

***1 Ezekiel 37-39 – Israel Lives Again; But Not Everyone’s Happy About It!**

***1 Ezekiel 37** ¹ YaHWeH took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of YaHWeH to a valley filled with bones. ² He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. ³ Then he asked me, **“Son of man, can these bones become living people again?”** **“O Sovereign YAHEH,” I replied, “you alone know the answer to that.”**

***1** The lives represented by these **bones** were not only dead; they were also disgraced. In the thinking of ancient Israel (and the ancient near east), an unburied corpse with exposed remains was a shocking disgrace to the dead. These **bones** were obviously denied proper burial. David Guzik

***1 Ezekiel 37** ⁴ Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of YaHWeH! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign YAHEH says: Look! I am going **to put breath into you** and make you live again! ⁶ I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. **Then you will know that I am YAHEH.**’ ”

***1** No faith is needed to do the possible. Again and again, God asks people not to do what they can, but what they can’t. God’s dealing with us is not intended to show us how clever we are if only we would try, but rather the opposite, that no matter how hard we try, in the realm of the Spirit, we are helpless. We need to learn to trust God and realize that we can do all things—but only through Christ... God did not send a social reformer to this valley, neither did he send a politician or an educator; rather, he sent a preacher. Ezekiel was in that valley not at the invitation of the dry bones and not by his own inclination but he was there by the sovereign will of God (Ezek. 37:1). God’s concern was to change a terrible situation in that valley. He wanted to bring life to those dead bones, but first he had to deal with Ezekiel. The prophet himself was not a dry bone; he had spiritual life, but he needed to see what God saw, and he needed to feel the burden of it. So it was necessary that he be willing to be God’s mouthpiece and bring to the dry bones the one thing essential for them: the Word of God. This is always God’s way. Peter Jeffery ¹ ***1**

***1 Ezekiel 37** ⁷ So I spoke this message, just as He told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. ⁸ Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

“The resurrection that follows does not refer directly to individual resurrection from death. It is symbolic of the recreation and revitalizing of the nation as a whole, as the interpretation shows.” (Wright)

¹ Peter Jeffery, [Opening up Ezekiel’s Visions](#), Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2004), 119.

“There is no teaching in the Scriptures that the resurrection of anyone from physical death will take place in stages, such as is stated here for the dried bones of the people of Israel.” Daniel Feinberg

***1 Ezekiel 37** ⁹ Then He said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’ ” ¹⁰ So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. ¹¹ Then he said to me, “**Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel.** They are saying, ‘We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.’”

***9** This does not teach a bodily resurrection, or even the salvation of the Jews. Rather, it pictures the future revival of the *nation*, when the Jews will be brought up out of the “graves” of the Gentile nations where they have been scattered. Politically, this took place May 14, 1948, when the modern nation of Israel entered the family of nations again. Of course, the nation is dead spiritually; but one day when Christ returns, the nation will be born in a day and be saved. Warren Wiersbe ²

***10 Ezekiel 37** ¹² Therefore, prophesy to them and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: O My people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ When this happens, O My people, you will know that I am YaHWeH. ¹⁴ **I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live again** and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, YaHWeH, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, YaHWeH has spoken!’ ”

There will be a greater fulfillment than 1948 again in the last days when Jesus calls Israel from the ends of the earth!

***1 Matthew 24:30–31 (NLT)** ³⁰ And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send out His angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather His chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

***1** “The meaning of our text, as opened up by the context, is most evidently, if words mean anything, first, that **there shall be a political restoration of the Jews to their own land and to their own nationality; and then, secondly, there is in the text, and in the context, a most plain declaration, that there shall be a spiritual restoration, a conversion in fact, of the tribes of Israel.**” (Spurgeon in 1884)

² Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Eze 37.

