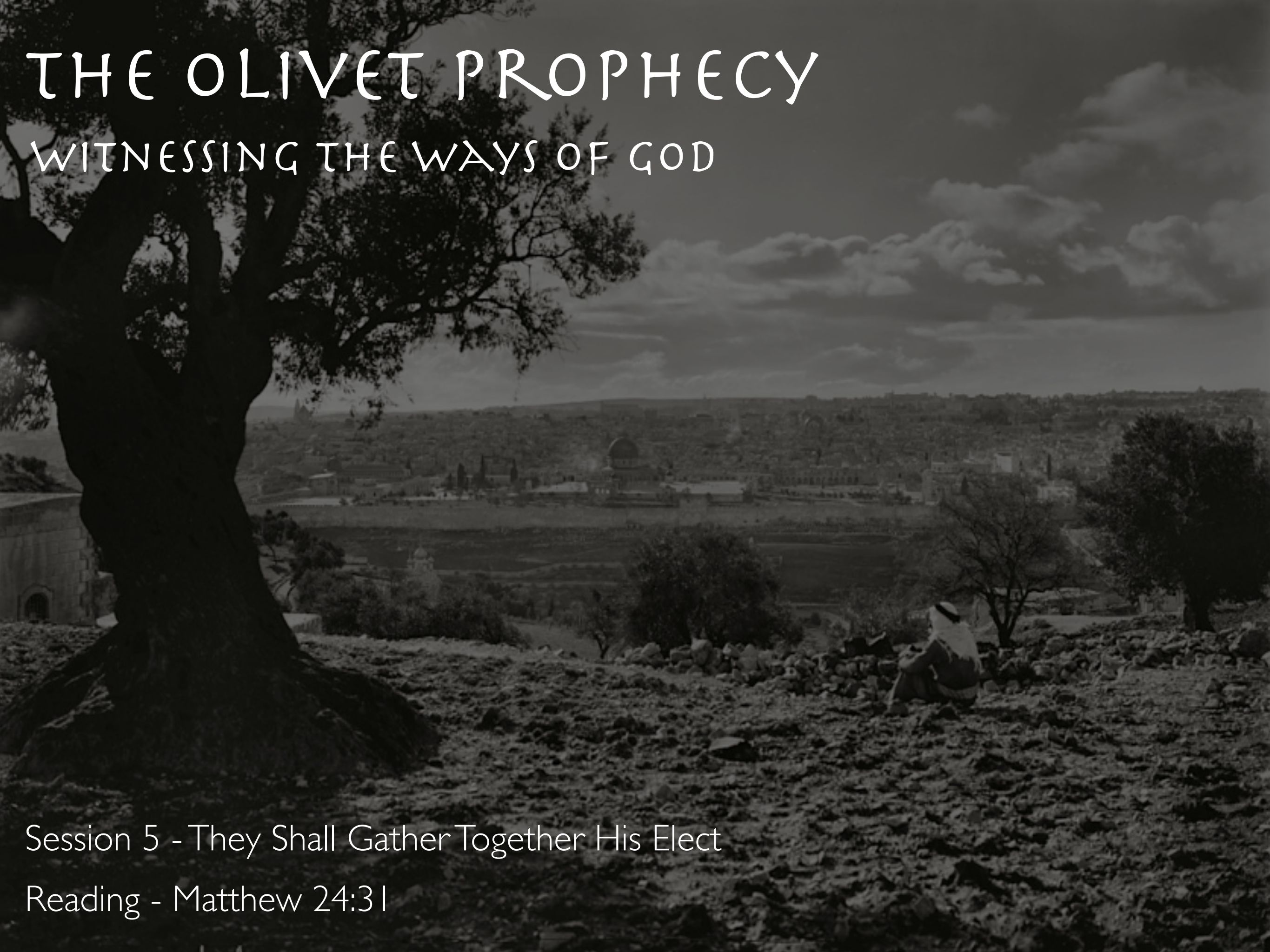


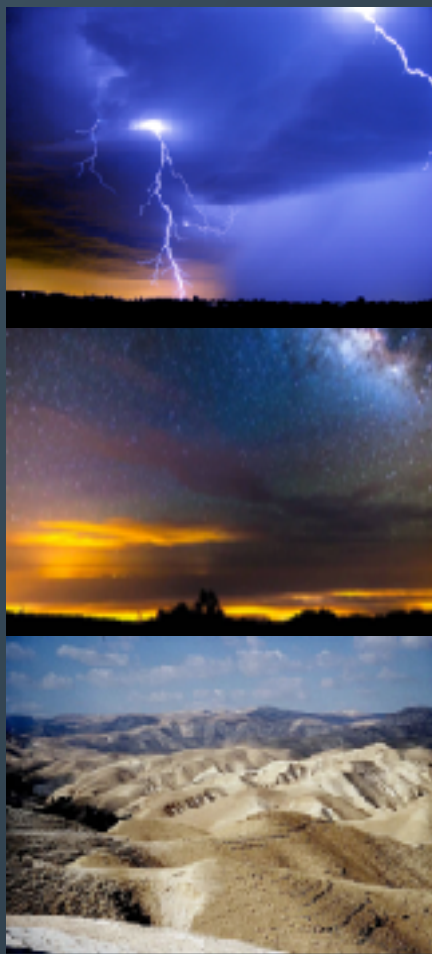


THE OLIVET PROPHECY

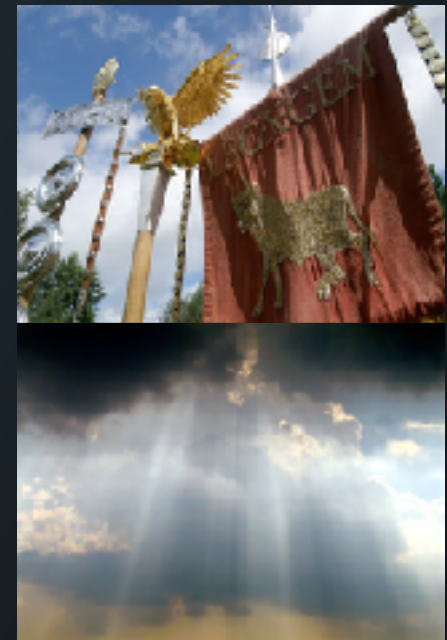
WITNESSING THE WAYS OF GOD

Session 5 - They Shall Gather Together His Elect

Reading - Matthew 24:31



- 1 - From Abstract to Tangible
- 2 - For Then Shall Be Great Tribulation
- 3 - The Sun Shall Be Darkened
- 4 - The Coming of the Son of Man
- 5 - They Shall Gather Together His Elect



SERIES OUTLINE

Goal: to elucidate Christ's message in the signs of the Olivet prophecy, and to enhance our understanding of God's hand at work.

- 5 - They Shall Gather Together His Elect
- The Initial Reading
 - The Old Testament Background
 - The Overall Picture

Core: God gives hope.

Why: did the Lord suddenly prophesy the gathering together of the elect in a prophecy about Israel's destruction?

Read through this verse and consider the picture it creates.

AN INITIAL READING



It sounds like the gathering of the believers to judgment.

But the passage is a bit more ambiguous...

PERHAPS.

- the angels
- the elect

AMBIGUITY

Just like the Hebrew, the Greek word for “angels” does not simply mean “angels.”

ἄγγελος G32 “angel” “messenger”

Matthew 11:10 Luke 7:24 James 2:25

This could refer to immortal angels, or it could refer to men!



“elect” is similar:

ἐκλεκτός → G1588 “elect” “chosen”

Thus, sometimes it is used of the Jews:

I Chronicles 16:13 → “ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones”

Psalms 105:43 → “he brought forth his people with joy...his chosen”

Isaiah 43:20 → “to give drink to my people, my chosen”

Isaiah 45:4 → “Israel mine elect”

Other times it is used of the brethren:

Romans 8:33 → “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?”

Colossians 3:12 → “Put on therefore, as the elect of God...”

1 Peter 1:2 → “elect according to the foreknowledge of God”

Or even of the angels!

