

EZEKIEL 39:1-29 – “GOG’S ARMIES DESTROYED; THE BURIAL OF GOG; ATRIUMPHANT FESTIVAL; ISRAEL RESTORED TO THE LAND”

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

THE REVELATION OF GOD’S POWER ON THOSE WHO ATTACK ISRAEL – vs. 1-29:

Eze 39:1 "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;

Eze 39:2 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.

Eze 39:3 Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand.

Eze 39:4 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.

Eze 39:5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.

Eze 39:6 "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.

Eze 39:7 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.

Eze 39:8 Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD. "This is the day of which I have spoken.

Eze 39:9 "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.

THE FALL OF GOG & HIS ARMIES (VS. 1-5)

z. 39:1 **And you son of man, prophesy against Gog**,.... As he had been ordered to do before, and must still continue to do it: **behold, I am against you, O Gog**; which is repeated for the confirmation of it, and to inject terror into him; for terrible it is to have God against any: **the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**; the Septuagint version adds "Rosh" here as there.

Ez. 39:2 And I will turn your around and lead you on and will cause you to come from the far north, and bring you upon the mountains of Israel.

Ez. 39:3 **I will knock the bow out of your left hand** - The Persians whom Antiochus had in his army, Eze 38:5, were famous as archers, and they may be intended here. The bow is held by the left hand; the arrow is pulled and discharged by the right.

Ez. 39:4 **upon the mountains of Israel** — The scene of Israel’s preservation shall be that of the ungodly foe’s destruction.

Ez. 39:5 **You shall fall on the open field**,.... Some part of his army should fall upon the mountains, and others upon the plain; wherever they will be found, they will be destroyed, either by the sword of the Jews and Christian princes, or by God's judgments from heaven: **for I have spoken, says the Lord God**; and therefore it should surely come to pass, since no word of his ever fails; this is added to assure of the truth of it, since it might be thought incredible that so large an army should be destroyed.

Ez. 39:6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell securely in the isles, that is, among all nations where the enemies of my people dwell, no matter how separate they see and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ez. 39:7 **..will not let them pollute My holy name** — by their sins bringing down judgments which made the heathen think that I was unable or unwilling to save My people.

Ez. 39:8 **it shall be done** — The prediction of the salvation of My people, and the ruin of their enemy, is come to pass - is done: expressing that the event foretold is as certain as if it were already accomplished.

Ez. 39:9 **and they will make fires with them** - Or, “kindle fire with them;” or, the weapons of the army left on the field of battle shall be so numerous as to supply fuel for the people of the land for seven years. Seven was a number connected with cleansing after contact with the dead (Num 19:11 ff), and this purification of the land by the clearance of paganish spoils was a holy work (compare Eze 39:12).

Ezekiel 37-48 - These closing chapters look forward to the future of Israel and Judah, to a time when God will do a new work and His glory will return to the land.

Chapter 38 – one of the most amazing chapters regarding prophecy which will be fulfilled before Messiah’s second coming! THE REVELATION OF GOD’S POWER! This is going to happen, but it hasn’t happened yet!

Last time with looked at the identity of the invading force, apparently a Muslim invasion led by Iran involving a number of nations. We saw the apparent reason for the invasion was to obtain plunder. And in verse 23 we saw the reaction of the Lord to those invading forces –destruction and a realization that all will know the He is God!

We should note the probable position of Russia who is referred to as “Gog” (vs. 1-5). Gog is not the antichrist! This **probably favors an invitation before Armageddon** at the end of the tribulation.

Note the ultimate cause behind the invasion and the defeat. (vs. 2-3)

In verse four, can you see a similarity to Rev. 19:17? Notice the certainty of this invasion stated in verse 5!

v. 6 –on the south side of the Mediterranean are all Muslim nations.

How do you see “This is the day of which I have spoken” (v. 8)? How do you think this ties into Ez. 38:17 – or does it? Assyrians, Babylonians, Chaldeans

When is the seven years referred to in verse 9? - **Rev. 8:7** One third of all the trees are burned up.

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OBSERVATION

Eze 39:10 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.

Eze 39:11 "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(magnitude) Gog.

Eze 39:12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.

Eze 39:13 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.

Eze 39:14 "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.

Eze 39:15 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.

Eze 39:16 The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land." ' "

Eze 39:17 "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.

Eze 39:18 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.