The Reuniting of the Nation. 37:15–28

***1 Ezekiel 37** ¹⁵ Again a message came to me from YaHWeH: ¹⁶ “Son of man, take a piece of wood and carve on it these words: ‘**This represents Judah and its allied tribes.**’ Then take another piece and carve these words on it: ‘**This represents Ephraim and the northern tribes of Israel.**’ ¹⁷ Now hold them together in your hand as if they were one piece of wood. ¹⁸ When your people ask you what your actions mean, ¹⁹ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: I will take Ephraim and the northern tribes and join them to Judah. I will make them one piece of wood in My hand.’ ²⁰ “Then hold out the pieces of wood you have inscribed, so the people can see them.

Ezekiel 37 ²¹ And give them this message from the Sovereign YAHWEH: ***1** I will gather the people of Israel from among the nations. I will bring them home to their own land from the places where they have been scattered. ²² I will unify them into one nation on the mountains of Israel. One king will rule them all; no longer will they be divided into two nations or into two kingdoms. ²³ They will never again pollute themselves with their idols and vile images and rebellion, for I will save them from their sinful apostasy. I will cleanse them. Then they will truly be My people, and I will be their God.

***1** “Incidentally, these scriptures show the folly of the Anglo-Israel delusion with its position of ten lost tribes...The prophets all recognized the northern tribes as still in existence and knew of no such error as ‘lost’ tribes (cf. Isaiah 43:5-7, ‘every one’; Isaiah 49:5-6; Jeremiah 3:12-15).” Daniel Feinberg

“Certainly no basis exists in this text for the strange Mormon teaching that the sticks refer to two scrolls. According to the convoluted interpretation of this cult, Ezekiel was prophesying that one day the Book of Mormon (the stick or scroll of Ephraim) would be joined to the Bible (the stick or scroll of Judah) to form the complete revelation of God.” James Smith

Ezekiel 37 ²⁴ “My servant David will be their king, and they will have only one shepherd. They will obey My regulations and be careful to keep My decrees. ²⁵ They will live in the land I gave My servant Jacob, the land where their ancestors lived. They and their children and their grandchildren after them will live there forever, generation after generation. And My servant David will be their prince forever.

***1 Ezekiel 37** ²⁶ And I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant. I will give them their land and increase their numbers, and I will put My Temple among them forever (**Chapters 40-48**). ²⁷ I will make My home among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people. ²⁸ And when My Temple is among them forever, the nations will know that I am YaHWeH, who makes Israel holy.”

***1** Note that the words “forever” and “everlasting” occur five times in verses 25–28. The reestablished Israelites would live in the land forever and would have an everlasting king, an everlasting covenant, and an everlasting sanctuary. There are also 13 promises in verses 15–28 and 10 “I will” commitments. Tom Constable

***17** “The restoration of the temple is thus far more than simply a matter of repairing war-damage. It is God’s way of demonstrating that He is not dead and that Israel are still His people.” John Taylor

Now we come to Ezekiel Chapters 38-39. These chapters describe a battle or a series of battles between God, who protects Israel - living safely in their land and human armies with Gog as leader and Magog used to describe some of the armies with him.

It is obvious that John uses battle descriptions from these chapters in Revelation 19-20 and we will look at the similarities. The problem is that because Revelation seems to refer to some things in Ezekiel 38-39 but not to others, there is lack of understanding as to the exact time in the last days that these chapters in Ezekiel refer to.

After studying these chapters, I think I agree with Chuck Smith, that while Ezekiel 38-39 and clear about the things they describe – trying to exactly place who these armies are, based on countries today and when these events will happen in the last days has often lead to speculation, some of it ridiculous and confusing.

WHO?

***1 Ezekiel 38** ¹ This is another message that came to me from YaHWeH: ² “Son of man, turn and face **Gog of the land of Magog**, the (“Rosh” or great) prince who rules over the nations of **Meshech and Tubal**, and prophesy against him. ³ Give him this message from the Sovereign YAHWEH: **Gog**, I am your enemy! ⁴ I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws to lead you out with your whole army—your horses and charioteers in full armor and a great horde armed with shields and swords.

