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Ezekiel 39

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Ezekiel 39.

Topics.

- God will bring Gog, Meshech and Tubal against Israel.
- Nations shall know that I am the LORD, the holy one in Israel.
- Weapons of war will be used for firewood.
- A great feast for the birds.
- The LORD will vindicate His holiness in the sight of many nations
- Israel will dwell securely with no-one to make them afraid.
- God will restore the fortunes of Israel and pour out His Spirit upon them
- The Commonwealth of Israel.
- The glory of the spiritual temple God is building in Christ.
- Gog and Magog in Ezekiel and in the book of Revelation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem. After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (chpt. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins. For a greater overview of the entire book, visit the introduction to the book of Ezekiel in chapter one.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

EZEKIEL 39:1

The LORD is Against Gog.

- **Ezekiel 39:1:** And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

At the time of this prophecy Ezekiel and the people of Israel are in captivity to Babylon and the city of Jerusalem and the Temple of God are lying in ruin.

Son of man: means son of mortal man.

Gog: is a hostile king of Meshech and Tubal (Russia) that brings an army from many nations against Israel. Other nations in league with Gog are Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia (Arica), Greece, Iran, Libya, Syria and Turkey, plus all the nations along the Coastlands (Ezekiel 39:6) and whoever is in league with these nations at the time of this climatic battle. For further detail see the title; "The Northern Army and their Allied Nations" (at the end of this chapter).

EZEKIEL 39:2

God will bring Gog, Meshech and Tubal against Israel.

- **Ezekiel 39:2:** And I will turn you (Gog, Meshech and Tubal) (v1) about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel.

The uttermost parts of the north: uttermost carries the idea of being at the most distant point, the point that is the farthest out, in this context it is the north point farthest from Israel which if a straight line is drawn north from Israel it hits Russia.

The mountains of Israel: this latter day climatic and monumental event will take place surrounding the mountains of God. The LORD'S Mountains are Mount Zion, Mount of Olives and Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) and by extension all the mountains and hills that are in the land of Israel.

EZEKIEL 39:3-4

God will Destroy Gog, Meshech and Tubal.

- **Ezekiel 39:3-4:** Then I will strike your (Gog, Meshech and Tubal) (v1) bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand. ⁴You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes 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.

For a list of all the people with Gog see notes following (v1).

Strike your bow and make your arrows drop: means God will defeat Gog and his armies in battle.

Give you to birds and the beasts of the field to be devoured.

There will not be enough men to bury the dead and decaying bodies slaughtered on the mountains of Israel, multitudes of bodies will be left on the surface of the earth for the birds and wild animals to eat.

EZEKIEL 39:5-7

Nations shall Know that I am the LORD, the Holy one in Israel.

- **Ezekiel 39:5-7:** You (Gog, Meshech and Tubal) (v1) shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD. ⁶I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and *they shall know that I am the LORD.* ⁷"And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And *the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.*

The expression, "Then Israel and the nations will know that I am the LORD" (v15) is an expression that is regularly repeated throughout the book of Ezekiel, God firstly judged and punished His people Judah and Israel for their gross wickedness and rebellion and then turned His focus toward judging all nations that harmed Israel throughout history and who mocked and scorned Israel while they were led in chains to Babylon and

held captive for seventy years. The justice of the LORD is seen in God's actions of not judging Israel's enemies until He had firstly judged and punished his own people (Israel) and only then turning His judgment toward their enemies. The absolute wonder and wisdom of God in all this is that at the final end of God's judgment on Judah and Israel and their enemies it brought about the same result in three groups.

Judah, Israel and their enemies came to the same conclusion which was, "The God of Israel is the LORD and the only true God."

You shall fall in the open field: (v5) it appears these armies of Gog do not even get to Jerusalem, but are destroyed on the mountains, land and hills of Israel.

Send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the Coastland: (v5) most likely refers to missiles and bombs, but also includes great hailstones and an enormous earthquake (Ezek. 38:19, 21-22).

NOTICE: the nations along the Coast are going to be affected, maybe the earthquake creates an enormous Tsunami (a large destructive ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or another movement of the earth's surface) (v6).

EZEKIEL 39:8-10

Weapons of War will be Used for Firewood.

- **Ezekiel 39:8-10:** Behold, it (the destruction of Gog and the day Israel and all nations will know the LORD is God) (v6-7) is coming and it will be brought about, declares the Lord GOD. That is the day of which I have spoken. ⁹"Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears; and they will make fires of them for seven years, ¹⁰so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they will make their fires of the weapons. They (Israel) will seize the spoil of those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord GOD.

