

Ezekiel 39 - Gog's Armies Destroyed

III. Restoration of Israel (Ezek 33:1–48:45)

(6) Protection from Gog and Magog (Ezek 38:1–39:29)

(C) Gog defeated (38:17–39:20)

- (a) Armies destroyed (38:17–39:8)
- (b) Weapons burned (39:9–10)
- (c) Soldiers buried (39:11–16)
- (d) Eaten by birds (39:17–20)

(D) Results of Gog's defeat (39:21–29)

- (a) God's glory manifested (39:21–24)
- (b) Israel restored (39:25–29)

Ezekiel 39

(a) Armies destroyed (38:17–39:8)

1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Behold, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of **Meshech and Tubal**;

1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of **Rosh**, Meshech and Tubal;

1 "Now as for you, Son of Man, prophesy against Gog and tell him, 'This is what the Lord GOD has to say: "Watch out, Gog, you leader of the head of Meshech and of Tubal!"

1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

- "...I am against you, Gog" - God is directing the prophecy of Ezek 38-39 directly against Gog, the ruler of the coalition of invading nations/peoples

- "...Rosh" [NASB95] - Russia

- "...Meshech and Tubal" - Turkey

2 and I will turn you around, lead you on a rope, take you up from the remotest parts of the north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

2 and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

2 I'm going to turn you around, drag you along to your destruction, and bring you up from the farthest parts of the north, and carry you to the mountains of Israel.

2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

- The impetus for this invasion is described in 38:12-13...they are invading in order to seize Israel's "spoil...plunder" (38:12-13) and "silver and gold" (38:13)
- They are jealous of Israel's wealth, and have conspired to gather together to invade and take it

3 Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand.

3 I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand.

3 There I will strike your bow from your left hand and your arrows from your right, causing your fall.

3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

4 You will fall on **the mountains of Israel**, you and all your troops, and **the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food** to every kind of predatory bird and animal of the field.

4 You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field.

4 You will collapse on the mountains of Israel, along with all of your soldiers and the nations that have accompanied you. There the raptors, vultures, and wild animals will feed on you.

4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

- The defeat of the invaders at the hand of Jesus Christ will occur at His Second Coming. These events happen at the end of the Tribulation period...

- Further details on the means of their defeat are mentioned by Zechariah (Zech 12:4-9)

- "...the mountains of Israel" - see notes on 36:1; also see note: **Mountains of Israel** in 38:4

- "...the peoples who are with you" - the "inner ring" nations and people groups (Cf. 38:6,9,15,22)

- "...I will give you as food" - this feast for the birds is alluded to by Jesus (Matt 24:28) and John (Rev 19:17-19)

- In the ANE, it was an insult to the dead if they weren't buried after their death; Saul was fastened to a wall instead of buried, a disgrace to the deceased (1 Sam 31:10)

- God is disgracing the enemy here by not allowing their bodies to be buried after their death

- Further detail on this "feast" is given in v17-20

5 You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord GOD.
5 You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord GOD.
5 You will fall dead in the open fields, because I have ordered this to happen,' declares the Lord GOD.
5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

6 "And I will send fire upon **Magog** and those who inhabit **thecoastlands** in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD.
6 "And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD.
6 'I'm also going to incinerate Magog, along with those who are settled down and at home in the islands. That's when they'll learn that I am the LORD.
6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.
- "...Magog" - central asian countries (the "stans")
- "...the coastlands" - the islands in the Mediterranean Sea

Revival in Israel and Among Gentiles

7 "And I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not allow My holy name to be profaned anymore. But the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.
7 "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 will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.
7 I'll make my holiness and reputation known in the midst of my people Israel, and I won't let my holiness be profaned anymore. The nations will learn that I, the LORD, am holy in the midst of Israel.
7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.
- God's purpose for the invasion and the defeat of the invaders: to show His name holy both in Israel and throughout the world



Charles L. Feinberg

The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord, Paperback ed.
(Chicago: Moody, 1969; reprint, Chicago: Moody, 1984), 228.

"Though the judgment on the enemies will occur in Israel, the catastrophe will extend far beyond to the ends of the earth to accomplish the purpose of God. Once more the Lord will relate His purpose in Israel to that for all the world. It is the concept of concentric circles where that which is accomplished at the very center reaches out irresistibly to the farthest confines of the circumference. God is the Lord of the nations. His true character will appear in its proper light as both righteous and mighty. Such emphasis is made of this thought throughout the book of Ezekiel because this is the design of God in all history, and there is no more important concept in all the universe."