***1** It is probably safe to say that “Gog” refers to the name or title of a ruler who will emerge in history while Israel is dwelling safely in her land in the latter days. Perhaps Ezekiel referred to this unnamed future enemy of Israel as a dark figure (“unknown and evil”) calling him “Dark” much as we might refer to such a person as a new Hitler. This may be the future Antichrist. Allen

We find these names also in Revelation 20 as describing the armies from the “four corners” of the earth coming to fight against God and Israel!

***20 Revelation 20:1** And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...⁷ When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ **and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle.** In number they are like the sand on the

seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. **But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.** ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

What is significant is that the people mentioned come from areas today that are predominately Muslim!

Gog will also have authority over Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. Rosh (lit. "head" or "chief") has not been identified either by biblical or extrabiblical references. The idea that it refers to Russia rests on etymological similarities, but the name Russia only came into existence in the late eleventh century A.D. ["Magog, a Japhetic descendant (Gen 10:2) in the table of nations, is identified by Josephus (Antiq. I, 123 [vi. 1]) as the land of the Scythians, a mountainous region around the Black and Caspian seas (modern southern Russia). This position is generally accepted."] Alexander

***1** The whole region is now part of southwestern Russia, Turkey, and Iran. Tom Constable

***1** Magog has been identified by the historians as the Scythians. They dwelt mainly in that area north of the Caucasus, and between the Black sea, and the Caspian. So that is the area that would today be the southern provinces of the former Soviet Union. These provinces have come into the news lately, because there seems to be an alliance being made between Iran, and these southern provinces of the former Soviet Union, **which are, for the most part, Moslems.** Chuck Smith

***1** For instance today: **Kazakhstan:**

***1** **Islam** is the largest religion practiced in **Kazakhstan**, as 70.2% of the country's population is Muslim according to a 2009 national census. Ethnic Kazakhs are predominantly Sunni Muslims. Geographically speaking, Kazakhstan is the northernmost Muslim-majority country in the world. Kazakhs make up over half of the total population, and other ethnic groups of Muslim background include Uzbeks, Uyghurs and Tatars. Islam first arrived on the southern edges of the region in the 8th century from Arabs.

***25** Kazakhstan's President may drop the 'stan' from his country's name to distinguish his booming oil-rich nation from the rest of Central Asia, where the other so-called stans are mostly mired in poverty. The world's ninth largest nation by area with a population of just 17 million, Kazakhstan is the largest economy of the post-Soviet region, which also includes Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Foreign companies have invested billions of dollars in the nation's mineral wealth since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

***26** Nazarbayev, a 73-year-old former steelworker, has been in power for more than two decades and enjoys sweeping powers. Titled 'Leader of the Nation' and widely nicknamed 'Papa', he has overseen market reforms and attracted foreign investors. But he has kept a tight lid on dissent in his nation which has never held an election recognized as free and fair by the West. Still vastly popular, he has said he will rule as long as his health allows him to stay in power and promised to groom a successor before stepping down.

***27** **Notice what percentage of his nation are Russians! Who will take over this nation when Papa's gone? Surely they will be of the Muslim faith!

***28** Look at what the Isis dream is for the Islamic State. Can you find Israel on that map? No, they are intent on completely destroying the Jewish people!

Some of the people with this horde we can identify with the names of nations today!

***1 Ezekiel 38** ⁵ **Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya** will join you, too, with all their weapons. ⁶ **Gomer** and all its armies will also join you, along with the armies of **Beth-togarmah** from the distant north, and many others. ⁷ “Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them. ⁸ A long time from now you will be called into action. **In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel**, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel. ⁹ You and all your allies—a vast and awesome army—will roll down on them like a storm and cover the land like a cloud.

“Gomer identified a wild tribe living in the fog-bound region north of the Black Sea, perhaps as far west as the Crimean Peninsula.” (Block)

***30** **These again are Moslem nations. Thus, the nations that are allied together seem to be predominantly Moslem nations, which would indicate the possibility of sort of an announced jihad against Israel. Chuck Smith

WHO: The Muslim nations that surround and are North of Israel.

When?