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At this time Ezekiel is in captivity to Babylon, Jerusalem and the Temple of God is in ruin and the land of Israel is laying waste which means that this event does not refer to Babylon destroying Israel, because that has already taken place,

It is coming the day of which I have spoken: (v8) refers to the destruction of Gog and his allied nations and the day when Israel and all nations will know the Lord is God. The words, "That is the Day I have Spoken," (v8) may refer to the following Psalm:

- Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, ³"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." ⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him (and many other similar verses) (Psalm 2:1-12).

Shields, bows and arrows, clubs and spears: refer to weapons of war, today they would not be bows, arrows and clubs but modern armoury and missiles etc.

Israel will go out from their cities and burn the weapons for firewood: today's weapons probably do not make good firewood, but this could simply be poetic language to depict the utter destruction of weapons of warfare and this army that attempted to destroy Israel. It is also showing us that it will be a battle that will bring about the end of warfare. Perhaps today we would say, instead of the weapons being used for firewood, the billions of dollars spent on them will be used to enhance the education and health of humans and the planet we live on. Certainly, as Isaiah prophesied in the following verses weapons of war will be destroyed and turned into farming equipment:

- He (the King of kings and Lord of lord's) (Christ) shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Isaiah 2:4).

The words, "Israel will seize the spoil of those who came against them" (Ezek. 39:10) probably also means Israel will become the head of all nations.

EZEKIEL 39:11

Gog will be Buried in Hamon-gog.

- **Ezekiel 39:11:** On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. It will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried. It will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog.

Valley of Hamon-gog: means, multitude of Gog, the exact location is unknown.

EZEKIEL 39:12-16

Israel will Bury their Enemies for Seven Months.

- **Ezekiel 39:12-16:** For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. ¹³All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them renown on the day that I show my glory, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁴They will set apart men to travel through the land regularly and bury those travelers remaining on the face of the land, so as to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make their search. ¹⁵And when these travel through the land and anyone sees a human bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. ¹⁶(Hamonah is also the name of the city.) Thus shall they cleanse the land.

Cleansing the land: even though almost all of the dead bodies of this enormous northern army will be buried after seven months certain men will still be sent out to search for not only and dead bodies that have not been buried, but even the bones of the body and if people travelling through the land sees a human bone, they are to set up a sign so the buriers know it is there. This kind of thing happens in the Middle East even today (obviously not on such a large scale) when Israel and Hamas fire rockets and missiles at each other they have a three-day peace break to gather the injured and bury the dead.

NOTE: coastlands, earthquakes and hailstones are mentioned in this climatic event to take place in the latter years. The area affected is not one small battlefield it covers an enormous area of the Middle East and the surrounding coastlands.

Cleansing the land: does not only mean to cleanse it spiritually, but also to cleanse it from any disease that could develop from the dead and decaying human bodies.

On the day that I show my glory: refers to the spectacular and supernatural defeat of this northern army which will bring Israel renown amongst all nations, meaning widespread acclaim fame and honour, because it will be obvious to everyone that God has supernaturally delivered Israel from certain destruction and even total annihilation. When this event takes place, the Lord will return and the following prophetic words of Zechariah will be fulfilled:

- I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. ¹¹On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be great the land shall mourn, each family by itself (Zech. 12:10-14).

EZEKIEL 39:17-22

A Great Feast for the Birds.

- **Ezekiel 39:17-22:** As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. ¹⁸You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth—of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan. ¹⁹And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you. ²⁰And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,' declares the Lord GOD. ²¹"And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them. ²²The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward.

Bashan: refers to the broad, fertile region east of the Sea of Galilee in Samaria celebrated for its cattle, its breed of sheep and for its Oak Trees. In the days of Abraham, it was occupied by a people called the Rephaim. Og, the last king of the race, was defeated and slain by the Israelites.

A sacrificial feast: there will be so many dead bodies scattered throughout the nations that it is called a sacrificial feast for the birds and wild animals.

The mountains of Israel: are Mount Zion, Mount of Olives and Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) and by extension all the mountains and hills that are in the land of Israel.

The rams, lambs, he-goats, bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan: refers to kings, officers, captains, soldiers and all the people aligned with Gog.

I will set my glory among the nations: in this context God's glory is the supernatural and dramatic way He saves Israel from certain annihilation by the armies of Gog it will be obvious to all nations that God has intervened for Israel and so obvious to the people of Israel that they will know that the LORD is their God (v21-22).