8 Behold, it is coming and it shall be done," declares the Lord GOD. "That is the day of **which I have spoken.**

8 Behold, it is coming and it shall be done," declares the Lord GOD. "That is the day of which I have spoken.

8 Pay attention! It's coming and will certainly happen,' declares the Lord GOD. 'This will be the day about which I've spoken!'""

8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken.

- "...of which I have spoken" - twice Ezekiel mentions that the former prophets foretold of this invasion (Ps 2:1-3; IS 29:1-8; Joel 2:20; 3:9-21; Zech 12:1ff; 14:2-3)

— This is also mentioned in 38:17, where it is stated more clearly than in v8

— When Ezekiel is describing this invasion, he's not referring to something that the Holy Spirit has not disclosed elsewhere in Scripture

(b) Weapons burned (39:9-10)

9 "Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn *them*, both **bucklers and shields, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears**, and for **seven years** they will make fires of them.

9 "Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn *them*, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, and for seven years they will make fires of them.

9 "After all this happens, the people who live in the cities of Israel will be kindling fires for seven years, using small shields, large shields, bows, arrows, clubs, personal weapons, and spears to do so.

9 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:

- After the complete annihilation of the invading armies, the people of Israel will take the weapons of war intended to be used against them and burn them for fuel (v10)
- "...bucklers and shields, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears" - antiquated weapons of war; there are two ways to interpret this:

(1) Ezekiel had no insight into today's technology...planes, helicopters, tanks, guns, etc. These are the best words he can use to describe what he witnessed.

(2) Literally, as these are the actual weapons that armies will use at that time; this could be due to a severe rollback in military capabilities for some unknown reason, or it could be due to the use of EMPs (which render useless any type of electronic device, radar, etc.).

- "...seven years" - many use these seven years as a key to the unlock the timing of this invasion

— They reason that if the weapons will burn for seven years, the invasion must begin before the Tribulation because the weapons cannot burn during the millennial kingdom (Fruchtenbaum is an advocate for this view).

— However, the city of Babylon will be burn throughout the millennial kingdom (for 1000 years) (Rev 19:3). This will be a memorial of God's victory over evil, and a reminder for all to submit the lordship of Jesus Christ.

10 They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoils of those who plundered them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them," declares the Lord GOD.

10 They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, for they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them," declares the Lord GOD.

10 They won't need to cut down trees from the fields nor gather firewood from the forests, because they will light fires with the weapons as they plunder the plunderers and loot the looters!" declares the Lord GOD.

10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.

- The motivation of the invaders was to seize the spoils and plunder the riches of Israel (38:12)

- God turns the tables on them and Israel ends up plundering the plunderers
- God often takes the motivations and instruments that evil people use against His people, and turns them around to use against them:
- Cf. Haman's gallows were intended for Mordecai, but were instead used on Haman
- Cf. God drowns the pursuing Egyptians in the Red Sea because the Egyptians ordered the drowning of newborn Jewish males (Ex 1:22)
- Cf. In the 10th plague, God killed the firstborn throughout Egypt because Israel was God's "firstborn" which Egypt had taken into captivity (Ex 4:22)
- This is an outworking of the promise to "curse those who curse you" (Gen 12:3). The curses that these nations will aim at Israel will come right back at them, in kind, by the hand of God.

Various Views on the Timing of the Magog Invasion

- Two phase view (Ezek 38 at beginning of Trib; Ezek 39 at the end)
- Before the Tribulation
- First half of the Tribulation
- End of the Tribulation
- Beginning of the Millennium
- End of the Millennium
 - (c) Soldiers buried (39:11-16)

11 "On that day I will give Gog **a burial place there in Israel**, the valley of those who pass by **east of the sea**, and it will **block the way of those who would pass by**. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call *it* the **Valley of Hamon-gog**.

11 "On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call *it* the valley of Hamon-gog.

11 "When all of this happens, I'm going to set aside a grave site for Gog in Israel's Traveler's Valley, near the approach to the Dead Sea. She will block off everyone who tries to bypass it. There they will bury Gog, and rename the area 'Valley of Gog's Gang'.

11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.

