

The Battle of Bozrah

By Rich Jacobs, MD

*Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
This One who is majestic in His apparel,
Marching in the greatness of His strength?
“It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”
Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?
“I have trodden the wine trough alone,
And from the peoples there was no man with Me.
I also trod them in My anger
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
And I stained all My raiment.
“For the day of vengeance was in My heart,
And My year of redemption has come. **Isaiah 63:1-4***

From Isaiah 63, notice the following

1. This is the Lord speaking.
2. He just came from Bozrah, in Edom
3. He just completed a mighty slaughter in Bozrah, so that His garments are drenched in blood
4. He fought this battle alone; no one from Israel helped Him (also, see *Isaiah 63:5*)
5. This battle took place in the year of redemption

The Setting Leading Up to the Battle of Bozrah

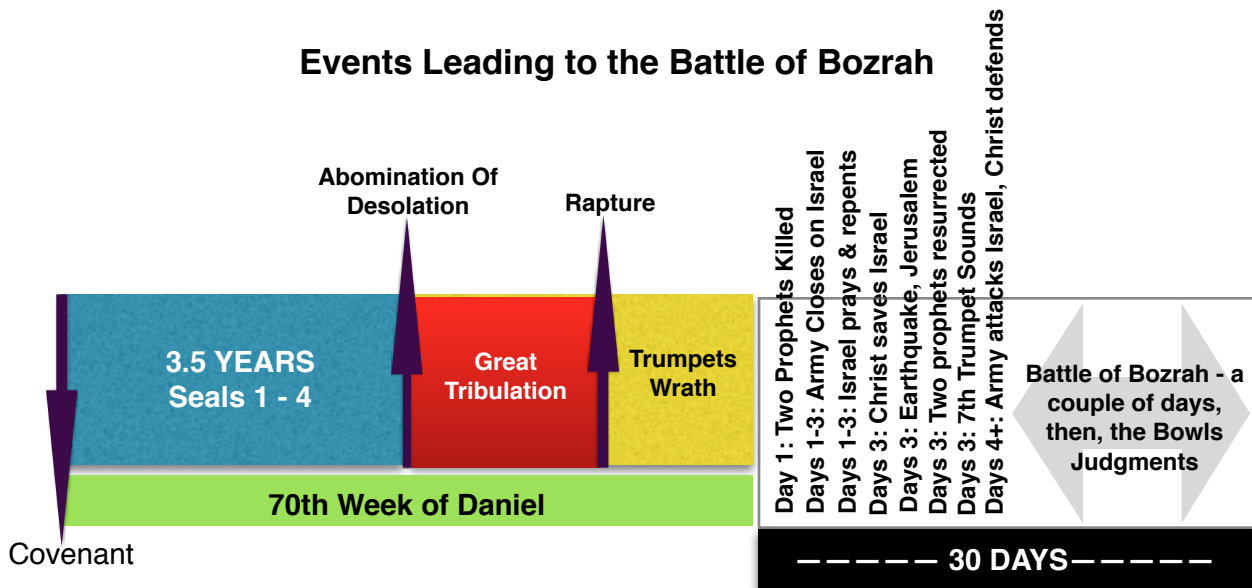
1. Antichrist broke the treaty with Israel (**Daniel 9:27**) 42 months earlier (**Revelation 11:21; 12:6; 13:5**) and took his seat in Jerusalem, in the Temple claiming to be God (**2 Thessalonians 2:1-10**) - the Abomination of Desolation (**Daniel 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14**).
2. The sealed, godly Jewish remnant (**Revelation 7:2-8**) flees Jerusalem to the Southeast, hiding in the mountain wilderness, where it is divinely protected from Antichrist during the next 42 months — 1260 days or 3.5 years (**Revelation 12:6, 14**). Two faithful Jewish prophets remain behind in Jerusalem to oppose Antichrist during these 42 months (**Revelation 11**).
3. Antichrist, enraged by the escape of the Jewish remnant, turns his wrath on the faithful church, beginning the Great Tribulation. (**Revelation 12:17; Matthew 24:21, 22**). This persecution of the faithful church would succeed in wiping the earthly Church were it not for Christ's intervention and rescue through the rapture (**Matthew 24:22, 27-31; Revelation 6:9-17; 7:9-17**).
4. The deliverance of the church from annihilation by the rapture from Christ unleashes God's wrath on the wicked world (**1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; Romans 5:9**), in the form of the Trumpet Judgments of **Revelation 8:1-11:15**), which, in fact, are invoked by the two faithful Jewish prophets in Jerusalem (**Revelation 11:3-6**). Meanwhile, the faithful Jewish Remnant is hiding in the desert wilderness in Edom, hunted by an Antichrist army.
5. At the end of the 70th Week of Daniel (**Daniel 9:27**), the last 7 years of this epoch, God's divine protection of Israel is lifted, the two faithful Jewish prophets in Jerusalem are killed by Antichrist; their bodies lie in the streets while the wicked world celebrates their deaths (**Revelation 11:7-10**).
6. The faithful remnant of Israel loses all earthly hope with the deaths of their divinely-protected, hoped-for deliverers - their Elijah-like prophet and their Moses-like prophet. They put on sack cloth and ashes and begin to seek God earnestly, repenting of their sins of

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unbelief and rebellion. After 3 days of prayer, fasting, and repentance, God removes His spiritual blinding from them; they recognize now that they mistakenly crucified their Messiah, and they embrace Christ as their Lord and Savior (**Zechariah 12:10-14; 13:9; Romans 11:25-29**).