Ezekiel 38 ¹⁰ “This is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: ***1** At that time evil thoughts will come to your mind, and you will devise a wicked scheme. ¹¹ You will say, ‘**Israel is an unprotected land filled with unwalled villages!** I will march against her and destroy these people who live in such confidence! ¹² I will go to those formerly desolate cities that are now filled with people who have returned from exile in many nations. I will capture vast amounts of plunder, for the people are rich with livestock and other possessions now. **They think the whole world revolves around them!** (“Center of the earth”)’

***1** “An interesting phrase is employed to define the place where God’s people will be dwelling. It is called the middle (literally, the navel) of the earth. **The land of Israel is in the center of the earth as far as God’s purposes for the world are concerned** (cf. Deut. 32:8).” Daniel Feinberg

***1** “‘The center of the earth’ is Jerusalem, which this text conceives as being more than a political capital or religious center. **It is the very basis of the world’s historical order.**” (Vawter and Hoppe)

***1 Ezekiel 38** ¹³ But Sheba and Dedan (Saudi Arabia) and the merchants of Tarshish (Spain or England?) will ask, ‘Do you really think the armies you have

gathered can rob them of silver and gold? Do you think you can drive away their livestock and seize their goods and carry off plunder?’

“Do you really think?” That sounds like an appeal to the U.N. to sanction these nations for invading Israel (By England, US or other nations). It doesn’t say that we are going to be moving forces. It just is a verbal objection. Filing a paper with the Security Council asking them to condemn these nations for this aggression. Chuck Smith

***1 Ezekiel 38** ¹⁴ “Therefore, son of man, **prophecy against Gog**. Give him this message from the Sovereign YAHWEH: When My people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. ¹⁵ You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army, ¹⁶ and you will attack My people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. **At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against My land as everyone watches, and My holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am YaHWeH.** ¹⁷ “This is what the Sovereign YAHWEH asks: Are you the one I was talking about long ago, when I announced through Israel’s prophets (lit. “**Are you he of whom the prophets spoke?**”) that in the future I would bring you against My people?

“Notice that twice it is stated that former prophets foretold this invasion (Psalm 2:1-3; Isaiah 29:1-8; Joel 2:20; 3:9-21; Zechariah 12:1 ff.; 14:2-3).” Daniel Feinberg

Ezekiel 38 ¹⁸ But this is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: ***35 When Gog invades the land of Israel, My fury will boil over!** ¹⁹ **In My jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day.** ²⁰ All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at My presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth.

***1** These chapters deal with the famous “battle of Gog and Magog.” The battle given in Ezek. 38–39 takes place at a time when the Jews are safely living in their own land (38:8, 11–12, 14) in the “latter years” (38:8). When will this be? It seems probable that this will be during the first half of the Tribulation period, when Israel will be protected from her enemies by her covenant with the head of the Roman Empire (Dan. 9:26–27). Warren Wiersbe ³

***1 Ezekiel 38** ²¹ I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign YAHWEH. **Your men will turn their swords against each other.** ²² I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur! ²³ In this way, I will show My greatness and holiness, and I will make Myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am YaHWeH.

³ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Eze 38–39.

There are a lot of similarities between the description of this battle and the battle Zechariah mentions. “The invaders are destroyed by earthquake (Zechariah 14:4-5), by violent distrust of one another (Zechariah 14:13), by pestilence (Zechariah 14:12), and by torrential rain and fire from heaven (Revelation 20:9).” (Wright)

***1 Zechariah 14:12–15 (NIV84)** ¹² This is the plague with which YaHWeH will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: **Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.** ¹³ On that day men will be stricken by YaHWeH with great panic. **Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other.** ¹⁴ Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. ¹⁵ A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.

