespass they have committed a trespass”.
15. They were absolutely in the wrong to harbor a petty hatred and jealousy over things that had taken place in the past as a result of their own actions in attempting harm to the Israel in the first place.
16. However people hold on to hatred and that is most assuredly the case here.
17. Yahweh continues in verse thirteen where He states, **“Therefore, thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘I will stretch out My hand against Edom and I will cut her off from man and beast and I will make the a desolation. They will fall by the sword from Teman to Dedan’”**.
18. God states that He will stretch out his hand over Edom. Recall that God lifts His hand to nation which is language of accommodation where He lifts his hand to lift up a people or else to strike them down (Isa. 49:22; Ezek. 14:13; 25:16).
19. He further states that he will cut them off from man and beast indicating complete destruction of the nation.
20. Teman and Dedan were two of the chief cities of Edom. He does not merely state that He will destroy these cities but destroy everything “from Teman to Dedan”.
21. He continues in verse fourteen where He states, **“And I will My take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people, Israel...”**
22. Here in lies a specific promise. The previous two nations mentioned (Ammon and Moab) where to be given over to the “sons of the east”. However Edom is promised destruction at the hand of Israel!!!
23. He continues in the final clause of verse fourteen where He states that **“...they will execute in Edom in accordance to My anger and My wrath and they will know My vengeance declares Adonay Yahweh”**.
24. In other words, they Jews of Israel are going to execute DD on the land of Edom, not the Babylonians.
25. A second question now comes to us. How is a nation that is flat on its back and has been deported into a foreign land with not army going to execute God’s judgment in Edom?

26. Obviously it can't...right away...This is a prophecy that will occur down the road when Israel is in shape to conduct warfare against the Edomites.
27. We know for a fact that they were out of the land for 70 years.
28. Upon returning they continued on as a dependant nation as part of the Persian Empire at first and later as part of the Empire established by Alexander the Great.
29. After Alexander's death, his kingdom was divided among his four generals and Israel became the ward of the Seleucid rulers.
30. They achieved independence for a short time during the revolt brought about by Judas Maccabeus in the 2nd century BC, giving the Jews autonomy from 160- 138 BC.
31. According to Josephus, John Hyrcanus subjugated a number of Idumeans (descendants of the Edomites) and forced them to accept the procedure of circumcision (Maier, p. 221).
32. However this did anything but destroy them as a people. What's more, one need usually take Josephus' writings with a grain of salt.
33. The Jew's time of independence came to an end fairly quickly as they had fallen victim to a new rising power in the Middle East, the Roman Empire.
34. In 37 BC the kingdom was turned into a Roman province called "the Herodian Kingdom" with Herod the Great, son of Antipater, an Idumean, ruling over Judea having been given the title, "King of the Jews" by Mark Antony following the death of Julius Caesar (Pfeiffer, p. 106).
35. The Idumeans were again a thorn in the Jews side during the war with Rome (66-70 AD).
36. They attacked Jerusalem in 70 AD with a fighting force 10,000 men strong (Mair, p. 317).
37. Once they gained access to the city they joined up with what remained of the Zealot movement and engaged in a great carnage against the Jews killing 8500 in just one day (ibid, p. 319).
38. Hence the Idumeans (Edomites) were most assuredly on vanquished by John Hyrcanus' forces. Rather they continued on into the Roman period and continued to rival the Jews.
39. The Jews gained their nation back in 1948 and while they have fought various wars against those around them, they have not destroyed the Idumeans to this day (thought by many to have survived as the modern day Palestinians!!!
40. Hence, this prophecy is yet to be fulfilled. It is a prophecy for the end times. (cp. Isa. 63)!!!

Prophecy against the Philistines

EXEGESIS OF VERSE 15 – 17:

VERSE FIFTEEN

“Thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘Because the Philistines acted with vengeance and took vengeance with contempt with a heart for destruction, eternal hatred’”.

כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה יַעַן עָשׂוֹת פִּלִּשְׁתִּים בְּנִקְמָה וַיִּנְקְמוּ
נָקָם בְּשָׂאֵט בְּנֶפֶשׁ לְמִשְׁחִית אִיבַת עוֹלָם:

(adv. כֹּה/koh "thus" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-m-s אָמַר/'amar "says" + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/adanoy יהוה/yhwh "Yahweh" + prep. יַעַן/ya'an "because" + verb-qal-inf. const. עָשָׂה/'asah "acted" + proper noun פִּלִּשְׁתִּים/pilistiy "Philistines" + prep. ב/B "with" + noun-f-s נִקְמָה/n^eqamah "vengeance" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-niph-imperf-3rd-m-pl [waw consec] נָקְמוּ/naqam "took vengeance" + noun-m-s נָקָם/naqam "vengeance" + prep. ב/B "with" + noun-m-s שָׂאֵט/she'at "contempt" + prep. ב/B "with" + noun-f-s נֶפֶשׁ/nephesh "soul" + prep. ל/L "for" + noun-m-s מִשְׁחִית/mash^echiyth "destruction" + noun-f-s-const. אִיבַת/eybah "hatred of..." + noun-m-s עוֹלָם/'olam "eternity/forever").

VERSE SIXTEEN

“Therefore, thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘Behold, I will stretch out My hand over the Philistines and will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of those on the sea shore’”.

כֵּן כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה הִנְנִי נוֹטֵה יָדִי עַל־פְּלִשְׁתִּים
וְהִכַּרְתִּי אֶת־כְּרֵתִים וְהֵאַבְדֹתִי אֶת־שְׂאֵרֵית חוֹף הַיָּם:

(prep ל/L [untranslated] + adv. כֵּן/ken "therefore" + conj. כֹּה/koh "thus" + verb-qal-perf-2nd-m-s אָמַר/'amar "says" + + proper noun אֲדֹנָי/'adanoy יהוה/yhwh "Yahweh" + interj. הִנְנֵה/ninneh "behold" + verb-qal-part-m-s נוֹטֵה/natah "stretching out" + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s יָד/yad "my hand" + prep. עַל/'al "over" + proper noun פְּלִשְׁתִּים/pelishiyiy "Philistines" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-hiph-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] כָּרַת/karath "I will cut off" sign. d.o. אֶת/'eth [untranslated] + proper noun כְּרֵתִי/keretiy "Cheretites" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-hiph-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] אָבַד'abad "I will cause to perish/destroy" + sign d.o. אֶת/'eth [untranslated] + noun-f-s const. שְׂאֵרֵית/she'eriyyth "remainder/remnant of..." + noun-m-s const. חוֹף/choph "shore/coast" + noun-m-s w/ d.a. יָם/yam "the sea").

VERSE SEVENTEEN

“And I will send great vengeance upon them with wrathful discipline and they will know that I am Yahweh when I send My wrath upon them”.

יְהוָה בְּתַתִּי אֶת־נִקְמָתִי בָּם וְעָשִׂיתִי בָּם נִקְמוֹת גְּדוֹלוֹת בְּתוֹכָחַת חֲמָה וְיָדְעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי

(conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-1st-c-s [waw consec] עָשָׂה/'asah "I will accomplish" + prep w/ suf-3rd-m-pl ב/B "on them" + noun-f-pl נִקְמָה/n'eqamah "vengeance" + adj-f-pl גְּדוֹל/gadol "great" + prep. ב/B "with" + noun-f-pl const. תּוֹכָחַת/tokachath "discipline..." + noun-f-s חֲמָה/chemah "wrath" + conj. ו/w "and" + verb-qal-perf-3rd-c-pl [waw consec] יָדָע/yada' "they will know" + conj. כִּי/kiy "that" + pron-1st-c-s אֲנִי/'aniy "I" + to be verb יהוה/yhwh "Yahweh" + prep. ב/B "in" + verb-qal-inf. const. w/ suf-1st-c-s נָתַן/nathan "my giving" + sign. d.o. אֶת/'eth [untranslated] + noun-f-s w/ suf-1st-c-s. נִקְמָה/n'eqamah "my vengeance" + prep. w/ suf-3rd-m-pl ב/B "on them").