Following is a re-cap of the reasons why Gog and Magog is a future event yet to happen.

1. God is against Gog when he and his hordes come against Israel and God says He will bring Gog against Israel (Ezek. 38:3-4). Gog cannot be applying to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon because the king of Babylon has already Destroyed Jerusalem and the land of Israel and God was with Nebuchadnezzar (not against him) when he attacked Israel. The following verses show that It was God who brought Nebuchadnezzar against Israel

- Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you (Judah) have not obeyed my words, ⁹behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for *Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my (the LORD'S) servant*, and I will bring them against this land (of Judah) and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. (Jer. 25:8-9).

God actually paid Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon wages because he and his armies laboured and worked for God. The land of Egypt was the wages God paid King Nebuchadnezzar for his service against Tyre (Ezek. 29:18-20).

- 2 God says, Gog will come in the latter years after Israel has been restored from war and gathered back to their land (referring to Babylon, the captivity and Israel's return to Jerusalem) so Gog has to be an event that takes place after the seventy year Babylonian captivity (Ezek. 38:8).
- 3 When Gog enters the land of Israel there will be an enormous earthquake that will affect, the oceans, animals and everyone on earth, mountains and buildings will crumble and torrential rain and massive hailstones will destroy Gog and his allied nations. Throughout history no enemy of Israel has been destroyed in such an enormous and dramatic way as yet (Ezek. 38:19-22).
- 4 God says He will bring Gog up and lead him against the mountains of Israel, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has already gone against Israel and destroyed Jerusalem (Ezek. 39:2).
- 5 After the defeat of Gog the LORD'S name will never again be abused or profaned (Ezek. 39:7).
- 6 The destruction of Gog will result in all the nations knowing that the LORD is the Holy One of Israel (Ezek. 39:7).
- 7 Israel is in captivity to Babylon at this time, yet the LORD tells Ezekiel, "Behold the day of Gog is coming" (Ezek. 39:8).
- 8 Israel has the victory over Gog; they were defeated by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (Ezek. 39:9), but at verse twenty-three the focus of Ezekiel's vision turns to the present moment and Israel's captivity in Babylon.

EZEKIEL 39:23-24

The LORD says:

- **Ezekiel 39:23-24:** And the nations shall know that the house of *Israel went into (the Babylonian) captivity for their iniquity*, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword. ²⁴I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and hid my face from them.

When Israel is delivered from Gog in such a climatic way, the nations will then know that God favour is with Israel and that the reason God allowed Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to destroy Jerusalem and take Israel captive was because of their iniquity and rebellion against Him and not because He had forsaken them.

A sign for Israel and the nations: the seventy-year Babylonian captivity was to be a sign forever to Israel that God is their God and will judge them if they act wickedly and rebel against him and His ways. It was also a sign to all nations that God is just, because they see that even when God's own people act wickedly, He will withdraw His favour and judge them accordingly then Ezekiel's vision turns to words of comfort as the following verses show.

- **Ezekiel 39:27:** Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and *I will be jealous for my holy name.* ²⁶They (Israel) shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, ²⁷when I have brought them back from the peoples (Babylon) and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations.

God tells Israel that He will forget their shame, bring them back from the Babylonian exile and into their own land and restore their fortunes.

The LORD will vindicate His Holiness in the sight of many nations:

Israel was God's chosen people so they reflected on earth the nature of God, but they set their heart diamond hard against the word of the prophets and turned to other gods and extreme wickedness and therefore polluted the name of God to the surrounding nations. God by judging and punishing Israel showed to the nations that He is a Holy God and does not overlook or excuse the wickedness of His own people, it is in this way God's Holiness is vindicated to the nations.

I will be jealous for my holy name: (means God values His name) (v25). When those who confess to believe in God, act contrary to His character as Israel did, and deliberately harm another human, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually it reflects to those who do not know God that He is an unjust God. This is one of the major reasons God values His Holy name. God's desire is that all would come to repentance and be saved so when those who confess to be saved act deceitfully and oppress or use others for their own gain it turns those separated from God against God. The words, deeds, behaviour and actions of everyone who confesses to believe in God is either a good or bad testimony of Him and a reflection of who He is to those who do not know Him. Though our deeds, actions and behaviour are a silent witness they are the testimony that speaks the loudest to everyone who is watching and to those who know us.

EZEKIEL 39:26-29

Israel will Dwell Securely with No-One to Make them Afraid.