“Chapter 39 retells the story of God’s attack and defeat but with a slightly different emphasis from that of the prior chapter. Not much attention is given to the attack itself (merely vv. 1–2), whereas a great deal of space is devoted to describing the massive slaughter of Gog’s forces. In a sense, then, Chapter 38 concentrates on the threat from the powers opposed to God and His people, while Chapter 39 concentrates more on the deliverance of God’s people from that threat.” Stuart

Ezekiel 39 ¹ “Son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign YaHWeH: ***1** I am your enemy, O Gog, ruler of the nations of Meshech and Tubal. ² **I will turn you around and drive you toward the mountains of Israel, bringing you from the distant north.** ³ I will knock the bow from your left hand and the arrows from your right hand, and I will leave you helpless. ⁴ You and your army and your allies will all die on the mountains. **I will feed you to the vultures and wild animals.** ⁵ You will fall in the open fields, for I have spoken, says the Sovereign YAHWEH. ⁶ **And I will rain down fire on Magog and on all your allies who live safely on the coasts. Then they will know that I am the YAHWEH.**

***40 Revelation 20:7–9 (NLT)** ⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God’s people and the beloved city. **But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.**

“The isles referred to are the coastland and islands of the Mediterranean. Though the judgment on the enemies will occur in Israel, the catastrophe will extend far out to the ends of the earth to accomplish the purpose of God.” (Feinberg)

***41 Ezekiel 39** ⁷ “In this way, I will make known My Holy Name among My people of Israel. I will not let anyone bring shame on it. And the nations, too, will know that I am the YAHWEH, the Holy One of Israel. ⁸ That Day of

Judgment will come, says the Sovereign YAHWEH. Everything will happen just as I have declared it.

***41a** “The Gog debacle will demonstrate once and for all the holiness of Yahweh, not as a theological abstraction but in action, as He stands to defend His people against the universal conspiracy of evil.” (Block)

***42 Ezekiel 39** ⁹ “Then the people in the towns of Israel will go out and pick up your small and large shields, bows and arrows, javelins and spears, and they will use them for fuel. There will be enough to last them seven years! ¹⁰ They won’t need to cut wood from the fields or forests, for these weapons will give them all the fuel they need. They will plunder those who planned to plunder them, and they will rob those who planned to rob them, says the Sovereign YAHWEH. ¹¹ “And I will make a vast graveyard for Gog and his hordes in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Dead Sea. It will block the way of those who travel there, and they will change the name of the place to the Valley of Gog’s Hordes. ¹² It will take seven months for the people of Israel to bury the bodies and cleanse the land. ¹³ Everyone in Israel will help, for it will be a glorious victory for Israel when I demonstrate my glory on that day, says the Sovereign YAHWEH.

“Usually weapons left by a defeated enemy would be added to the victor’s cache of arms. After all, there would be other battles to fight. The war against Gog was to be no ordinary war. It will be the final battle, whose conclusion will make armaments obsolete.” (Vawter and Hoppe)

Ezekiel 39 ¹⁴ “After seven months, teams of men will be appointed to search the land for skeletons to bury, so the land will be made clean again. ¹⁵ Whenever bones are found, a marker will be set up so the burial crews will take them to be buried in the Valley of Gog’s Hordes. ¹⁶ (There will be a town there named Hamonah, which means ‘horde.’) And so the land will finally be cleansed.

***43 Ezekiel 39** ¹⁷ “And now, son of man, this is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: **Call all the birds and wild animals. Say to them: Gather together for My great sacrificial feast.** Come from far and near to the mountains of Israel, and there eat flesh and drink blood! ¹⁸ Eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of princes as though they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls—all fattened animals from Bashan! ¹⁹ Gorge yourselves with flesh until you are glutted; drink blood until you are drunk. This is the sacrificial feast I have prepared for you. ²⁰ Feast at my banquet table—feast on horses and charioteers, on mighty men and all kinds of valiant warriors, says the Sovereign YAHWEH. ²¹ “In this way, I will demonstrate My glory to the nations. Everyone will see the punishment I have inflicted on them and the power of My fist when I strike.