I Timothy 5:21 → “I charge thee therefore before...the elect angels”

Taken at face value, it's difficult to know exactly what this verse is saying.

But, we can go deeper than face value.

A dramatic scene of a narrow slot canyon with a beam of light shining down on the sand floor. The walls of the canyon are made of smooth, undulating sandstone, illuminated by a warm, orange light. A bright beam of light enters from the left, creating a strong contrast and highlighting the texture of the rock and the sand floor.

Matthew 24:31 - “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

THE GATHERING OF THE SAINTS?

So, how can we know what this verse is about?

Consider a few proofs.

1 - The *order of events* isn't right. Zechariah 14:5

2 - The *overall focus* of the prophecy: This is all about *Israel!*

3 - The *immediate context* of the prophecy, and the *prophecy itself*

Matthew 23:37 - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

“gathered...together” → ἐπισυνάγω G1996 only used in 6 verses!
one of them is here
one is a parallel account
two are Olivet prophecies

Matthew 23:38 → thus they would be destroyed

Matthew 23:39 → but *eventually* they would be gathered together!

The immediate context uses this idea of “gathering together” **about the Jews!**

Matthew 24:22 - “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”

Matthew 24:24 - “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

This is a reference to *believers in Jerusalem!*

i.e., *Jewish believers in Christ!*

So, this prophecy predicts a *regathering of the Jews* after the Lord's return.

The second exodus takes place *after* Christ is revealed. Malachi 4:1-6



THE SECOND EXODUS

And, the Old Testament background is *all about the second exodus!*

The Old Testament background:

- provides a framework of the second exodus
- contains similar passages that are all about the second exodus
- holds the passages from which the Lord drew his phrases...
...and these are all about the second exodus



AN OLD TESTAMENT FRAMEWORK

Remember, Isaiah 5-6 provided a framework.

Isaiah 5:1-7 → parable of the vineyard

Isaiah 5:8-23 → woes

Isaiah 5:24-29 → prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction

Isaiah 5:30 → darkening of the Jewish heavens

Matthew 21:33-46

Matthew 23

Matthew 24:1-28

Matthew 24:29

John says something surprising about what happens next.

John 12:41 → “when he saw his glory” Isaiah 6 is a vision of Christ in glory!

Isaiah sees this glory—and his response?

Isaiah 6:5 → He mourns!

cp. Matthew 24:30

Isaiah 6:8-9 - “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send,
and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and
tell this people...”

cp. Matthew 24:31

Isaiah 5:1-7 → parable of the vineyard

Isaiah 5:8-23 → woes

Isaiah 5:24-29 → prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction

Isaiah 5:30 → darkening of the Jewish heavens

Isaiah 6:1-5 → Jews mourn after seeing Christ's glory

Isaiah 6:6-8 → Their iniquity purged, sent to brethren

Matthew 21:33-46

Matthew 23

Matthew 24:1-28

Matthew 24:29

Matthew 24:30

Matthew 24:31

The Old Testament contains a few similar passages.



SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL

Together, they provide a further Old Testament context.

Isaiah 11 is a “kingdom” chapter. Isaiah 11:6-9

Isaiah 11:11 → “the second time”!

Isaiah 11:12 - “And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

“ensign” → σημεῖον G4592 Matthew 24:30

Consider also that this “ensign” is *Christ*. Isaiah 11:10

“gather together” → similar language “gather together his elect”

“the four corners” → similar language “the four winds”

These aren’t exact, but *similar*.

And this is all about *the regathering of Israel*.

Isaiah 66 is also a “kingdom” chapter.

Isaiah 66:18 - “For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.”

Do you hear any Armageddon echoes?

“gather all nations” → Joel 3:2

Zechariah 14:2

“see my glory” → Ezekiel 39:21 When the nations were destroyed.

δόξα G1391 “with power and great glory”

Isaiah 66:19



“And I will set a sign among them”

“sign” σημεῖον G4592 typically believed to be *Christ!*

cp. Matthew 24:30

“I will send those that escape of them unto the nations...”

cp. Matthew 24:31

“...they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles”!