ANALYSIS OF VERSES

1. Having finished His proclamation against Edom, Yahweh moves on to a fourth gentile nation, that of the Philistines.
2. We read in verse fifteen, **“Thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘Because the Philistines acted with vengeance and took vengeance with contempt with a heart for destruction, eternal hatred’”**.
3. The Philistines were an almost constant thorn in Israel’s side from the very beginning. The land in which they lived was ceded to Israel, yet the Jews never completely cleared the Philistines out of the territory.
4. They were nestled in the coastal territory of southwest Israel in the region of Gaza.
5. During the time of Judges both Samuel and Samson fought against them (Judges 15:2; I Sam. 7:1).
6. During the time of the monarchy Saul and David both fought against them (I Sam. 9:16; 13:1; 27:1).
7. The Philistines paid tribute to both Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah, yet were never stamped out (II Chron.17:11; II Kings 18:8).
8. The Philistines not only gloated or celebrated at Judah’s down fall but are said to have “acted with vengeance” and “took vengeance with contempt”.
9. The specific vengeance is not recorded elsewhere in Scripture. However they, like several other nations around them, probably joined in with the Babylonians and took advantage of the situation (Ezekiel 23:22, 23).
10. Prior to the Babylonian invasion, the Philistines did do harm to the nation (Ezek. 16:27; II Chron. 28:18).
11. Note that God refers to the Philistines possessing an “eternal hatred” where God uses the feminine, singular construct of **אִיְבָהָ** /'eybah, “hatred, enmity”, connected to the masculine, singular noun, **עוֹלָם** /'olam, “forever, evermore, perpetual, everlasting, ancient”.
12. It refers to the hatred that the Philistines had for the Jews going all the way back to the beginning, back to the time of conquest when the two nations first eyed each other (Josh 13:2, 3; Judg. 3:31).
13. They were a bitter enemy to the Jews, utilizing all of their strength to stop them from taking over the land they held, the land Yahweh had given to His people.

14. God continues His message to Ezekiel by stating, **“Therefore, thus says Adonay Yahweh, ‘Behold, I will stretch out My hand over the Philistines and will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of those on the sea shore’”**.
15. The Philistines were subdued during the time of Nebuchadnezzar, but not completely destroyed by the Babylonians but the Egyptians (Jer. 47:1ff).
16. Note that He states that He is not merely going to cut off the Philistines, but the “remnant of those on the sea shore”.
17. Our word for “remnant” is the feminine, singular construct of **שְׂאִרִית**/she’eriyth "remainder, remnant, posterity, residue, survivors, that which has survived after a previous elimination process or catastrophe"
18. Hence God cuts off the Philistines and then goes back and destroys those who survive the onslaught.
19. According to historical record, the Philistines ceased to be a distinct people in 604 BC.
20. Yes the Philistines have been vanquished as a national entity. There has not be a nation called Philistia in many years, however the *remnant* of the people have survived and survive to this day.
21. The Philistines are called the “Cherethites” here. While this is a word used of some of David’s guard (I Chron. 18:17), this was also a term used in reference to the Philistines (cp. Zeph. 2:5).
22. The term is related to the Greek term, “Cretans”. Crete is the island from which many believe the Philistines to have migrated from prior to living in the Middle East.
23. He continues in verse seventeen where He states **“And I will send great vengeance upon them with wrathful discipline and they will know that I am Yahweh when I send My wrath upon them”**.
24. God will not merely send vengeance upon them but “great vengeance” and they will know that Yahweh has stood up to fight for His people!!!
25. While little remained after the Egyptian conquest, the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy is fulfilled in the end times (Zeph. 2:4, 5)!!!
26. It is noteworthy that, though there has not been a nation called Philistia in over 2700 years, the cities of the Philistines have retained their names to this very day and people have continued to live in this part of the Near East.

27. Could many of the people causing so much trouble for Israel on the Gaza Strip be related to the ancient enemy, the Philistines? Could what we are viewing now be the final phase of the eternal hatred that they have held for Israel?
28. May we soon view the final fulfillment of prophecy given by Zephaniah?

The End of Ezekiel Chapter 25
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