The defeat will be so awesome that bodies of the soldiers will become food for the birds of prey and the wild animals of the land. Verses 4–9 are similar to Rev 19:17–18, obviously references to

the same event. Alexander reached the same conclusion in a lengthy excursus that explains the “birds of prey” passage as unique to Ezekiel 39 and Rev 19. He correctly concluded that Rev 19 was at least a partial fulfillment of Ezekiel 39:4.⁴

***43a Revelation 19 (NIV84)** ¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.” ¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and **all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.**

***44 In Revelation John linked this sacrificial feast with the aftermath of the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-21). He also linked the invasion of Gog and Yahweh’s defense of His people to a battle at the end of Jesus’ 1,000-year reign (Revelation 20:7-9). Because John links aspects of Ezekiel 38-39 to two chronologically separated events, it is likely that he uses Ezekiel 38-39 as *examples* of these future events rather than the events actually fulfilling the prophecies of Ezekiel 38-39. Tom Constable**

Gog and Magog are here used in a wider sense than in Ezekiel, and their invasion differs in time and details, though agreeing in character and object, with that which He foretells. Ezekiel predicts an incursion by a great northern power called Gog, which, from certain geographical indications, is easily identified with Russia. **In the Revelation, however, Gog and Magog are used to designate the nations, not merely from the north, but from all parts, “the four quarters of the earth.”** Again, the invasion named by Ezekiel is at the beginning of Christ's reign; that in the Revelation at the end. **The hosts in Ezekiel, too, fall on the mountains, and their bodies are buried; whereas the forces assembled in the Revelation are devoured by fire from heaven.** The judgment is instantaneous. Christ's reign is a reign of righteousness, during which evil is not tolerated as now, but promptly crushed.

While many explanations have been made, one of the intriguing ones is that Gog refers to the ruler and Magog to the people as in Ezekiel 38. Hence, what the passage means is that the nations of the world follow Satan, including the rulers (Gog) and the people (Magog) under the rulers. Another plausible explanation is that the expression is used much as we use the term “Waterloo” to express a disastrous battle, but one not related to the historic origination of the term. Many contrasts can be observed between this battle and that of Ezekiel in that Satan is prominent in this whereas he is not mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39. The invasion of

⁴ Lamar Eugene Cooper, *Ezekiel*, vol. 17, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 342.

Ezekiel comes from the north whereas this invasion comes from all directions. **Ezekiel's battle probably occurs previous to the battle of the great day of God Almighty before the millennium, whereas this occurs after the thousand years have been finished.** The number of those who rebel against God and follow Satan is described as innumerable "as the sand of the sea." Thus the last gigantic rebellion of man develops against God's sovereign rule in which the wicked meet their Waterloo. (The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Copyright © 1966 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. All rights reserved.)

There are at least eight views as to the time of this future invasion.

1. **The invasion is only symbolic of the attempts of evil forces to overcome God's people.** [Allen, Stuart] It does not describe a real battle but in the language of warfare pictures the triumph of good over evil, the forces of God over those of Satan. The amount of detail and specific references to places and times in this prophecy argue against this view. [Daniel Feinberg opposes this view.]
2. **It will occur before the Tribulation, either before or at the time of the Rapture or just after it.** [David L. Cooper, *When Gog's Armies Meet the Almighty: An Exposition of Ezekiel Thirty-eight and Thirty-nine*, pp.] But the prophecy sets the time of this invasion after God has restored Israel to her land (cf. 38:8, 16). Ezekiel 36:26–28 and 39:26–29 indicate that Israel's restoration will involve spiritual regeneration as well as physical return, so the present return of Jews to the State of Israel is not the fulfillment.
3. **It will happen during the Tribulation (cf. Dan. 11:40–41; Rev. 14:14–20). For three and a half years Antichrist will encourage the Jews to return to Palestine, but then he will break his covenant with them and begin to attack them (Matt. 24:15–22; Dan. 9:27; 11:40–41).** Thus Israel will enjoy a period of peace in the Tribulation. [J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pp. 350–52; Dyer, "Ezekiel," p. 1300; idem, in *The Old . . .*, p. 691.] However the context of Israel dwelling safely in her land in Ezekiel 33–39 appears to describe millennial conditions. Her security under the Antichrist's covenant will be a false, illusory peace. Also 39:7 says that following this battle the Lord's name will be profaned no longer, but during the Tribulation it will be profaned (cf. Rev. 13; 16:9, 11, 21). It also seems unlikely that the Jews could bury corpses for seven months and burn weapons as fuel for seven years following an invasion in the middle of the seven-year Tribulation. The last half of the Tribulation will involved unparalleled persecution for the Jews (Dan. 9:27).
4. **It will take place at the end of the Tribulation (the battle of Armageddon; cf. Zech. 12; 14:1–4; Rev. 19:11–21).** [Feinberg, pp. 218–19, 230–31; H. A. Ironside, *Ezekiel*, p. 265; W. Kelly, *Notes on Ezekiel*, pp. 200–201; Louis S. Bauman, *Russian Events in the Light of Bible Prophecy*, pp. 174–77. Harold W. Hoehner, "The Progression of Events in Ezekiel 38–39," in *Integrity of Heart, Skillfulness of Hands: Biblical and Leadership Studies in Honor of Donald K. Campbell*, pp. 82–92, argued that Ezekiel 38 refers to events in the middle of the Tribulation and chapter 39 to events at the end of the Tribulation.] Some of Ezekiel's descriptions of Gog's invasion recur in Revelation 19:17–21, which describes the end of the Tribulation. But other aspects appear in Revelation 20:7–10, which describes the end of the Millennium. Israel is dwelling securely in the land that Gog will invade, but at the end of the Tribulation Israel will have been under intense attack for over three years (Dan. 9:27).
5. **It will happen between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennium.** Since Jesus Christ's return to the earth will end the Tribulation and begin the Millennium it does not seem that there will be enough time for the invasion of Gog

