

Jordan in Bible Prophecy

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The Bible makes no reference to a national entity by the name of Jordan, because the modern nation called Jordan is a relatively recent creation. The British and French victors of the first World War divided the Middle East as the spoils of the Ottoman empire, which had sided with the Germans, creating the nations of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and others.

Biblically that land is known as Ammon, Moab and Edom, and is of great significance in Bible prophecy. The Ammonites and Moabites were the children born of incest by Lot and his daughters, after they fled Sodom and Gomorrah, see Gen 19:30-38.

Ammon is a reference to the northern third of the modern state of Jordan, bordered on the west by the Jordan River. It is currently antagonistic to Israel, but in a “cold peace.” King Abdullah, of the Hashemite family rules Jordan.

In the end time, the Bible speaks of the people of “Ammon” living in the Middle East, see Daniel 11:41, and to the east of the land of Israel, see Isaiah 11:14. The city of Amman is the capital of Jordan. Its ancient name is “Rabbah.” But as a nation it is *not* called “Ammon” any longer.

What is the history of the Ammonites? How did they lose their name “Ammon?”

Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon

The king of Babylon on his way to conquer Jerusalem conquered “Rabbah” of Ammon as well.

Ezekiel writes, “The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying, “Also, thou son of man, appoint thee two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come: both twain shall come forth out of one land: and choose thou a place, choose *it* at the head of the way to the city.

“Appoint a way, *that the sword may come to Rabbath of the Ammonites, and to Judah in Jerusalem the defenced.*” (Ezekiel 21:18-20).

Once the King of Babylon conquered Jerusalem, the Ammonites thought that they were safe, but this was not the case. According to Josephus (Antiquities x, 181. f.) Nebuchadnezzar conquered Ammon 5 years after he destroyed Jerusalem. Ammon however was *not* destroyed by the king of Babylon.

In Ezekiel 25 it says, “The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

“Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them;

“And say unto the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD;

Because thou saidst, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity;

“*Behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces [Revised Version, encampments, or tent-villages] in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk.*

“*And I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a couching place for flocks:*

and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.” (Ezekiel 25:1-5). God says that the enemies of the east (Babylon) will occupy the land “make their dwellings in thee.” “Ammonites a couching place for

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flocks.” The Ammonites would become keepers of flocks and herds and Rabbah would also be a place for camels for the Babylonians. But, did they “know” God afterwards as the prophecy says? No! This prophecy was only a type of what will happen to them in the end time.

According to the Biblical Archaeology Review: “So what did happen to the Ammonites? The *Babylonians did not destroy them* when they wiped out Judah. Instead, *Ammonite culture continued unscathed*, and the Ammonites prospered right through the sixth century B.C.E... Although the Persians no doubt exercised suzerainty over the area, *the basic Ammonite culture, including language and pottery techniques, continued just as it had been when Ammon was independent.*” (Herr, I.G. (1983, December). “*The Amman Airport Structure And The Geopolitics Of Ancient Transjordan*”. *Biblical Archaeology Review*, 35, *emphasis added*).

The people remained their land, after the fall of Babylon under the rule of the Medes and Persians. Nehemiah shows the Ammonites in the land. “Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite” (v.19) was in Jerusalem opposing the building of the city. “Nevertheless the Ammonites continued to *exist as a nation* for a long time *after the captivity*, so that Judas the Maccabean waged war against them (1 Macc. 5:6, 30-43);” (K& D Commentary, *emphasis added*).

Now the Ammonites were glad that the House of Judah went into captivity, and that the temple of God was destroyed by the Babylonians. “For thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast clapped *thine* hands, and stamped with the feet, and rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel;” (v.6). Because of this, God pronounced his judgment on the people of Ammon, “Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; *and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee*; and thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD.” (Ezekiel 25:7). As the historical records show, this did *not* happen; obviously this is for a future time.

