

Doctrine of North

1. The north (Heb. *mezarim*, scatterer) was important to the Hebrews both literally and symbolically. The north wind literally brought dispersing clouds and clear, cold weather.
 - *Job 37:9 Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.*

2. Among the Hebrews the cardinal points of the heavens were considered with reference to the E. To a man facing to the East, the North would be at his left hand.
 - *Genesis 14:15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.*
 - *Job 23:9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:*

3. Land lying to the North was considered as higher and to the South as lower; to travel northward was to "go up".
 - *Genesis 45:25 And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,*
 - *Hosea 8:9 For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers.*
 - *Acts 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.*
 - *Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,*

4. To travel southward was to "go down".
 - *Genesis 12:10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*
 - *Genesis 26:2 And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:*
 - *1 Samuel 25:1 And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.*
 - *1 Samuel 26:2 Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.*

- *1 Samuel 30:15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. 16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.*
5. Another word for north (Heb. *sapon*, hidden), referring to the northern quarter of the heavens, was called the "hidden," because the ancients regarded the N as the seat of gloom and darkness, in contrast to the bright and sunny South. Out of the North would come good weather.
- *Job 37:22 Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty.*
6. The reason that Babylonia, Chaldea, Assyria, and Media were said to be North of Palestine is that the kings of most of these countries, in order to avoid the deserts, invaded Palestine chiefly from the North side by way of Damascus and Syria; that is, by way of the so-called fertile crescent.
- *Jeremiah 1:14 Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.*
 - *Jeremiah 46:6 Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates.*
 - *Ezekiel 26:7 For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people.*
 - *Zephaniah 2:13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness.*
7. By "the chiefs of the north" some understand the Tyrians and their allies, the Zidonians.
- *Ezekiel 32:30 There be the princes of the north, all of them, and all the Zidonians, which are gone down with the slain; with their terror they are ashamed of their might; and they lie uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword, and bear their shame with them that go down to the pit.*
 - *Ezekiel 26:15 Thus saith the Lord God to Tyrus; Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?*
8. "The families of the north" may indicate kings who were dependent on Babylon; whereas "the king of the North" is the king of Syria, opposed to the king of the S, namely, Egypt.
- *Jeremiah 25:9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this*

land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

- *Daniel 11:6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times. 7 But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: 8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. 9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land. 10 But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress. 11 And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand. 12 And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it. 13 For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches. 14 And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall. 15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.*
- *Daniel 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.*

8 The Heb. word *tsaphown* (tsaw-fone') is applied to the North wind.

- *Proverbs 27:16 Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.*
- *Song of Solomon 4:16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.*

9. The prophet Daniel spoke about a “king of the north”.

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