and its consequences then (cf. 39:1–16; Matt. 13:41). Furthermore some of the allusions to this invasion in Revelation suggest a time at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7–10). [Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God*, p. 187; Gæbelein, p. 251. John F. Walvoord, *The Millennial Kingdom*, p. 331; idem, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*, p. 981; affirmed that the rebellion of Gog will occur before the Millennium, but did not say exactly when.]

- 6. It will happen at the beginning of the Millennium.** This seems highly unlikely since all who enter the Millennium will be believers who have assisted the Jews (Matt. 25:31–46). Moreover all weapons of war will be destroyed at the beginning of the Millennium (Mic. 4:1–4).
- 7. It will occur at the end of the Millennium.** [Ellison, p. 133; Davidson, p. 301; Merrill, p. 380.] Revelation 20:8 refers specifically to Gog and Magog in a context describing the end of the Millennium. Israel dwelling in safety in her land, the situation described repeatedly in Ezekiel 33–39, fits conditions at the end of the Millennium. Rabbinic writers identified Gog and Magog as the final enemy that will attack Israel in the messianic age. [Fish] Critics of this view say, Why bury the dead for seven months following the battle when the resurrection of the unsaved will follow immediately (cf. Rev. 20:11–13)? This objection assumes that these events will follow one another immediately, but the text does not say so explicitly. Why would the Israelites burn the weapons for seven years since it appears that God will create a new earth immediately after He quells the rebellion described in Revelation 20:7–10 (cf. Rev. 21:1–4)? Again, there may be time between these events that the Bible does not reveal anywhere but here. Another problem with this view is the description of the Lord calling the birds to a great feast in Revelation 19:17–21, which occurs at the end of the Tribulation.
- 8. The best solution seems to be a combination of views 4 and 7. Apparently the fulfillment will take place in two phases, first at the end of the Tribulation and then at the end of the Millennium, when Israel is dwelling securely (cf. Rev. 19:17–21; 20:7–8).** [L. Cooper, pp. 336–37; Alexander, “Ezekiel,” p. 940; Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8–22*, p. 394.] Ezekiel evidently described the invasion of Israel’s enemies into the Promised Land as a single event, but later revelation clarifies that it will happen on two separate occasions. Part of Ezekiel’s prophecy describes one of these invasions, part the other, and some of it describes both incidents. Gog then does not describe a single individual but two people both of whom share similar plans. [In the first fulfillment Gog is the beast, the Antichrist, the King of the North (Dan. 11:40–45). In the second he is the human leader who will lead the rebellion at the end of the Millennium.]⁵

Ezekiel 39 ²² And from that time on the people of Israel will know that I am the YAHWEH their God. ²³ The nations will then know why Israel was sent away to exile—it was punishment for sin, for they were unfaithful to their God. Therefore, I turned away from them and let their enemies destroy them. ²⁴ I turned My face away and punished them because of their defilement and their sins.