- **Ezekiel 39:26-29:** Then *they shall know that I am the LORD their God,* because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. ²⁹And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.

The expression, "Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God," is a common expression used throughout the book of Ezekiel. The entire history of Israel's treachery toward God and their seventy-year captivity in Babylon and their triumphant and joyful return to their beloved city Jerusalem is to be an example of God's judgment upon the wicked and His faithfulness to Israel for all nations from this time forward (v22).

God will restore the fortunes of Israel and pour out His Spirit upon them:

(v25, 29) refers firstly to Cyrus. God calls Cyrus (the secular king of Persia) His anointed shepherd and Isaiah pictures the LORD holding Cyrus's right hand while he opens all doors that no man can shut while Cyrus subdues all nations (Isaiah 45:1-6, 14, 28). At the end of Israel's seventy years in Babylonian captivity God used Cyrus His anointed shepherd to conquer the entire Empire of Babylon. Cyrus then gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God. Under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah the people of Israel

triumphantly marched with great rejoicing and a new spirit to their beloved city (they never again turned to idols or pagan gods). But at the time Ezekiel is speaking these future prophetic words he is in captivity to Babylon and Jerusalem and the Temple of God are laying in ruin (Ezek. 39:8), therefore Gog does not refer to Babylon, but is a future event that is still to take place in the latter years.

The wonder splendour and majestic beauty of Bible prophecy: is that two messages are often intertwined in the one prophecy, a local message for the people of the prophet's time and a future message for generations to come, this is the amazing wonder of God and the language of Bible prophecy. The prophetic message of Ezekiel (38-39) though encompassing Israel's return to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the city and the Temple of God is at the same time echoing a future age and a future New Jerusalem (detailed in the next nine chapters) that will be established, firstly (a partial fulfilment) when Israel returns to the ruined city of Jerusalem after their seventy years in captivity and secondly (the ultimate fulfilment), when Christ returns the second time (at the defeat of Gog and his allied nations). Jerusalem will be established as the head of all nations with Christ ruling as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The following shows how (Ezekiel 38, 39) affects Christians.

Many of the Old Testament prophecies regarding Israel include New Testament Gentiles who accept Christ. This is because the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said:

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you:

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

THE GLORY OF THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE GOD IS BUILDING IN CHRIST

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles' teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity. When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building. Peter wrote:

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him Will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when: -

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

GOG AND MAGOG IN EZEKIEL AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Following are sixteen reasons why the battle with Gog and Magog in Ezekiel chapter thirty-eight and chapter thirty-nine cannot be the same battle as Gog and Magog in Revelation chapter twenty.

1. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) the battle results in Israel knowing God, in (Rev. 20) Israel has been ruling with Christ for one thousand years prior to the invasion of Gog.
2. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) the purpose of the battle is that Israel and the nations may know the Lord God, in (Rev. 20) Israel already knows God, the only reason for God's intervention is to protect Jerusalem from Gog.
3. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) prior to Gog's invasion, God's face was hidden from Israel because of their transgressions, in (Rev. 20) God's face is not hidden from Israel prior to the invasion of Gog.

4. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) God is said to be using Gog to punish Israel, in (Rev. 20) Jerusalem is now referred to as the beloved city and God is seen protecting Israel from the invasion of Gog.
5. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) Israel is not dwelling in total safety prior to the destruction of Gog. God says that Israel will forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against the LORD, when they dwell securely in their land, in (Rev. 20) Israel is dwelling in absolute safety with Christ as their King and protector prior to the destruction of Gog.
6. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) many Jews were dwelling among the nations prior to Gog's invasion, in (Rev. 20) the Jews are already dwelling in their own land with Christ prior to the invasion of Gog.
7. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) Gog and Magog gather specific nations, in (Rev. 20) Gog gathers all the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, it says, they march up over the broad plain of the earth and surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city.
8. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) it says God will destroy the weapons and make them useless and that there is a great earthquake, extreme rain and hail that affect the fish of the sea, the birds, the beasts, and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the people. The mountains are thrown down, the cliffs fall, and every wall (around the city of Jerusalem?) shall tumble to the ground, in (Rev. 20) there is no mention of any of these events, except that fire from heaven consumes Gog.
9. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) after Gog's defeat the birds and all the beasts of the field, gather to the great feast of Gog's dead bodies on the mountains of Israel, in (Rev. 20) Gog is destroyed by fire and then we see the Great White Throne judgment.
10. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) after Gog's defeat those who dwell in the cities of Israel go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them for seven years, in (Rev. 20) there are no weapons as they have been turned into plowshares.
11. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) the battle results in the Jews coming out of the cities of Jerusalem that they are living in and burying the dead bodies of Gog (after Gog's defeat) for seven months in a special grave, in (Rev. 20) there are no graves as Hades is thrown into the Lake of Fire (the final destination of the dead) (i.e., eternal death, total extinction).
12. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) after Gog's defeat God says, now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, in (Rev. 20) Israel is already ruling with Christ and enjoying God's favour prior to the destruction of Gog.
13. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) satan, is not bound for a thousand years until after Gog's invasion, in (Rev. 20) satan has been bound prior to the invasion of Gog.
14. In (Ezekiel 38 & 39) the resurrection does not take place until after Gog's invasion in (Rev. 20) the resurrection has already taken place prior to the invasion of Gog.
15. In Ezekiel 38 & 39; Christ is not ruling prior to Gog's defeat, in (Rev. 20) Christ has been ruling as, King of kings and Lord of lords on earth for one thousand years prior to Gog's defeat.
16. In Ezekiel 38 & 39; after Gog's defeat Christ returns, in (Rev. 20) after Gog is defeated the great White Throne judgment takes place.