INTERPRETATION

Ez. 39:10 **because they will make fires with the weapons** - Or, “kindle fire with them;” or, the weapons of the army left on the field of battle shall be so numerous as to supply fuel for the people of the land for seven years.

Ez. 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give to Gog, which declares that the enemies will have a horrible fall, a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the travelers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the travelers for the stink of the carcasses.: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it the valley of Hamon Gog.

Ez. 39:12 For seven months meaning a long time, the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.

Ez. 39:13 I am glorified - The day of my being glorified shall be a renown to Israel.

Ez. 39:14 They - The rulers of Israel. Sever - Choose out men who shall make it their work. Passing - To go up and down over the whole land; for many of Gog's wounded, flying soldiers, died in thickets, and corners into which they crept. The bodies - Whose assistance they would desire of courtesy. Remain - Unburied by the public labor of the house of Israel during the seven months.

Ez. 39:15 First “all the people of the land” engaged in the burying for seven months; then special men were employed, at the end of the seven months, to search for any still left unburied. The passers-by helped them by setting up a mark near any such bones, in order to keep others from being defiled by casually touching them, and that the buriers might come and remove them. Denoting the minute care to put away every relic of heathen pollution from the Holy Land.

Ez. 39:16 A city in the neighborhood was to receive the name Hamonah, “multitude,” to commemorate the overthrow of the multitudes of the foe [Henderson]. The multitude of the slain shall give a name to the city of Jerusalem after the land shall have been cleansed. Jerusalem shall be famed as the conqueror of multitudes.

Ez. 39:17 **Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal** - This is an allusion to a custom common in the east: when a sacrifice is made, the friends and neighbors of the party sacrificing are invited to come and feast on the sacrifice. (Is. 34:6; 63:1-6; Jer. 46:10; Zeph. 1:7-8; Rev. 19:17-21)

Ez. 39:18 **You shall...drink the blood of the princes of the earth** - I need not mention the custom of the Scandinavians: they were accustomed to drink the blood of their enemies out of the skulls of the dead. But this is spoken of fowls and beasts here - rams, lambs, and goats. The feast shall be as grateful and as plenteous to the fowls and beasts, as one made of the above animals, the fattest and best of their kind, (because fed in the fertile fields of Bashan), would be to the guests of him who makes a sacrifice.

APPLICATION

On which side of the Dead Sea is the Valley of Hamon Gog?

How many months will be taken to “cleanse the land”?
Why is this a problem if we think this invasion is at the beginning of the Tribulation. How about if we think this invasion is at the end of the Tribulation?

Notice how the Lord controls the birds and beasts of the field!

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Eze 39:19 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.

Eze 39:20 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.

Eze 39:21 "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.

Eze 39:22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward.

Eze 39:23 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.

Eze 39:24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them. " ' '

Eze 39:25 "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—

Eze 39:26 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.

Eze 39:27 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,

Ez. 39:19 **You shall eat fat - and drink blood** - Who shall eat and drink, etc.? Not the Jews: though Voltaire says they ate human flesh, and are invited here by the prophet to eat the flesh and drink the blood of their enemies; which is a most unprincipled falsehood. It is the fowls and the beasts that God invites, Eze 39:17 : “Speak to every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, assemble yourselves - that ye may eat flesh and drink blood;” nor are the persons altered in all these Eze 39:17-20.

Ez. 39:20 **with all the men of war, says the Lord God**; that is, with the flesh of valiant men, generals, captains, officers of all sorts, and common soldiers, even of all men, great and small, bond and free, Rev 19:18.

Ez. 39:21 All the nations - In the countries to which the news shall come.

Ez. 39:22...**that I am the LORD**, that has chosen them, redeemed them, called them, manifested his covenant love and grace to them, and protected and defended them: this destruction of their enemies will be a proof of it; and they will hereby be led into a clearer knowledge of him, and of his goodness to them; and make a more firm and constant profession of him,

Ez. 39:23 And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: The heathen will know that they did not overcome my people by their strength, neither yet by the weakness of my arm, but that this was for my people's sins. because they trespassed against me, therefore I hid my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so they all fell by the sword.