But not just among the Gentiles: Isaiah 66:20

These aren't exact, but *similar*.

And this is all about *the regathering of Israel*.

What specific phrases and ideas did the Lord take from the Old Testament?

- a great sound of a trumpet
- the four winds
- from one end of heaven to the other

THE ALLUSIONS



Matthew 24:31 - “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

THE SENDING OF THE SAINTS

Throughout the Old Testament, the trumpet was used to gather the people.

Numbers 10:2-3 → “for the calling of the assembly” חֲצֹצֶרֶה H2689

Jeremiah 4:5 → “Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together”

שׁוֹפָר H7782



Both of these words became just one in the LXX.

σάλπιγξ G4536

Thus, the Greek makes it difficult to know which specific trumpet, and therefore what specific passage the Lord was considering.



But it isn't just the sound of a trumpet.

Matthew 24:31 - "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

σάλπιγγος φωνῆς μεγάλης

G4536 G5456 G3173

The idea of a "great" "trumpet" only occurs in two verses in the Old Testament:

Exodus 19:16 φωνή τῆς σάλπιγγος ἤχει μέγα the first exodus of Israel

Isaiah 27:13 τῇ σάλπιγγι τῇ μεγάλῃ the second exodus of Israel

And in both cases, this trumpet was used to gather the people!

Again, we are brought to the second exodus.

The phrase “four winds” is only used **eight times** in all of Scripture.

THE FOUR WINDS



Once is Mark's parallel record. Another is in Revelation, which was written later.

Matthew 24:31 - “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Matthew 24:31 τῶν τεσσάρων ἀνέμων

Mark 13:27 τῶν τεσσάρων ἀνέμων

Jeremiah 49:36 τῶν τεσσάρων ἄκρων the scattering of Elam

Ezekiel 37:9 τῶν τεσσάρων πνευμάτων the first regathering of Israel

Daniel 7:2 οἱ τέσσαρες ἄνεμοι vision of the four beasts

Daniel 8:8 τοὺς τέσσαρας ἀνέμους breaking of the great horn

Daniel 11:4 τοὺς τέσσαρας ἀνέμους breaking of the kingdom

Zechariah 2:6 τῶν τεσσάρων ἀνέμων

Revelation 7:1 τοὺς τέσσαρας ἀνέμους sealing of God's servants

Zechariah 2:6-7 - “Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD. Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon.”

Zechariah prophesied to the exiles in Judah.

These words were written to those who had *not yet returned to the land!*

They are about *the second exodus of Israel!*

There are five passages in the Old Testament that mention “one end of heaven.”

FROM ONE END OF HEAVEN

Deuteronomy 4:32

Deuteronomy 30:4

Nehemiah 1:9

Psalms 19:6

Jeremiah 49:36

Only *two* are about assembling
a group of people.



Consider their subject:

Deuteronomy 30:1-4 → “Among all the nations”
“the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity”
“driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven”

Nehemiah 1:8-9 → a reference back to Deuteronomy 30!
“the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses”
“cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven”