- "...a burial place there in Israel" - the invaders came to plunder and "bury" Israel, but instead they will be the ones buried in Israel

- "...east of the sea" - some translations use "east toward the sea" - this refers to the Dead Sea

- The route the Israelites took toward the sea in Ezekiel's day is called the Old Jericho Road today
- It descends from Jerusalem to Jericho as a steep narrow canyon road; at the bottom is the Valley of the Shadow of Death, as robbers often lurked there
- The parable of the Good Samaritan took place on that road; the Temptation Wilderness borders this valley to the north
- This canyon/valley is likely where Ezekiel was referring as the grave of Gog
- "...Hamon-gog" - an area today called the Jordan Valley, slightly above the Dead Sea, east of the northern tip of the Dead Sea
- This burial is so significant that the burial ground gets a name, to commemorate God's destruction of the invading forces
- This area, and the city of Hamonah (v16), will be memorials to God's protection and blessing on Israel throughout the millennial kingdom
- "...block the way of those who would pass by" - there will be so many dead bodies that need to be buried that it will actually cause a traffic jam for a time for travelers who are passing through the area



12 For **seven months** the house of Israel will be burying them in order to **cleanse the land.**

12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.
12 The house of Israel will be burying them for seven months in order to purify the land.
12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

- "...seven months" - if God destroys the invaders at the Second Coming, even considering the 75-day interval, the burial process will continue on into the millennial kingdom for another ~135 days (210 days - 75 days = 135 days)
- "...cleanse the land" - the land must be cleansed of the dead bodies before Jesus can reign over the entire world from David's Throne
- You don't want to have Jesus reigning during the millennium with a bunch of dead bodies spread throughout Israel

See [Pre-Tribulational Events](#) for an overview of arguments on the timing of this invasion.

13 And **all the people of the land** will bury *them*; and it will be to their renown *on the day that I appear in My glory*," declares the Lord GOD.

13 Even all the people of the land will bury *them*; and it will be to their renown *on the day that I glorify Myself*," declares the Lord GOD.

13 Everyone in the land will be involved in the burials, and this will serve as a reminder for them that I have glorified myself," declares the Lord GOD.

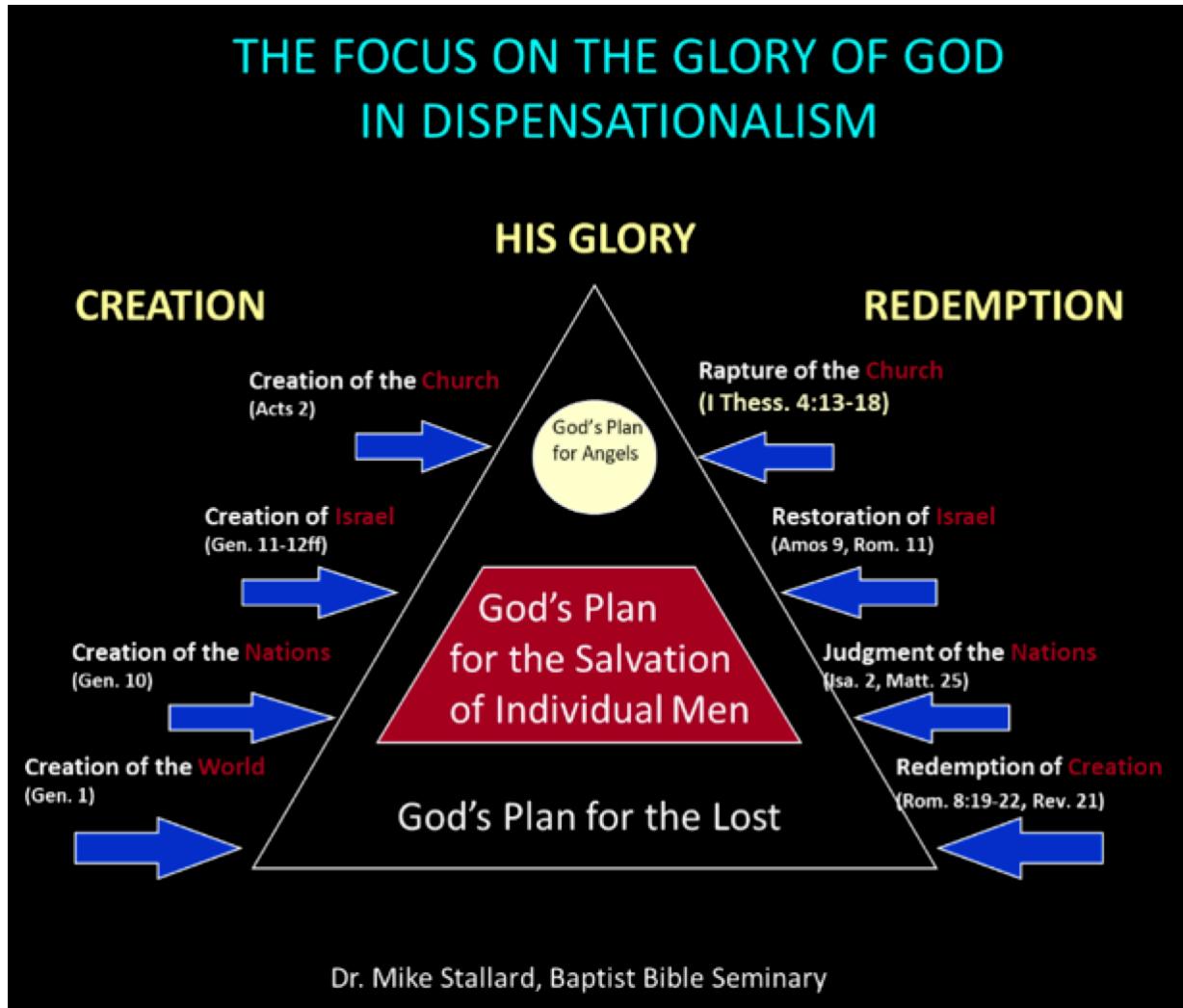
13 Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.