Now God says that Ammon would lose their national name *after* the Babylonian invasion (the men of the east), “Unto the men of the east with the Ammonites, and will give them in possession, *that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations.*” (25:10). But again this did not happen immediately after the Babylonian invasion. Slowly, little by little the name Ammon diminished from the nation till it eventually fizzled away, but the people of Ammon were still dwelling in the land. The source says, “Historically, the words received a *partial fulfillment* in Nebuchadnezzar’s conquests five years after the destruction of Jerusalem, but the *Ammonites were still an important people in the time of the Maccabees* (1 Macc. 5:6, 30-45) and Justin Martyr.” (Pulpit Commentary, *emphasis added*). The People still dwelt in the land after the Babylonian invasion, and the end time prophecies reveal that the Moabites and the Ammonites are still there, dwelling in the Middle East (Daniel 11:41; Isaiah 11:14).

God gave prophecies to Jeremiah about the coming Judgments of these nations. He said he would punish these nations for their sins and the list included Ammon in this *end time*, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all *them which are* circumcised with the uncircumcised;

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“Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the *children of Ammon*, and Moab, and all *that are* in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all *these nations are* uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel *are* uncircumcised in the heart.” (Jer 9:25-26).

Another end time prophecy says, “For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

“And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among [Heb. “within”] them.

“Then took I the cup at the LORD’S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:

“Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon” (Jer 25:15-17, 21). In this end time *Ammon does exist but under a different name*, Jordan; and this reveals that Jordan will have Civil strife!

The City of Rabbah

This city was, “A very strong place on the east of Jordan, which, when its name is first introduced in the sacred records, was the chief city of the Ammonites. In five passages (Deut 3:11; 2Sam 12:26; 2Sam 17:27; Jer 49:2; Ezra 21:20) it is styled at length *רַבַּת בְּנֵי אַמּוֹן*, *Rabbath-bene-Ammon*, A. V. ‘Rabbath of the Ammonites,’ or ‘of the children of Ammon;’ but elsewhere (Josh 13:25; 2Sam 11:1; 2Sam 12:27; 2Sam 12:29; 1Chron 20:1; Jer 49:3; Ezra 25:5; Amos 1:14) simply ‘Rabbah.’” (Strong & McClintock Cyclopaedia article “Rabbah”).



“Under the Ptolemies it was rebuilt under the name Philadelphia; the ruins are called **Amman now**, but there is no dwelling inhabited.” (JFB Commentary, emphasis added).

Justin Martyr, a native of Shechem, writing about A.D. 140, *speaks of Rabbah as containing a multitude of Ammonites* (*Dict. with Trypho*). It is affirmed by Martyr that they were still a numerous people, concentrated in the south of Palestine and East of the Dead Sea (see Douglas, J New Bible Dictionary, page 30).

The Holman Bible Dictionary says, “Archaeologists have excavated only a small portion of the site of ancient *Rabbah* (the so-called ‘Citadel’ in the heart of the modern city of Amman). The surrounding area remains largely unexplored” (article “Ammonites” emphasis added). The

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ancient name has been preserved among the *natives* of the country. Abulfeda calls it Amman (Tab. Syr. p. 19), and by that name it is still known.

In 1161 the Citadel was occupied by the Crusaders and five years later it returned to the Templars. From 1921 onwards, it has been the capital of Jordan - an independent state since 25th May 1946. The prophecies speak of “Rabbah” of the Ammonites which we understand today as the modern capital of Jordan.

Jewish Exodus to the Promised Land

The situation in the Middle East with Israel-Judah and Jordan is revealed in scripture in the book of Zephaniah chapter 2. Clearly an end time prophecy, verse one speaks of the “day of the Lord.” Here Judah inhabits the seas coast and set up farming and agriculture, and much has been written documenting that the Israelis have “made the desert bloom” with their innovative, high-tech agricultural efforts.

“And the sea coast shall be dwellings *and* cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks. “And the coast shall be for *the remnant of the house of Judah*; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their *captivity*” (vv.6-7). In 1948, the Jewish nation called Israel was born in the “seacoast” region of old Palestine, fulfilling this prophecy. Indeed, the 1988 Edition of the Encyclopedia Americana notes this about Israel’s population: “About 70% of it is concentrated in the Mediterranean coastal strip...]” (Vol. 15, p. 524). This is exactly what Zephaniah 2 prophesied would occur to Judah in the latter days.