They are about *the regathering of Israel!*

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

Daniel 11:40-41

Daniel 11:42-43

Daniel 11:44-45

THE OVERALL PICTURE

THE KING OF THE NORTH

ISRAEL

• JERUSALEM

DEAD SEA

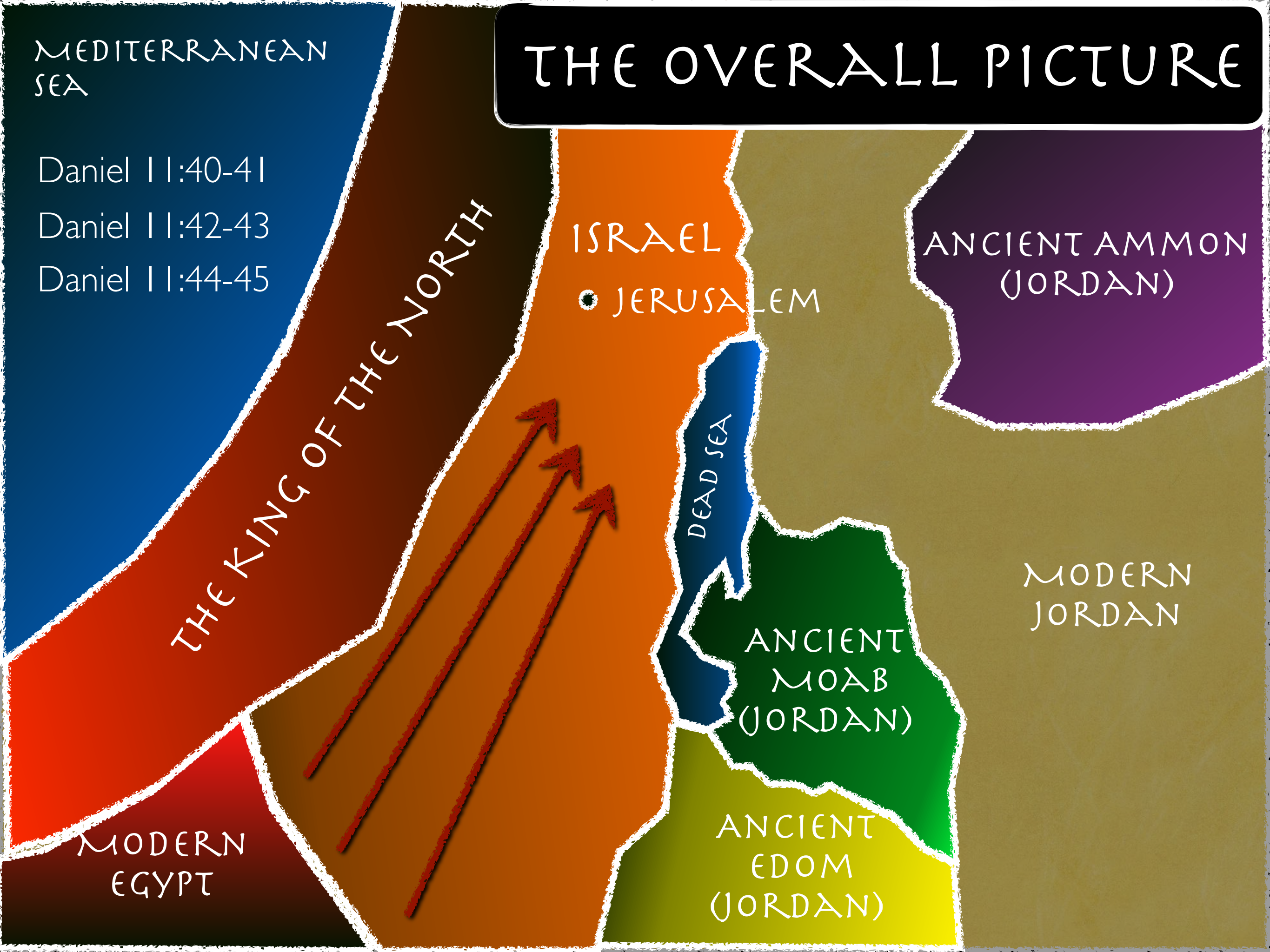
ANCIENT AMMON
(JORDAN)

MODERN
JORDAN

ANCIENT
MOAB
(JORDAN)

ANCIENT
EDOM
(JORDAN)

MODERN
EGYPT



Zechariah 14:2 - “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”

Zechariah 12:9-10 - “And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him...”

= Matthew 24:30



THE OVERALL PICTURE

Zechariah 13:1-2 - “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”

They will be sent as God’s “angels” to bring back those who are willing to come...
...styled the “elect” in the Olivet prophecy.

Ezekiel 39:25-26 - “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; after that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.”

