

Ezekiel

Book Study Chapters 39

Chapters 39: (NKJV)

Gog's Armies Destroyed

39 “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; ² and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. ³ Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. ⁴ You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who *are* with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. ⁵ You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,” says the Lord GOD. ⁶ “And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD. ⁷ So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not *let them* profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. ⁸ Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,” says the Lord GOD. “This *is* the day of which I have spoken.

⁹ “Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. ¹⁰ They will not take wood from the field nor cut down *any* from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord GOD.

The Burial of Gog

¹¹ “It will come to pass in that day *that* I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call *it* the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹² For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. ¹³ Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified,” says the Lord GOD. ¹⁴ “They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of

seven months they will make a search. ¹⁵ The search party will pass through the land; and *when anyone* sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹⁶ *The name of the city will also be Hamonah.* Thus they shall cleanse the land.” ’

A Triumphant Festival

¹⁷ “And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field:

“Assemble yourselves and come;
Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal
Which I am sacrificing for you,
A great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel,
That you may eat flesh and drink blood.

¹⁸ You shall eat the flesh of the mighty,
Drink the blood of the princes of the earth,
Of rams and lambs,
Of goats and bulls,
All of them fatlings of Bashan.

¹⁹ You shall eat fat till you are full,
And drink blood till you are drunk,
At My sacrificial meal
Which I am sacrificing for you.

²⁰ You shall be filled at My table
With horses and riders,
With mighty men
And with all the men of war,” says the Lord GOD.

Israel Restored to the Land

²¹ “I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. ²² So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* the LORD their God from that day forward. ²³ The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. ²⁴ According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.” ’

²⁵ “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name— ²⁶ after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their *own* land and no one made *them* afraid. ²⁷ When I have brought them

back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, ²⁸ then they shall know that I *am* the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. ²⁹ And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

Excerpts on the Gog army destruction and the total prophecy of Gog and Magog War by Perry Stone.

- Israel will overcome her enemies through divine intervention. Ezekiel sees that God will send a "fire on Magog" (39:6), smiting weapons out of their hands (39:3), using great hailstones and overflowing rain (38:22). From simply a natural perspective, the northern Bashan region is a land of ancient and extinct volcanoes. The "fire" could be the result of weapons' explosions catching the land and trees on fire, or the resurgence of volcanoes that will explode during the battle, sending hot magma down into the valleys between the mountains. During certain seasons, natural hailstones have fallen in Israel, including in the northern part specified by the prophecy. When a person leaves the Sea of Galilee and heads north, the elevation of the land goes from 702 feet below sea level at the sea, to a series of mountains in the north that reach 3,300 feet in altitude, covering 690 square miles. The Golan/Bashan region experiences large amounts of winter rain, thus an "overflowing rain" would not be abnormal during certain seasons.

It is clear from the text that a major earthquake will occur as part of God's divine plan to defeat the invaders (38:19-20). The "fishes of the sea" will feel the impact, alluding to the Mediterranean and no doubt the Sea of Galilee, which are Israel's two main bodies of water that contain marine life. The shaking will be so intense that walls will collapse and mountains will be leveled.

Some prophetic scholars believe, however, that the weapons used in this battle may include some type of chemical or biological weaponry, and not merely bizarre weather released as God's natural judgment. The slain armies will form a multitude of corpses, filling the land, until people will stop their noses because of the stench (39:11). Note that the bodies will be left untouched for seven months, until men are employed to search for remains: "And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search" (39:14). The bleached skeletal remains will be marked with signs and later buried (39:15). The removal of weapons will require seven years to completely cleanse the land, as it is written, "And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years" (39:9).

The destruction of the weapons indicates a massive amount of military hardware used in the conflict. Note that inhabitants from Israel's cities are assigned to set fire to the weapons and that no wood from the field or forest is used to burn these weapons

139:10), as in Ezekiel's day, wood would be the common method of fueling the fires. The question has arisen, why would Israel allow human remains to remain scattered in the mountains for seven months? The most common speculation is that the land has been polluted through the use of some form of biochemical weapon, creating a forbidden zone for seven months. Notice the buriers of the dead will cleanse the land, mentioned three times in the narrative (39:12, 14, 16).

Certainly there are some weapons of mass destruction that would and could cause the land to become polluted for an extended period of time, making it unsafe for the survivors to enter a restricted area until the dangerous poison on the ground was removed by either military experts or through a natural process over time (seven months).

The area where the largest multitude is slain will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog (39:11, 15). This name means the "multitude of Gog." This phrase has never been used in or around Israel at any time in her ancient or modern history of war. The countless bodies will be so numerous that this name will describe the grave of Gog and his coalition. The region of the graves of Gog will be called Hamonah, a word meaning "multitude." The prophet makes clear that God allows this incredible defeat of Israel's surrounding enemies to make His holy name known (39:7), to make it a day of renown in which He will be glorified (39:13), and a time the Lord will set His glory "among the heathen" (39:21).

After this battle concludes, the Almighty states, "Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God" (39:28). From that moment on, the Lord will no longer hide His face (favor) from Israel (39:29).

The Effects of the Battle on the Isles

Israel is not the only nation that will be impacted during this major war, as God will also "send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles" (39:6). Magog is called the "land of Magog" (38:2), which we know from the text is connected with the people north of Israel. Note the word north is mentioned three times in the narrative (38:6, 15; 39:2). A fire is "sent," indicating that it comes from an outside source into the land of Magog. Some scholars believe this may actually be Israel's military retaliation on the land of Magog for overseeing or even motivating these Islamic hordes prior to and during this Israeli assault. The modern Israeli army is well capable of a fiery retaliation against any enemy who would use weapons of mass destruction against its population. "The word isles can mean "an island" or "the coastal land of a nation that runs along the sea." Thus, fire on the isles could refer to islands or the region of the coastal areas of nations, as this word can be used for both. In the time of Ezekiel, these "isles" could also refer to lands that were unknown in his day but would exist at the time of this future war. The word carelessly refers to the inhabitants believing they have security; they are living with confidence and have no fear of danger. However, as the fire falls in Israel, so will fire be sent upon certain coastal areas and islands.

The Timing of the Conflicts

Two important clues within the text identify the timing of the war. First, it will occur when

Israel is brought back from their captivity, as it is written, "When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations" (Ezek. 39:27). God declared, "Now Will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name" (39:25). In the setting of the prophetic book, in Ezekiel 37, Israel is restored as a nation, and in chapters 38 and 39 it is attacked by what we now know are Islamic enemies, after they have amassed a great army (37:10) and have built cities in Israel (39:9).

The second clue is in the phrase "the latter days" (38:16), which, when used in terms of biblical prophecy, refers to the days prior to the Messiah's return to rule on earth. In 1948, following the Holocaust, Israel was restored as a nation. Immediately, they began to organize an army, rebuild old cities, build new cities, and expand their borders after several major wars. Since that time, the nations alluded to in Ezekiel's war vision are now populated with a majority of Muslims who are very anti-Israel in their spiritual and political views. Certainly, the alignment of nations for this battle and the details included in the narrative indicate the future fulfillment of this major prophecy.