Because the Jews had been a stateless people scattered among the nations for centuries (even millennia), the prophecy’s language that their captivity would be “turned away” (i.e. “ended”) is very descriptive of the fate of the Jews, a people who had not had their own nation for a very long time.

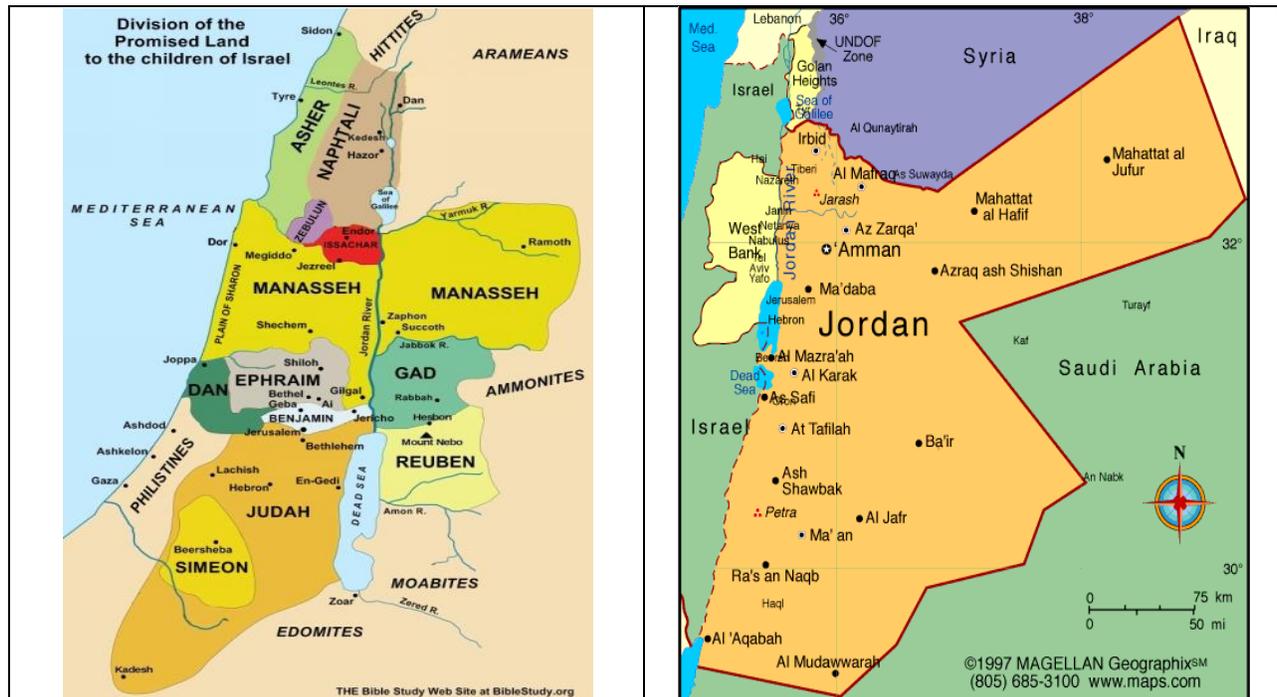
Then in verse 8 it speaks of Ammon and Moab, “I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified *themselves* against their border.” (v.8). Barnes Notes says, “Both words, ‘reproached, reviled,’ mean, primarily, cutting speeches; both are intensive, and are used of blaspheming God as unable to help His people, or reviling His people as forsaken by Him.” The Imams and the Mullah’s in Syria and Jordan continually say that the Jews descend from apes and pigs, and that they are not the people of the Lord. The reproach of Ammon, from the time of Nebuchadnezzar continues unto our day today.

Also, in the Six-day War in 1967, “Jordan...began shelling Jewish civilian population centers in and around Israel’s major cities...Jordanian planes [with] Syrian and Iraq MIGS...” (The Case for Israel, Alan Dershowitz, p.93). Still even today, the Jordanians and Syrians continually after Friday prayers still go to the border and blaspheme and throw and launch projectiles at the Israelis “magnifying” themselves against their borders. This is why God has pronounced prophecies against these nations that are going to come to pass in the next few years.

