

THE LAND OF UNWALLED VILLAGES

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INTRODUCTION.

The basis of the popular and long-held theories about “The land of unwallled villages” is found in Ezekiel chapter 38, where we find in verse 11, “*And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates*”. The “*land of unwallled villages*” has long been held to be such as the USA or Canada. The idea comes from the history of the Promised Land having had walled villages, and thus it is considered that the phrase, “unwallled villages” could not refer to the Promised Land. This paper will show that it can and does!

The timing factor has been given traditionally (but wrongly) as being in this present age, with Russia supposed to be the villain nation that comes as a cloud over the North Pole to attack the USA. We will see that this cannot be valid. We need to have a good look at this because the theory is largely based upon the singular verse where “unwallled villages” occurs. That theory must be held to be unreliable and uncertain without more Bible witnesses. (Armageddon just might be another subject).

JERUSALEM TO BECOME, “INHABITED AS TOWNS WITHOUT WALLS”.

Yes, there is another passage about this matter of “unwallled villages” in Zechariah chapter two. “Jerusalem” is named as the place that will become inhabited as “towns without walls”. This comes after the Holy Land has become, “This is not the USA, because the chapter contains references to “the holy land”, as well as four references to Jerusalem. It makes little difference whether we consider “Jerusalem” to be a city or the symbol of national identity in the Land.

The descriptive phrases in Ezekiel 38 that are used by tradition to suggest that they indicate the USA, more perfectly fit the Holy Land in the time to come when Jerusalem comes to be inhabited “as towns without walls”. These phrases in the KJV are, “*the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them*”. We can read much about the Promised Land of Israel having been made waste previously, and of how God would come to heal Israel’s land after a long period. The attack against those dwelling in the unwallled villages is specified as being against, “*The mountains of Israel*”. There are 15 occurrences in the Book of Ezekiel of this phrase to give identity and location.

Prior to Ezekiel presenting his prophecy, we read in the 34th chapter:

*Ezekiel 34:12-15 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the **mountains of Israel** by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high **mountains of Israel** shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the **mountains of Israel**. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.*

Israel is here shown as being taken out from where they had been scattered back to the “mountains of Israel”. (Youngs Literal Translation reads, “*A people gathered out of many peoples*”. “Out of” does not mean “of”!). They do not stay where they had migrated. Both Ezekiel and Zechariah speak about Israel being gathered to the “mountains of Israel”, where they will come to lie down in safety without the need of gates (H1817), bars (H1280) and walls (H2346).

*Zech. 8:7-8 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of **Jerusalem**: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.*

AN EXAMINATION OF ZECHARIAH CHAPTER TWO.

Let us look at the second passage about Jerusalem becoming inhabited “*as towns without walls*”, as it is found in Zechariah. The meaning of “*towns without walls*” is the same as “*unwalled villages*”; both are Strongs H6519. We will read the whole chapter, noting that the subject city is “*Jerusalem*”, and that this is to become, “*inhabited as towns without walls*”. Thus “*Jerusalem*” can only be the New Jerusalem, and is to become the land of unwalled villages, and this certainly is not the USA or Canada! We will see that the locale the Old and the New Jerusalem is the same. From this we can see that the traditional idea that where these villages are could not be in the Promised Land, is false.

Zech 2:1 I lifted up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand.

*2 Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure **Jerusalem**, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.*

3 And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him,

*4 And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, **Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls** for the multitude of men and cattle therein:*

5 For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

6 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.

7 Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon.

8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

9 For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me.

10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

11 And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

*12 And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose **Jerusalem** again.*

13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

Now if I may, I will make some comments on these verses.

(a) The subject city is “*Jerusalem*”. [Verses 1, 2 and 12].

(b) “*the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her*” could not presently be the USA. [Verse 5]. This means it is Jerusalem that becomes as a place with unwalled villages, because it is protected with a wall of fire at this time.

