

Ether 13 — A New Jerusalem Upon This Land — Ether's Prophecy of the Holy City, and the War That Would Not End

Ether 13: Ether's great prophecies and the beginning of the final Jaredite war. Moroni records what Ether saw — that this is a choice land, the place of the New Jerusalem that shall come down from heaven, to be built by the remnant of the seed of Joseph; and that the old Jerusalem, after its destruction, shall be built again, a holy city to the house of Israel. Ether is esteemed as naught, cast out, and forced to hide in the cavity of a rock by day, going forth by night to watch the destruction of his people. The Lord sends him to Coriantumr with a final offer — repent, and the Lord will spare the people; refuse, and all shall be destroyed save Coriantumr alone, who shall live to see another people inherit the land and shall receive a burial by them. Coriantumr will not repent, and the war begins to consume the land. It is the chapter where the vision of the holy city to come is set against the self-destruction of the people who would not have it.

Ether 13 holds two things in stark tension: the most glorious prophecy in the book of Ether and the beginning of the most total destruction. Moroni records the great prophecies of Ether — visions of the New Jerusalem to be built upon this very land by the remnant of the seed of Joseph, and of the old Jerusalem to be restored as a holy city — and then immediately records that the people *esteemed him as naught, and cast him out* (v. 13), so that the prophet of the holy city is reduced to hiding in the cavity of a rock, watching by night the destruction of a people who would not hear him. The chapter is built on this terrible contrast: the vision of the city of God descending from heaven, set beside the spectacle of a civilization tearing itself apart for a throne. Ether sees the holy city that shall come; his people see only the kingdom they will kill each other to possess. And the chapter records the Lord's final offer to Coriantumr — repent and be spared, or be destroyed save himself alone — and Coriantumr's refusal, which sets in motion the war that will not cease until the people are gone.

Hebrew Word Studies

yerushalayim-chadashah / she'erit-yosef / 'ein-matsil (יְרוּשָׁלַיִם חֲדָשָׁה / שְׁעֵרֵי יוֹסֵף / אֵין מַטְסִיל) — New Jerusalem (lit.

"Jerusalem [made] new") / remnant of Joseph / "none to deliver / none to restrain" vv. 3–10, vv. 6–10, v. 31. Three Hebrew expressions frame the chapter's vast contrast. The vision is of a *Yerushalayim chadashah* — a New Jerusalem (v. 3). *Yerushalayim* itself may mean "foundation/city of peace" (*shalom*), and *chadashah* (new) is from *chadash*, to renew, to make fresh — the same root as the *new heart* and *new spirit* God promises (Ezek. 36:26) and the *new covenant* (Jer. 31:31). The New Jerusalem is the city of peace made wholly new, descending from heaven (Rev. 21:2) — and the bitter irony is that Ether sees it while his people make their land a place of total war, the opposite of *shalom*. *She'erit Yosef* — remnant of Joseph — names the builders of the holy city (vv. 6–10). *She'erit* is the great remnant-word (Isa. 10:21, *the remnant shall return*), and *Yosef* binds the prophecy to the patriarch through whom this people descends; the New Jerusalem will be built by the surviving seed of Joseph, the remnant preserved through every destruction. The land is being cleared of the Jaredites precisely so the *she'erit Yosef* can inherit it and raise the city of God. *Ein matsil* — none to deliver, none to restrain — is the chapter's final phrase (v. 31): *there was none to restrain them*. *Matsil* is from *natsal*, to snatch away, rescue, deliver — the verb of the Lord who *delivers* his people from bondage. The terror of *ein matsil* is the total absence of the deliverer: a people who drove out every prophet and quenched the Spirit are left with no one to snatch them from their own violence. The same God who *delivered* the brother of Jared's people across the deep is, at the end, kept out by a people who would not be delivered — and so they perish with *none to restrain them*. The chapter's three phrases hold the whole arc: the *Yerushalayim chadashah* (the city of peace to come), built by the *she'erit Yosef* (the preserved remnant), set against a doomed people destroying themselves with *ein matsil* (none to deliver).

From the Chapter's Architecture

``cross-references Gen. 45:4–11; 46:1–7 (Joseph brings his father Jacob down into Egypt to preserve the family alive — the type of v. 7); Gen. 49:22–26 (Joseph the fruitful bough, the blessings on the seed of Joseph — the remnant of Joseph, vv. 6–8); Isa. 2:2–3 (the mountain of the Lord's house established, the nations flowing to it — the holy city, vv. 3, 10); Isa. 10:21 (the remnant shall return / she'ar yashuv — the remnant of Joseph, v. 6); Isa. 52:1 (awake... O Jerusalem, the holy city — the restored Jerusalem, vv. 5, 11); Isa. 65:17–19 (I create new heavens and a new earth... I create Jerusalem a rejoicing — the new heaven and new earth and new Jerusalem, vv. 9–10); Ezek. 36:26 (a new heart and a new spirit — the chadash/new of the New Jerusalem, v. 3); Ezek. 37:24–28 (the sanctuary set in the midst of the gathered people for evermore — the holy sanctuary of v. 3); Matt. 19:30; 20:16 (the first shall be last; and the last shall be first — verbatim at v. 12); Rev. 21:1–3, 9–27 (the new heaven and new earth, the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, whose inhabitants are washed in the Lamb's blood — the master parallel to vv. 3, 9–11); Heb. 11:10, 16 (Abraham looked for a city... whose builder and maker is God... a heavenly one — the New Jerusalem, vv. 3, 5); Heb. 12:22 (the heavenly Jerusalem — vv. 3, 10); 1 Ne. 13:37 (those who seek to bring forth Zion shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost — the building of the holy city, v. 6); 3 Ne. 20:22; 21:23–25 (the New Jerusalem to be built upon this land, the city of the remnant — vv. 3, 6); 3 Ne. 21:11–21 (the remnant of Jacob who build the New Jerusalem — vv. 6, 10); Omni 1:20–22 (Coriantumr found by the people of Zarahemla, dwells with them, and dies — the fulfillment of vv. 20–21); Ether 2:8–12 (the choice-land decree behind vv. 2, 20–21); Ether 11:20–21 (the prophets' word that another people would inherit the land — fulfilled in vv. 20–21); Ether 15:29–32 (Coriantumr the last survivor — the fulfillment of v. 21); D&C 45:66–71 (the New Jerusalem, a place of safety for the saints — vv. 3, 6); D&C 84:2–4 (the New Jerusalem to be built in the last days, beginning at the temple — vv. 3, 6); A of F 1:10 (Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent — the doctrine of vv. 3, 6). ``