⁵ Tom Constable, [Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Eze 39:29.

***45 Ezekiel 39²⁵ "So now, this is what the Sovereign YAHWEH says: I will end the captivity of My people; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I jealously guard My holy reputation!"** ²⁶ They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them. ²⁷ **When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, I will display My holiness among them for all the nations to see.**

***46 Ezekiel 39²⁸ Then My people will know that I am the YAHWEH their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of My people behind.** ²⁹ **And I will never again turn My face from them, for I will pour out My Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign YAHWEH, have spoken!"**

Paul said, "Blindness is happened in part to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles come in, but then all Israel shall saved". So right now, they are in that national blindness, they're blind to the Jesus Christ, to the truths of God. But there will come that day when God will work again.

***46a** "We must never overlook the literal significance of this promise. All Israel, insists the apostle of the Gentiles, who never lost his love for his own people, shall be saved. The blindness which has happened to them is only till the fullness of the Gentile contingent to the one Church has been brought in." F.B. Meyer

"He observes the response of the house of Israel to the new outpouring of divine mercy. Far from being a source of pride at having been selected as the objects of divine compassion, the experience of grace will lead to a recognition of their own unworthiness." (Block)

"In that day of restoration, dwelling securely in their land, they would still bear their shame, that is to say, repentance for past failure would be profound, even in the day of restoration. By that attitude of mind Jehovah would be sanctified among them in the sight of the nations, but they would have the infinite healing of His unveiled face, and the abiding energy of His outpoured Spirit." G. Campbell Morgan

"Finally, is reiterated with the powerful statement, put in the prophetic perfect tense, that *I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel* (rv). To put this in the future (as rsv) weakens the dramatic force of this assertion. True, God had not yet done this in reality; but it was such an assured word that it could be spoken by Ezekiel as if it were an accomplished fact." (Taylor)

Timeline by James Smith: In the last days of Israel during the Tribulation leading up to her glory under the reign of Christ, she will yet experience the darkest days of her chastisement.

Following are a series of chronological events of an eschatological nature in which Israel's dispersion among the nations, her regathering out of the nations, her role in relation to the Beast, the kings of the north, the south, and east, and the blessings of her spiritual regeneration at the inauguration of the Messianic Kingdom may be seen in their proper perspective: (1) She will be scattered among the nations without a home of her own; (2) by a mandate of the United Nations in 1948, Israel was given a home in the land west of the Jordan; (3) many, but not all, Jews have

returned to the land while still in unbelief; (4) after the rapture of the Church, the prince (man of sin) will make a covenant with Israel for seven years to give them security (Dan 9:27; 2 Thess 2:3); (5) the prince will break his covenant after three and one-half years according to Daniel 9:26; (6) Israel will lose her religious liberties (Mt 24:15–16; Rev 13:1–8); (7) the false prince will impose himself as deity upon the world, including Israel (2 Thess 2:4; Rev 12:13–14); (8) the false prince (the Beast) will then assume worldwide leadership through a series of political and armed conflicts (Dan 11:36–45; Rev 13:7); (9) the Beast will be opposed by a series of movements against him by the kings of the north, the south, and the east (Dan 11:40, 44); (10) a coalition of the Beast and the kings of the earth will make war against the Lord upon His return from heaven (Rev 19:19); (11) the Lord will overcome them by the sword of His mouth (Rev 19:15–21); (12) the Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire; (13) there will be a judgment of the nations (Mt 25:31–46); (14) a regathering and consequent judgment of living Israel will take place (20:33–44; Mt 24:27–31); (15) then there will be the experience of repentance and regeneration on the part of Israel (Zech 12:10; 13:1); and (16) then the inauguration of the Messianic Kingdom will take place (Dan 2:44; Mt 25:34; Rev 20:4).