

For Seven Years They Will Use Them for Fuel, They Will Plunder Those Who Plundered Them

Ezekiel 39: 9-10

DIG: What will Isra'el do with Gog's weapons? Do you think that the Jews would be burning weapons during the second half of the Great Tribulation when they are fleeing for their lives? During the messianic Kingdom? During the Eternal State? Why not?

Then those who live in the towns of Isra'el will go out and use the weapons of the invaders for fuel and burn them up - the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. In view of the fact that Ezekiel did not have Hebrew words for modern military equipment, he had to use the only words he understood. These weapons will be left behind as God destroys them. The seven years of burning is new information, not mentioned in Chapter 38. For seven years they will use them for fuel. The number seven expresses completeness, but it also points to the fact the numbers of the invading forces will be immeasurable.¹³⁷

Because of the burning of the weapons, they will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel. The quantity of the weapons will be so great, that they will supply the Israelites will all the fuel they need for seven years.¹³⁸ And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them, declares ADONAI ELOHIM. The word play is similar to that in Ezekiel 38:12. It literally reads, *they will plunder the plunderer and loot the looter.*

The LORD promises that He will be Isra'el's protection. This promise looks forward to His personal presence through the messianic Kingdom on earth. God will send Christ who will judge the nations that plundered Isra'el and will display His glory. This will be fulfilled in the judgment of the Gentiles at the Lord's Second Coming (Matthew 25:31-46). ADONAI, the God of heaven's armies, told His prophet: **Whoever touches the apple of My eye, I will surely raise My hand against them (Zechariah 2:8-9).** Earlier, in His covenant with Abraham, He had said: **I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse (Genesis 12:3a).** Thus, the tables will be turned on the enemy. The plunders will be plundered and the looters will be looted for they had dared to touch the apple of His eye.