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Jeremiah writes of the future of Jordan, “Concerning the Ammonites, thus saith the LORD; Hath Israel no sons? hath he no heir? why *then* doth their king inherit Gad, and his people dwell in his cities?” (49:1). Today, Jordan occupies the former territories of the tribe of Gad, Reuben and East Manasseh. “...the Ammonites in seizing Gilead have acted as if the country had no rightful owner.” (Barnes Notes).



The Maps above clearly show that modern day Jordan occupies the land of Gad Reuben and East Manasseh. The Lands allotted to them by God.

Verse 2 says, “Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I *will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah* of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: *then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD.*” (v.2). the latter end of this verse clearly reveals that it is *an end time prophecy*.

Israel will not only inherit the land originally given to them, but also the land inhabited by the Ammonites. This certainly did not occur in the days of Nebuchadnezzar for Judah was then taken into captivity—and Israel, the northern 10 tribes, remained scattered, and never returned to Palestine. Isaiah 11, a prophecy of Jesus’ second coming speaks of Israel coming back (v.11), and shall “spoil them of the east together” getting back the lands that belong to them, including “Ammon.” (v.14).

Now in the beginning of that verse God says that an “alarm of war to be heard *in Rabbah*,” this is the modern day capital of Jordan, Amman. The alarm is sounded in Jordan; war is going to threaten that country. The Pulpit Commentary says, “The alarm of war (‘alarm’ equivalent to

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‘shout’), as in Jer 4:19.” The Jordanians will call or shout for war to defeat their enemies. Who are their enemies? These are men from the “east.”

God says, “it [Amman] shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire:” (V.1) Her “daughters” meaning the other villages and cities in Jordan. So trying to defeat these enemies will result in Jordan losing this war and its cities being desolate.

Now who attacks Jordan? God says, “Behold, I will bring a fear [Heb. *Pachad* (Strong’s #6343) “**TERROR**”] upon thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts, *from all those that be about thee...*” (Jer 49:5). The Apostolic Bible Polyglot translates “*all those that be about thee*” literally as “**from all of your adjacent places**” Who are the nations adjacent to Jordan? Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. These are the men of the “east” as prophesied by Ezekiel.

ISIS originated in these areas and was “...prominent in the Iraqi insurgency in the 2000s, it is also well-armed and financed.” (What is ISIS and where did it come from?). These were east of Moab/Syria and then joined the Syrian civil war. These then “opened” up the east side of Moab/Syria, and took over much of Iraq. So now the borders between Syria and Iraq are open and controlled by them as God said it would.

These “brutish” men in the east have their sights on Jordan as well.

“Terror chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has made peaceful Jordan *his next target*, it was feared last night.

“And the refugees who have fled there could be first in the line of fire.

“The self-declared ruler of the new caliphate spanning Iraq and Syria *has already seized key border points*.

“Now his fighters – wearing suicide belts and armed to the teeth – are said to be poised to launch an invasion.

“Jordanian political analyst Oraib al-Rantawi said the ISIS menace to the stable kingdom was *real and imminent*.

“He added: *‘We cannot afford the luxury of just waiting and monitoring. The danger is strategic – and getting closer.’*” (The Mirror July 6, 2014, emphasis added).

Ezekiel 21 “Brutish Men”

Ezekiel 21 is a dual prophecy. Nebuchadnezzar was only a type of the true fulfillment that would happen in the latter days. God says, “And thou, son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning the Ammonites, *and concerning their reproach*; even say thou, The sword, the sword *is* drawn: for the slaughter *it is* furbished, to consume because of the glittering:” (v.28). This is this continued “reproach” that is revealed in Zephaniah 2:8, proven to be an end time prophecy.

God says the “sword is drawn” its time for war in Jordan. Jordan will proclaim war on their enemies, and their enemies will attack them.