(c) The command to flee from the land of the North is sequenced to be AFTER “*I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven*”. [Verse 6]. That is, it comes at the end of the diaspora when Israel is “gathered”.

(d) At the time of this imperative command, Zion is dwelling with “*the daughter of Babylon*”. [Verse 7].

(e) Then God takes action against those who previously had spoiled His people. [Verses 9-10].

(f) From the many nations amongst whom Israel was scattered Israelites will gather and become joined together as a congregation of kinsmen (*‘am*), and the Lord dwells amongst His people. [Verse 11].

The passage, “*And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose **Jerusalem** again*”, voids any reference to the USA, because the tense is Perfect and the word “again” was added by translators. [Verse 12].

The 16th verse of the first chapter of Zechariah reads, “*Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned **to Jerusalem** with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth **upon Jerusalem**. Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose **Jerusalem***”.

It is impossible to transfer “*the holy land*” and “*Jerusalem*” to the USA.

(g) This final verse, “*Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation*”, gives us the timing factors. [Verse 17].

THE SEQUENCE! "JERUSALEM" IS EMPTIED, DESOLATED AND THEN REPOPULATED.

We can see that there is a pattern about "Jerusalem" being made empty and desolate, and then being restored in a new form. Here we will see again that God has not "finished with the Holy Land".

Jer 4:7 The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

Jer. 33:12," Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down".

Jer. 50:19-20 And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead. In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Parallel versions do not present us with any significant variations. The Promised Land becomes emptied of people and animals. One prophet says there are not even any fish! This sounds like a nuclear aftermath on the Old Jerusalem! The phrase, "this place" is stated to be where the Old Jerusalem was sited. "Jerusalem" is a symbol of the whole land and the whole nation, Jerusalem being its capital city, as we are told in the 14th Verse, "*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah*".

But why was the land emptied?

Isaiah 65:10-12 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me. But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number.

Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.

What happens later?

17-23 FOR, BEHOLD, I CREATE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH: AND THE FORMER SHALL NOT BE REMEMBERED, NOR COME INTO MIND. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

Here is another passage about the valley of Achor, and about the change within Israel.

Hosea 2:13-15 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her

lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD. Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

God has finished with the Old Stone city indeed, **but not the site**. The Old City does not continue, Heb 13:14, "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come". Not the Old City indeed, but where is the one to come?" Can anyone find a change in the site? The site is the one that was first desolated!

The matter of the Promised Land being emptied is mentioned by the Prophets several times. The reason is the broken Covenant.

Isaiah 24:3-6 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

The next chapter goes on to tell us of the restoration of the Promised Land! This is after this Land is emptied!

Isaiah 24:10-12 The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in. There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

Isaiah 60: 5 Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.

Yes, there is much mention of "Jerusalem" being desolated of men and animals. But that is not the end! The following pattern always follows:

Zech 7:14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate. Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

No, God has not finished with the "mountain of the Lord of Hosts"!

EZEKIEL'S VIEW.

Ezekiel presents us with the same picture of the desolation of what is symbolized by the Old City, of Israel being scattered, then re-gathered to their "own land" upon the "mountains of Israel". With the multiplicity of occurrences of the phrase, "their own land" we cannot misinterpret that this means where the subject originated. It is not a new land. Because the timing of restoration is always Second Advent, any suggestion of a present gathering to any "terminus" of migration is wrong because the timing is wrong.

Ezek 34:6-8 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field,

because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

*Ezek 34:11-14 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them **to their own land**, and feed them **upon the mountains of Israel** by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and **upon the high mountains of Israel** shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed **upon the mountains of Israel**.*

The time is Second Advent.

*Ezek 34:23-27 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it. And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. And I will make them and the places round about **my hill** a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe **in their land**, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.*

Ezekiel gives us another summary of the sequence.

Ezek 39:27 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

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.

*27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but **I have gathered them unto their own land**, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.*

ANOTHER PICTURE BY EZEKIEL.