- "...all the people of the land" - everyone in Israel will bury the dead invaders, over a period of seven months (v12)
 - This likely will take place during the 75-day interval, and for approx 135 days after that, into the time of the millennial kingdom
 - "...I appear in My glory" or, "that I glorify Myself"
 - God's destruction of these forces and supernatural protection of Israel will be "renown" in Israel throughout the millennial kingdom
 - It will be the impetus for Israel's regeneration, and be celebrated throughout the kingdom period much like the Exodus was celebrated throughout the OT
 - The overarching purpose and plan of God is doxological: God's overall purpose in human history is to bring glory to Himself (Eph 1:6,12,14)

Doxological Purpose

- God's ultimate purpose for human history is to glorify Himself. Scripture is not human-centered, as though salvation were the principal point, but God-centered, because His glory is at the center.

- The glory of God is the primary principle that unifies all dispensations, the program of salvation being just one of the means by which God glorifies Himself. Each successive revelation of God's plan for the ages, as well as His dealing with the elect, non-elect, angels, and nations all manifest His glory.



14 "They will also select men who will constantly pass through the land, burying those who were passing through, those left on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will conduct a search.

14 "They will set apart men who will constantly pass through the land, burying those who were passing through, even those left on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search.

14 "Men will be assigned to travel continuously throughout the land, exploring for seven full months as they go about burying the bodies that remain from the battle on the surface of the ground, so that the land may be sterilized.

14 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.

- The burial process will go on for seven months. After that, they think that they have buried every dead body, but just to make sure, they will choose men who travel through the land often to search for any remaining corpses.

15 As those who pass through the land pass through and anyone sees a human bone, then he will set up a marker by it until the burial detail has buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog.

15 As those who pass through the land pass through and anyone sees a man's bone, then he will set up a marker by it until the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog.

15 As scouts go searching throughout the land, whenever they see someone's bones, they will place a sign beside the remains until the remains have been buried in the Valley of Gog's Gang.

15 And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog.

- This verse is verbatim out of the *Operator's Manual for Marking Set, Contamination: Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC)*, US Armed Forces

Military Burial Process

Left-over weapons provide all the energy for the nation Israel for seven years; professionals hired to clear the battlefield—they wait seven months; then clear for seven months and bury the dead east of the Dead Sea (downwind). If a traveler finds something the professionals have missed, *he doesn't touch it*: he marks the location and lets the professionals deal with it.

16 And even *the name of the city* will be Hamonah. So they will cleanse the land."

16 And even *the name of the city* will be Hamonah. So they will cleanse the land."

16 They'll also name the city that is there 'Hamonah,' as they purify the land."

16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

- God is into memorials...the rainbow to remember the flood and God's promise, rocks stacked at the Jordan River, the feasts of Israel, animal sacrifices in the kingdom, communion...too many to list

— God is a God of remembrance, and this burial area, the valley of Hamon-gog and the city of Hamonah will be remembrances to people throughout the kingdom period about God's protection of His people and hatred of evil.