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“Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of *them that are* slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity *shall have* an end.” (v.29). The Pulpit Commentary says about “they” these are “...to those whom the Ammonites themselves *consulted*. The pronoun ‘thee’ in both clauses refers to Ammon. The result of those who divined falsely was *that the sword would be drawn against the necks of the Ammonites and threw them upon the heap of the slaughtered ones*. For them, as in the words that end the verse, reproducing those of Eze 21:25, *punishment is decreed, and that punishment will come.*” (*emphasis added*). The Jordanian government will say that they are safe from the men of the east, and that war will *not come to them*, but “their iniquity *shall have* an end” “when it shall have attained its consummation, and shall be ripe for judgment” (JFB Commentary). Some commentaries have “its final doom,” the end of Jordan as a nation. This did not happen in the days of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar consulted his diviners about who to invade first Ammon of Jerusalem.

“Shall I cause *it* to return into his sheath? ***I will judge thee in the place where thou wast created, in the land of thy nativity.***

“And I will pour out mine indignation upon thee, I will blow against thee in the fire of my wrath, ***and deliver thee into the hand of brutish men, and skilful to destroy.***

“Thou shalt be for fuel to the fire; thy blood shall be in the midst of the land; thou shalt be no *more* remembered: for I the LORD have spoken *it*.” (vv.30-32). this did not happen in the Days of the king of Babylon. Obviously what happened with the Chaldeans was only a *type of what will happen in this end time*. They will be judged in the land of their “nativity.” The land of Jordan is where the Ammonites have always dwelt, and it is there, where they shall come to their end.

God says he will deliver them into the hands of “brutish men, and skilful to destroy.” These men from the east have proven to all how brutal they really are. Even Al-Qaida says they are even to brutal for them.

“Thou shalt be for fuel to the fire; thy blood shall be in the midst of the land; thou shalt be no *more* remembered: for I the LORD have spoken *it*.” (v.32). “Ammon as the enemy of the kingdom of God will utterly perish, leaving no trace behind, and without any such hope of restoration...” (K&D Commentary). This has not happened yet; the nation still exists, as the nation of Jordan, and is still comprised of the Ammonites.

The “Men of the East.”

Ezekiel 25 again says, “Therefore, behold, *I will open the side of Moab* from the cities, from his cities *which are* on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Bethjeshimoth, Baalmeon, and Kiriathaim,

“Unto *the men of the east with the Ammonites*, and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites may not be *remembered among the nations*.

“And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.” (Ezekiel 25:9-11). The sides of Moab are opened *up in the east*, because it’s the “men of the east” that enter into it; “*with*” Ammon, meaning the men of the east will attack Moab and Ammon as well. “Maurer, as the English version, ‘with the Ammonites’ – i.e., Moab, ‘*together* with the land of

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Ammon,' is to be thrown open to 'the men of the East,' to enter and take possession" (JFB Commentary, emphasis added).

To the east of Jordan and Syria (Moab) is Northern Iraq, which is old Media, which we have been warning would come the troubles of the West in Daniel 11:44. These are the enemies of Jordan. Jordan will declare war against them, and these men of the east will come against them, and defeat Jordan, *a key USA ally*, and this will really trouble the West. Will the fall of Jordan cause the USA to set up military Bases in Israel, as Daniel 11:45 prophesied?



Now God says that these disasters would also come from "among them" (Jer 25:15-16). The word "among" is "bane" it means "within" (Strong's #996). Terrorist cells *within* Jordan are operating and recruiting, siding with the "men of the east," causing problems in Jordan as well as Syria, Iraq and other places.

Jeremiah 49 Continued...

Jordan is going to rely on its own strength to fight the men of the east. God says, "Wherefore *gloriest* thou in the valleys, thy flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? that trusted in her treasures, *saying*, Who shall come unto me?" (Jer 49:4). The word "valleys," in verse 4 may be translated: "Why do you boast in your strength? Your strength is ebbing" (NRSV; see explanation in *The New Bible Commentary*, note on verse 4). And their vaunted "treasures" may simply be their "resources for resisting the foe" (JFB, note on verse 4). Certainly their trust is misplaced. Jordan is a poor country with limited military capabilities. Their strength is ebbing, diminishing. They have a poor economy, and aging military, and wars cost money, yet because of pride they feel they can defend themselves.