Aegean Sea: (the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Turkey). The Aegean Sea is called the arm of the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Turkey it is about 600 km (400 mi) long and about 300 km (200 mi) wide. It is connected with the Sea of Marmara to the north-east by the Strait of the Dardanelles. The Aegean Sea is irregular in outline with numerous gulfs, and is studded with islands, including the Sporades, Cyclades, and Dodecanese. The sunny weather, beaches, archaeological ruins, and beautiful islands draw many tourists to the Aegean each year. The Aegean civilizations are among the earliest known European civilizations. With the rise of the ancient Greek and Middle Eastern cultures, the lands surrounding the sea became the sites of widely differing civilizations, and the culture of the Aegean islands became identified with that of Greece.

Attica: (central Greece). It is the ancient region of south-eastern central Greece, a peninsula jutting into the Aegean Sea and separated from Boeotia to the north by the hills of Parnis in the east and Kithairon in the west. The name Attica probably derives from the Greek word for "peninsula". In Greek legend Attica was originally divided into twelve Pelasgian states, which were later unified by Theseus, king of Athens. In fact, the region was inhabited by Ionian Greeks, whose small villages and towns were united politically into the city-state of Athens by 700 B.C. Because of that city's long dominance in Greek political and cultural affairs, the Attic dialect became the standard literary language of ancient Greece. Attica was rich in natural resources, notably clay for the pottery industry, marble, lead, and silver which financed the Athenian navy.

Today, Attica is divided among the modern departments (nomes) of Attiki and Boeotia and of Greater Athens, the capital of Greece.

Beth-togarmah: (unknown). A man who appears as a son of Gomer (a descendant of Japheth) states that Beth-togarmah traded "war horses and mules" Beth-togarmah is listed among the forces of Gog coming from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes. (The exact location is unknown).

Cush: (Arabia, Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya). The oldest son of Ham (one of the sons of Noah). Among Cush's descendants were Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raamah, and Sabtecha. They were mostly located in Arabia. Nimrod is likewise said to be the "son" of Cush, but the word probably means "descendant." Cush became the ancestor of the Ethiopians; Mizraim of the Egyptians; Canaan of the Canaanites, the pre-Israelite inhabitants of Palestine; and Phut of an African people inhabiting Libya.

Cyprus: (west of Syria and south of Turkey). Cyprus, republic, and third-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, located west of Syria and south of Turkey. The total area of the country is 9,251 sq. km (3,572 sq. miles). Nicosia is the capital and largest city. Since 1974 the northern third of Cyprus has been occupied by Turkish troops and has formed, *de facto*, a separate (though officially unrecognized) state.

Dedan (Dedanites): (Arabia). An Arabian people who established themselves in the region about the north-western end of the Persian Gulf and were an important commercial people and travelling tradesmen.

Euboea: (Eastern Greece). Euboea, formerly Negropont island, eastern Greece, in the Aegean Sea, with an area of 3,885 sq. km (1,500 sq. miles), it is separated from the southern part of the mainland by the Northern Euboean Gulf and Euripos Strait.