(d) Eaten by birds (39:17-20)

17 "Now as for you, son of man, **this is what the Lord GOD says:** 'Say to every kind of bird and to every animal of the field: "Assemble and come, gather from every direction to My sacrifice, which I am going to sacrifice for you as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel; and **you will eat flesh and drink blood.**

17 "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.

17 "Now as for you, Son of Man, this is what the Lord GOD has to say: 'Tell all of the birds and wild beasts, "Come! Gather together and participate in the sacrifice that I'm going to make for you. This great sacrifice will take place on the mountains of Israel, where you'll be eating flesh and drinking blood.

17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

- "...this is what the Lord GOD says" - this appears to be a new oracle from God
- The description of the soldiers being eaten by the birds seems to be a minor detail in the overall passage, but evidently not to God because He provides new prophetic content about this specific event
- "...you will eat flesh and drink blood" - Ezekiel alluded to this "feast" in v4

18 You will eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the leaders of the earth, as *though they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls*, all of them **fattened livestock of Bashan.**

18 You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as *though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls*, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

18 You'll eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the world's princes, drinking the blood of these rams, lambs, goats, bulls, all of them fattened as if they're from Bashan, fit for slaughter!

18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

- "...rams, lambs, goats, and bulls" - sacrificial animals
- God views these invaders as "sacrificial animals" because all they have been doing is fattening themselves for the day of slaughter
- "...fattened livestock of Bashan" - Bashan was an area of Israel where they raised big, fat livestock which were used for sacrifices (Cf. Deut 32:14; Ps 22:12)

- Here the literal passes over to figurative language with a vivid figure to communicate the idea of vast carnage, deserved judgment and irrevocable doom
- Amos was a politically incorrect prophet, who was upset with the wealthy who used their riches to oppress the poor. This made Amos angry, and he wrote for nine chapters about how angry this made him. In Amos 4:1, he calls the women of that time "cows of Bashan" because they would "roll over" the poor as a fat cow would roll over and crush someone.
- God is saying that these invaders are like the "cows of Bashan" because they fatten themselves for the day of slaughter

Amos 4:1: Hear this word, you **cows of Bashan** who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who exploit the poor, who oppress the needy, And say to their husbands, "Bring now, that we may drink!"

19 So you will eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

19 So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

19 You'll eat until you're fat and satiated. You'll drink blood until you're drunk from the sacrifice that I'm going to make for all of you.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

- Ezekiel speaking to the birds of prey who are feasting on the corpses

— This "feast" is described elsewhere in Scripture, which provides a key to the timing of the invasion and victory (Matt 24:28; Rev 19:17-19)

— The timing of this is right after the Second Coming

20 You will eat your fill at My table *with* horses and charioteers, *with* warriors and all the men of war," declares the Lord GOD.

20 You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war," declares the Lord GOD.

20 You'll be fully satiated at my table, dining on horse flesh, horsemen, elite soldiers, and every kind of warrior," declares the Lord GOD.

20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

- The invaders were used to getting their way in life, at whatever the cost...until God shows up

(D) Results of Gog's defeat (39:21-29)

(a) God's glory manifested (39:21-24)

21 "And I will place My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them.

21 "And I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them.

21 'I'm going to display my glory among the people, and every nation will see the judgment that I administer by my own hand among them.

21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

- God organizes this invasion and victory in such a way that He and only He can get the glory for the victory

- God is vindicating Israel in the presence of the nations in such a way that they'll know that the hand of God is the only way that Israel was rescued (Cf. Is 42:8)

22 And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God, from that day onward.

22 And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward.

22 The house of Israel will learn that I am the LORD their God from that day forward!

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

- This verse provides the best evidence for the timing of the Magog invasion and defeat...

— The regeneration of Israel, according to numerous other passages, will happen at the very end of the Tribulation

— The regeneration of Israel is the very purpose of the Tribulation. If the war starts before the beginning of the Tribulation, how do you explain the regeneration of Israel described in this verse, as well as v25-29?

— In order for someone to put these events before the Tribulation period, you have to interpret v22 (and v25-29) as not being a full-scale conversion of Israel. However, this is hard to do when Ezekiel's language says "the house of Israel."