Ez. 39:24...**and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them**; or "rebellions", as the Targum renders it; or defections, as the word signifies; their rebellions against the King Messiah; their defections from him; their contempt of him, and rejection of his yoke, and non-submission to his ordinances; according to the desert of such crimes, the Lord dealt with them;

Ez. 39:25 **Now will I bring back the captives of Jacob** - Both they and the heathen shall know that it was for their iniquity that I gave them into the hands of their enemies: and now I will redeem them from those hands in such a way as to prove that I am a merciful God, as well as a just God.

Ez. 39:26 **After that they have borne their shame** - After they shall have borne the punishment due to a line of conduct which is their shame and reproach, viz. idolatry.

Ez. 39:27 **When I have brought them back** - Antiochus had before captured many of the Jews, and sold them for slaves; see Dan 11:33.

Notice the purpose of the Lord being clearly shown in verse 21-22!

In verse 22, **when do you think this period refers to that Israel's relationship with the Lord will be settled?**

In **verse 25, when does this re-gathering occur?**

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OBSERVATION

Eze 39:28 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.

Eze 39:29 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."

Questions:

1. Is there a general agreement among Bible scholars as to when this invasion will occur?
2. Who is the ultimate cause behind the invasion and the defeat. (vs. 2-3)? Do you think this invasion is the Lord's way of dealing with Islam (with Russia's backing)? Is God going to destroy Islam?
3. In verse four, can you see a similarity to Rev. 19:17?
4. Are we certain of the timing of this invasion? Of the invasion itself? Why are you sure? (v. 8)
5. How do you see "This is the day of which I have spoken"? How do you think this ties into Ez. 38:17 – or does it?
6. How many of you think that Israel is presently "dwelling safely" in the land? Confidently in the land? (Ez. 38:8, 11, 14; 39:26,27)
7. When is the seven years referred to in verse 9?
8. Do you see any reason in the Bible why this invasion couldn't happen now or at any time in the future, prior to the Tribulation?

INTERPRETATION

Ez. 39:28 **And have left none of them captive any more** - All that chose had liberty to return; but many remained behind. This promise may therefore refer to a greater restoration, when not a Jew shall be left behind. This, the next verse intimates, will be in the Gospel dispensation.

Ez. 39:29 **For I have poured out My Spirit** - That is, I will pour out my Spirit; This Spirit is to enlighten, quicken, purify, and cleanse their hearts; so that, being completely changed, they shall become God's people, and be a praise in the earth. Now, they are a proverb of reproach; then, they shall be eminently distinguished.

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

*All the way my Savior leads me,
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

"Scripture tells us clearly that at some point, Russia will move against Israel. When this happens, the final countdown will begin. We will then be at the scene that God described in Ez. 38 & 39. Russia's invasion of Israel is the first event that will trigger a sequence of events during the final seven years: the emergence of the ten-nation European power, the rise of the Antichrist, the great tribulation during the last half of the seven years, and then the coming of Jesus Christ with His church in power and glory! Finally, the world will see the establishment of God's kingdom, which will bring everlasting righteousness." (The Final Act – by Chuck Smith)

APPLICATION

When does this “pouring out” of My Spirit occur?

Did this occur at the Day of Pentecost? When you and I were saved? This does not seem to be a hindrance to the view that this refers to a time other than the end of the Tribulation.

SO, WHAT ABOUT THE TIMING OF THIS INVASION?

1. The invasion will take place “in the latter years” or “in the last days” – in the Old Testament these terms refer to the days that lead up to the return of the Messiah and the coming everlasting kingdom that He will establish.
2. No invasion as described here has ever taken place in human history! Ezekiel 38:8 requires that the Nation of Israel be restored and in possession of the “mountains of Israel” – cf. Ezekiel 39:2, 4.
3. Israel must exist in an atmosphere of what Ezekiel describes as those who “dwell safely” or who dwell “securely or confidently. Some suggest that this is the situation of the first three and a half years of the tribulation after the “peace” agreement is signed under the leadership of a “coming prince” mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27.
4. The burning of weapons and burial of the bodies (seven years and seven months) seems to present a problem to the views of this invasion coming at the middle of the Tribulation (Jews “flee” Jerusalem and therefore could not be there to burn the weapons, etc.), or at the end of the tribulation or at the end of the Millennium. The invasion could take place BEFORE the tribulation or BETWEEN the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation. – 3 ½ years before the beginning of the Tribulation would be a good time!

Why are chapters 38 & 39 important to you?

Dan. 2:36-45
Mt. 24:44; Lk. 12:40; Rev 3:2