= Matthew 24:31

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

AMMON

JERUSALEM

DEAD SEA

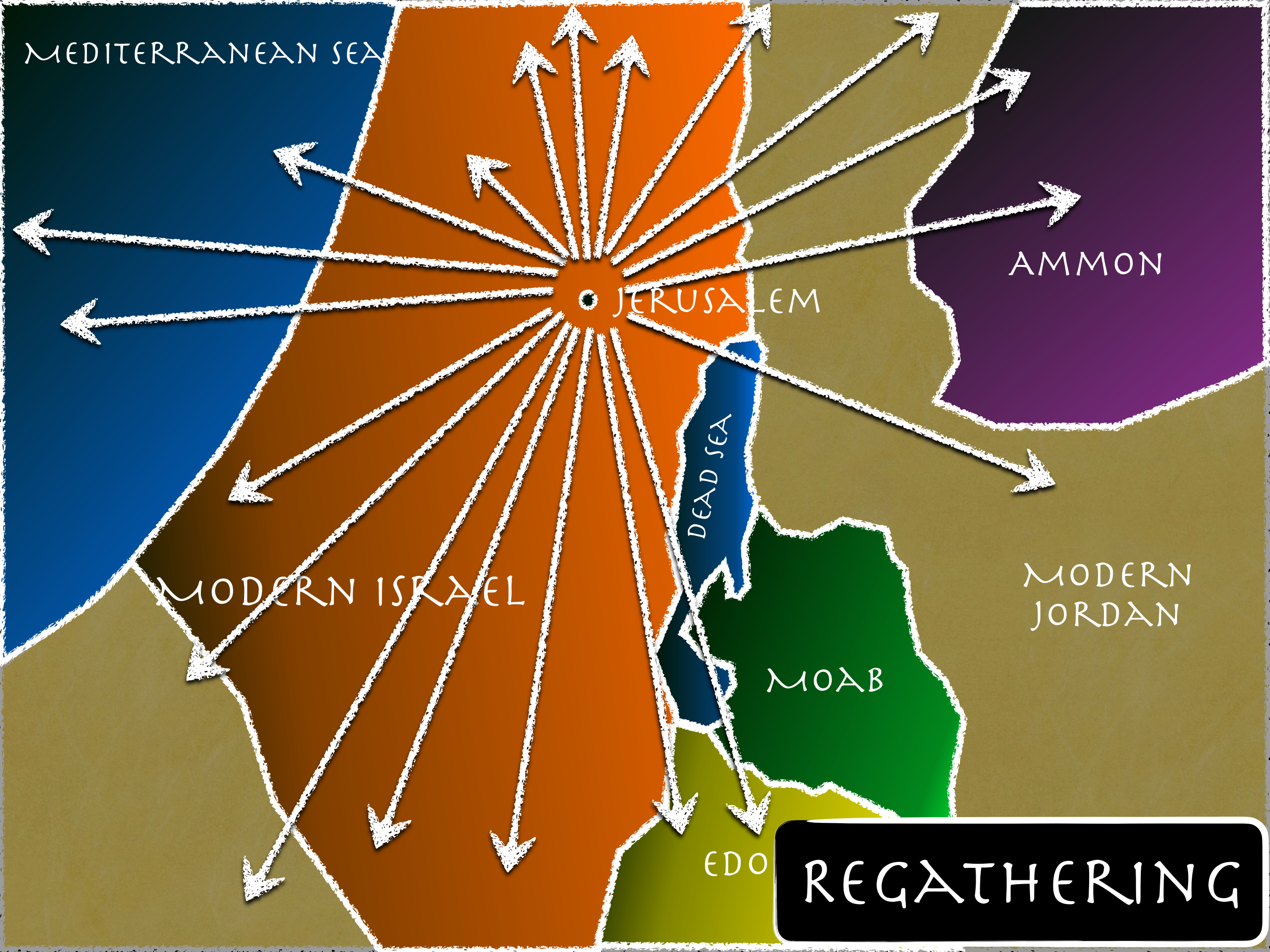
MODERN ISRAEL

MODERN JORDAN

MOAB

EDO

REGATHERING



Isaiah 35:1-2- “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.”



THE REGATHERING OF ISRAEL

Isaiah 35:10 - “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

Do you see what the Lord has done?

The prophecy finished upon a glorious note of mercy and faithfulness!

Because God gives hope! Romans 8:28