Stanley A. Maughan

"Selected Expert Perspectives on Ezekiel 38–39 Related to Current World Events with Resulting Influence on Ministry Practices" (D. Min. diss., Dallas Theological Seminary, 2012), 107.

"While certainly one outcome of this war will be the salvation of many Jews, it does not require the wholesale conversion of all Jews...It is better to understand this as a recognition among all that God is at work, without necessarily experiencing a genuine conversion... Nevertheless, God will use the dramatic events of this war to help bring many Jews to faith, whether in the immediate aftermath, or in conjunction with other events during the period of the Great Tribulation."

23 The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their wrongdoing, because they were disloyal to Me, and I hid My face from them; so I handed them over to their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword.

23 The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them; so I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword.

23 The nations will also learn that because of Israel's sin the house of Israel went into captivity, since they were unfaithful in their behavior toward me. As a result, I hid my presence from them, turned them over to the control of their enemies, and they died by violence.

23 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

24 In accordance with their uncleanness and their offenses I dealt with them, and **I hid My face from them.**¹¹¹

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them.¹¹¹

24 It was because of their defilement and transgression that I treated them this way by hiding my presence from them.¹¹¹

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

- Verses 23-24 are describing the curses outlined in the Mosaic Covenant, which God entered into *only* with Israel (Ps 147:19-20)
- "...I hid My face from them" - they were out of fellowship with God; God says that when they prayed, the "heavens will be like bronze" (Deut 28:23)

Ps 147:19-20:

19 He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel.
 20 He has not dealt this way with any *other* nation; And as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!

(b) Israel restored (39:25-29)

25 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on all the house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name.
25 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.
25 "Therefore this is what the Lord GOD has to say: 'I'm going to restore the resources of Jacob and show mercy to the entire house of Israel. I'll be zealous for my own reputation and for my holiness.
25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; 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;
 - As Israel turns to God, God turns from the curses of the Mosaic Covenant (Deut 28:15-68) to the blessings of the Mosaic Covenant (Deut 28:1-14)



Charles L. Feinberg

The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord, Paperback ed.
 (Chicago: Moody, 1969; reprint, Chicago: Moody, 1984), 231-32.

"Verses 25–29 teach that the *complete* return of Israel will occur after the defeat of Gog and his Confederates. Ezekiel summarized his prophecies of hope and restoration. When he stated that God will have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, he had in mind that all previous restorations were partial. Now a universal and final restoration will take place. It was God who allowed them to go into captivity; it is he who will see to it that they are regathered; indeed, it is he who will insure that *not one is left out of the land*...In conclusion, to summarize all the benefits promised, Ezekiel spoke of the outpouring of the Spirit upon the house of Israel (italics added)."

26 They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make *them* afraid.

26 They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make *them* afraid.

26 They'll forget their shame and all of their unfaithfulness by which they behaved so unfaithfully toward me. They will live on their land in confidence, not in fear.

26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.

27 When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then **I shall show Myself holy** through them in the sight of the many nations.

27 When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations.

27 When I bring them back from the nations and gather them together from the lands that belong to their enemies, I will demonstrate my holiness through them right in front of the eyes of the world,

27 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;

- "...I shall show Myself holy" - again, the doxological purpose of God: to glorify Himself

28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and *then* I **gathered them again** to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer.

28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them *again* to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer.

28 and they will learn that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into exile and who gathered them back to their land. I will not leave any of them remaining in exile.

28 Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

- If the exile actually literally happened, then how could replacement theologians think the latter part of the same verse about Israel's regathering be allegorical?

- "...gathered them *again*" - Cf. Deut 30:3; Ezek 36:24

29 I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have **poured out My Spirit** on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD.

29 I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD.

29 I'll no longer hide my presence from them again when I pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel,' declares the Lord GOD."

29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

- This is the national conversion/regeneration of Israel, spoken of throughout the OT (Cf. Joel 2:28-32; Zech 12:10)

- "...poured out My Spirit" - the basis for Israel's worldwide regathering is the Holy Spirit

- The ultimate result of the battle with Gog will be Israel's national repentance and spiritual restoration (Cf. 36:27; 37:14; Joel 2:28)

— This will be fulfilled when the Millennial Kingdom is established (Hosea 5:15; Zech 12:10)