7. On the third day of Israel's prayer, fasting, repentance, and confession, four (4) things happen;
 - a. Christ personally returns to Israel to embrace them face-to-face (**Hosea 5:15; 6:1-3; Leviticus 26:40-42; Jeremiah 3:11-18**),
 - b. The 2 dead faithful Jewish prophets are resurrected in Jerusalem. This is witnessed by the residents of Jerusalem, who also here a voice from Heaven that summons them (**Revelation 11:8-12**),
 - c. God brings a great earthquake on Jerusalem that destroys much of the city, killing over 7000 inhabitants (**Revelation 11:13, 14**). The resurrection of the two prophets, the divine Heavenly voice, and the great earthquake bring repentance and faith to the survivors in Jerusalem, who now give glory to God (**Revelation 11:13**).
 - d. The Seventh Trumpet sounds, announcing the Kingdom of Christ on earth (**Revelation 11:15-17**), but the nations of Antichrist's empire become enraged at this. (**Revelation 11:18**).
8. Antichrist and his army converge on Bozrah, in Edom, attempting to destroy faithful Israel, now redeemed by Christ. Christ Himself, alone, confronts this army to begin the Battle of Bozrah. This takes place beginning on about the 4th day following the 70th Week of Daniel.



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As **Isaiah 63** shows, the Battle of Bozrah involves a literal blood bath. The subjects of this slaughter, according to **Isaiah 63:7**, are "the peoples" (Hebrew: "ammiym" - אַמִּיִּים - a word often used to refer to "the nations" of the world opposed to Israel). Isaiah says this slaughter occurs on a day of redemption — the redemption of Israel (**Isaiah 63:8, 9**). "Pinned up" at Bozrah ("Bozrah" means "sheep pen in Hebrew!) by a hostile army and Israel's two prophet champions now dead in Jerusalem, induces Israel to remember God's promise to save them when they repent of their unbelief and rebellion. According to Isaiah, they will recall the days of Moses

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when God delivered them from the army of Pharaoh, another antichrist type (**Isaiah 63:11-15**). The prophet Zechariah said their repentance opens their eyes to receive Christ.

*And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. **Zechariah 12:9, 10***

Notice that Christ destroys the hostile nations that come against Jerusalem on the day that Israel repents and mourns for Christ. Also, notice that on that day, God fills Israel with the Holy Spirit; they receive grace and supplication. The prophet Ezekiel confirms the linkage between the Battle of Bozrah and Israel's repentance.

*And I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. **And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward. Ezekiel 39:21, 22***

The extent of the Battle of Bozrah is described in **Revelation**. The battlefield is huge, possibly enlarged by the retreating route of the perishing armies being destroyed by Christ. It commences in Bozrah (Petra), passes to the East of Jerusalem through the Kidron Valley up the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and ends up in Northern Israel, at Meggido.

*Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles. **Revelation 14:18-20***

Revelation 14 compares the blood letting of the Battle of Bozrah with the harvest of grapes being thrown into a great wine press of God's wrath. This is the exact imagery used by **Isaiah 63**. "The city" in **Revelation 14**, refers to Jerusalem, as confirmed in **Zechariah 12**. Notice that the NASB translation says the battle rages to "*outside the city*", but with a size of 200 miles (NASB), the battlefield must extend well beyond Jerusalem. The NSAB translations of **Revelation 14** say the Bozrah battlefield "200 miles" (NASB) long, but the Greek text specifies a distance of 6000 stadia (Greek: σταδίων χιλίων ἑξακοσίων). The Greek *station* was about 185 long. A simple calculation determines that 1600 stadia is about 296 kilometers in length, or about 183 miles. If one draws a line 183 miles long from Bozrah (Petra) to the eastern walls of Jerusalem, it will extend through the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Kidron Valley) all the way the Megiddo. The prophet Joel seems to confirm this reasoning.

*For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem. I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land. **Joel 3:1, 2***

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*Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. **Joel 3: 12, 13***



Revelation 14 details the description of the Battle of Bozrah. At its conclusion, Israel has been rescued from its hiding place in Edom, Antichrist has been evicted from Jerusalem and the citizens of the city have embraced Christ, Israel has repented of her sins, unbelief, and rebellion and has accepted Christ and been saved, Antichrist's armies have been routed by the Lord and chased all the way to plains of Megiddo, in Northern Israel. But God's work with the nations is not complete. **Revelation 15** recounts the next phase of God's wrath — the Seven Bowl Judgment — which take place during the rest of the 30 days following the 70th Week of Daniel. During this time, the armies of Antichrist are reorganizing and refitting for their final attempt to dislodge Christ from His command of Jerusalem — the Battle of Armageddon!