Gog: (a hostile King towards Israel). Gog and Magog, in the Bible are presented as great hostile nations that arise against Israel (Revelation 20:8). In (Ezekiel 38:2), Magog is also identified as a land—the home of Gog. In later rabbinic literature, Gog and Magog became the conventional symbols for any force opposed to authentic religion or its followers.

Gomer: (unknown). A descendant of Japheth and father of Beth-togarmah (the exact locations is unknown) (see Japheth).

Javan: (the Ionians) the entire Greek Race. Ionians, one of the three important ethnic divisions of the ancient Greeks. The Ionians seem to have been one of the earliest Greek-speaking peoples from the north to have reached the mainland of Greece, and were possibly the originators of the culture that developed at Mycenae. The name Iones or Iavones was current in antiquity; Javan, a variant form, occurs in (Genesis 10:2), and in Hebrew this term is applied to the entire Greek race. In historical times the Ionians occupied Attica and parts of Euboea, most of the islands of the Aegean Sea, and the narrow strip along the western coast of Asia Minor (modern Turkey) known as Ionia.

Japheth: in the Old Testament, (the third son of Noah), and traditionally one of the founders, together with his brothers Ham and Shem, of humanity. Japheth married before the onset of Noah's Flood, from which he and his wife were saved in his father's ark (see Genesis 7:13). After the Flood, he had seven sons. According to Biblical tradition, Japheth's sons and grandsons are the progenitors of a number of important ancient peoples, among them the nations descended from Javan (the Ionians), Madai (Medes), Kittim (presumably the inhabitants of Cyprus), Tarshish, Meshech, and Tubal (see Genesis 10:2-4).

Madai: (Medes) (modern Iran). Media, the ancient country of Asia corresponding to the north-eastern area of modern Iran. The inhabitants, who were known as Medes, and their neighbours, the Persians, spoke Indo-Iranian languages that were closely related to Old Persian.

Magog: (Russia). Magog is the land of Gog and a son of Japheth, the names of king Gog, "Prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal" resemble the modern Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk. "The nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog" refers to all the ungodly nations of the earth who oppose the people of God (Ezek. 38:2) (Rev. 20:8).

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Meshech: (Russia). A son of Japheth (the third son of Noah) associated with Magog and Tubal and thought by many to have been progenitors of Russians and other Slavic peoples. According to Biblical tradition, Japheth's sons and grandsons are the progenitors of a number of important ancient peoples, among them the nations descended from Javan (the Ionians), Madai (Medes), Kittim (presumably the inhabitants of Cyprus), Tarshish, Meshech, and Tubal (Gen. 10:2-4). They are prophesied as joining in a northern confederation against Israel and to be destroyed upon the mountains of Israel. The leader of this northern group is called Gog.

Persia: (Iran). Persia, the country in south-west Asia between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf now known as Iran. The term Persia originated from a region of southern Iran known as Persis or Parsa. The use of the name was gradually extended by the ancient Greeks and western world to apply to the whole Iranian plateau. The Iranians themselves, however, had long called their country Iran, that is, the "land of the Aryans".

In 1935 the government requested that the name Iran be used instead of Persia.

Persian Empire and Mesopotamia: (Syria, Turkey, Iraq). Mesopotamia and the Persian Empire Mesopotamia, located in a region that included parts of what is now eastern Syria, south-eastern Turkey, and most of Iraq, lay between two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. The name Mesopotamia is a Greek word meaning "between the rivers" its oldest known communities date from 7000 B.C. Several civilizations flourished in the region.

In the 6th century B.C., it became part of the Persian Empire, at that time the largest empire in the world.

Sheba: (Arabia). The ancient kingdom of south-western Arabia (modern Republic of Yemen), the inhabitants of Sheba, (the Sabaeans), spoke a language in the Arabic group of Semitic languages. At one time the kingdom of Sheba had colonies along trade routes leading to Palestine and was one of the most powerful and wealthiest cities of ancient Arabia.

Tubal: a tribe descended from Japheth (see Japheth).

SUMMARY: the northern army and their allied nations. Gog is the hostile king towards Israel and his allied nations are Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia (Arica), Greece, Iran, Libya, Russia, Syria and Turkey plus all the nations along the Coastlands (Ezekiel 39:6) and whoever is in league with these nations at the time of this climatic battle.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE THE FOLLOWING TITLES

- Ezekiel 38 in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Revelation 20 in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Both Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 20 have far more information concerning Gog and Magog and also gives some very interesting insights into why the Muslim world of Islam views Israel and the Western world as Gog who has to be destroyed for Islam to become the universal faith on earth.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