Verse 3 says "Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled: cry, ye daughters of Rabbah, gird you with sackcloth; lament, and run to and fro by the hedges; *for their king shall go into captivity, and his priests and his princes together.*" (v.3). "Ai is not the Israelite city of the same name." "Since the

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word Ai means ‘ruin’ in Hebrew, the reference may be to Rabbah” (*The HarperCollins Study Bible*, 1993, note on verse 3). To “run to and fro by the hedges” means “...rather it signifies the hedges in the fields, whither, being drove from their habitations, they would seek unto for shelter, and run about among them for safety, lamenting their unhappy case:” (Gill’s Commentary). The king of Jordan and its ruling class will go into captivity. The city of Amman will be spoiled and looted.

Now in the latter end of verse 5 it says “every man right forth”- “The Ammonites will live in *terror of the tribes which rove in the neighborhood*” (Barnes Notes).

“...driven out of their houses, and cities, and villages, and steer their course right forward,” (Gill’s Commentary). What we see in Iraq today is what is going to happen to Jordan as well. People living in terror being driven from their homes and total chaos will break out in that nation, and will not be remembered anymore. It will perish. What we are witnessing are the final days of the Jordanian nation.

As God says in Zephaniah, “Therefore *as* I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, *even* the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a *perpetual desolation*:” (2:9). The old nation of Jordan will be destroyed permanently, and God will build a new and different nation of the Ammonites.

The Latter days

“And afterward I will bring again the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the LORD.” Although the “latter days” is not mentioned it’s implied, because this same statement is made of Moab, Elam, in the “latter days.” (see Jer 48:47). God after Ammon come under the dominion of Israel and they learn God’s ways and laws, then God will return them to their land, and the shall rebuild Ammon and be a righteous nation under Jesus Christ.

At the second coming of Jesus, the Bible says, “But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (Isaiah 11:14; Zeph 2:9).

Israel “flies upon the shoulders of the Philistines” this means, “This expresses an attack made unexpectedly on one *from behind*. The image is the more apt, as the *Hebrew* for ‘shoulders’ in Num 34:11 is used also of a *maritime coast* (‘side of the sea’: *Hebrew*, ‘shoulder of the sea,’ *Margin*). They shall make a sudden victorious *descent upon their [the Philistines] borders southwest of Judea*” (*JFB Commentary*). *The Philistines are the Palestinians in the Gaza strip today!* Here it pictures, “Israel plunges down like an eagle from the height of its mountain-land” (K& D Commentary). The Israelites on their way back to the Promised Land will descend by air into Gaza, and then after landing go to Jerusalem to meet the King Jesus Christ.

Then it says, “they shall spoil them of the east together” in contrast to the West obviously *means East in the Promised land*. The West Bank where many Palestinians that descend from Edom live today.

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Then, “they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (11:14). These two phrases, “they shall spoil them of the east together:” are tied together meaning those of the east of Palestine together with the people of Moab and Ammon, and Edom—many Edomite [Palestinians] live in Jordan today.

The word “together” is “yachad” (Strong’s #3162) meaning “... properly a unit, that is, (adverbially) unitedly: - alike, at all (once), both, likewise, only, (al-) together, withal.” So with the people in East Palestine united together with the peoples of the East. So these three groups of peoples are in the “east” in this prophecy, east of the Promised Land, where Syria, Jordan, and Edom (many of the Palestinians live in Jordan) are! Israel will take over or *spoil* their lands, and the remnants of these people will be under Israel's rule.

This means that Israel, “...they shall stretch out their hand, and lay hold on these people, and bring them into subjection to them;” (Gills Commentary). Then these people will learn the ways of God by Israel themselves. When the Israelites come back to the Promised Land, God restores them physically and spiritually as well, (see Jeremiah 30:17-24). So with their spiritual house in order they can teach the *other* nations about God.

After this God sends the Israelites out as missionaries to the far off nations to preach the Gospel, “and I will send those that escape of them [Israel Isaiah 11] unto the nations, *to* Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, *to* Tubal, and Javan, *to* the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.” (Isaiah 66:19). If they teach the far off nations, then obviously they teach the nations that are subject to them as well.

With the knowledge of God as God says, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9). The nations will build a world of peace happiness and prosperity for all their people. A day when, “and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war any more.*” (Isaiah 2:4). No more war but peace taught to them by the Prince of Peace Jesus Christ.