This time we can look ahead to the 36th chapter; again, it is the same pattern, but there is more identification as to where "Jerusalem" is. In the first verse, Ezekiel is told to prophesy, "*unto the mountains of Israel*". In the 6th verse he is to prophesy, "*concerning the land of Israel*". Then in the 4th verse it is to, "*the desolate wastes and to the cities that are forsaken*". A further point of identification is that the "Land" was presently occupied by Idumea, or the descendants of Esau, a picture of the State of Israel.

Regarding Israel, the desolated wastes are to be builded, as we read:

*Ezek 36:7 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame. But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I *am* for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown: And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, *even* all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded:*

Then he tells us how Israelites profaned God's holy name "whither ye went' whilst their original Promised Land was desolated. Then God says:

Ezek 36:24-28 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Now, dwell on the place where this is, as shown in the following verse:

Ezek 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be people, and I will be your God.

Once again the pattern is followed about material blessings in the land that had been desolated.

Ezek 36:34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it.

Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

This picture does not change from that given in the early chapters of Ezekiel:

*Ezek 11:17-20 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, **and I will give you the land of Israel.** And they shall come **thither**, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

Where they come back to from their diaspora is to "The Land of Israel!"

DO WE HAVE ANY TIME FRAME INDICATED?

The passages from Zechariah and the traditional interpretation of Ezekiel 38 cannot ever be force-fitted together. Let us have another look and see that both are about the same thing and are at the same Second Advent time.

Ezekiel chapter 38 starts with God saying he was against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. It tells about the attack against, "the land of unwallied villages" at a time when Israelites, who have been gathered from among many nations to Jerusalem, are at rest and at peace.

Ezekiel 38:14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

Note here that the time is given as being after Israelites have been gathered from among the many nations where they had been scattered in punishment. This is nothing like a "terminus" situation of a one way trip (migration). Israelites do not presently dwell safely in the USA, and the USA is faced with ongoing war on the terrorist front. So we can again eliminate the USA.

The place of Gog's attack is described as being, "against my people Israel" who are in "My land". The 18th verse says Gog comes, against, "the land of Israel". This is not the USA! It is not Canada! It is not anywhere else than, "The Land of Israel", and against "My people Israel."

So when does Gog make the attack against the "land of unwallied villages"?

Ezekiel 38:16-17 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may

know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?

Now we can see how Ezekiel and Zechariah agree. They are the prophets of Israel who spake “in old time” about what would happen many days later.

The New Testament gives confirmation of the timing of God’s wrath against Gog and Magog
Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 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. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The time is, “When the thousand years are expired”. The popular theory cannot cope with this time frame!

The place is the same. It is, “*the camp of the saints*”. It is, “*the beloved city*”. It is in “*the holy land*”! It is the New Jerusalem!

A SUMMARY OF EZEKIEL 38-39 BY KEIL AND DELITZCH.

Gog, in the land of Magog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, will invade the restored land of Israel from the far distant northern land by the appointment of God in the last times, and with a powerful army of numerous nations (Eze 38:1-9), with the intention of plundering Israel, now dwelling in security, that the Lord may sanctify Himself upon him before all the world (Eze 38:10-16). But when Gog, of whom earlier prophets have already prophesied, shall fall upon Israel, he is to be destroyed by a wrathful judgment from the Lord, that the nations may know that God is the Lord (Eze 38:17-23). On the mountains of Israel will Gog with all his hosts and nations succumb to the judgment of God (Eze 39:1-8). The inhabitants of the cities of Israel will spend seven years in burning the weapons of the fallen foe, and seven months in burying the corpses in a valley, which will receive its name from this, so as to purify the land (Eze 38:9-16); whilst in the meantime all the birds and wild beasts will satiate themselves with the flesh and blood of the fallen (Eze 38:17-20). By this judgment will all the nations as well as Israel know that it was on account of its sins that the Lord formerly gave up Israel into the power of the heathen, but that now He will no more forsake His redeemed people, because He has poured out His Spirit upon it (Eze 38:21 - 29).