

# Ezekiel

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## ***Translation***

Ezek. 38:1 Now the word of the Lord [Yahweh] came face-to-face to me, saying:

Ezek. 38:2 Son of man [Ezekiel], set your face against [denounce the ambusher] Gog [commanding general] and the land of Magog [Central Asian Islamic nations], the governing official [military leader] over Rosh [Russia], Meschech [Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea], and Tubal [eastern Turkey], and proclaim a prophecy [divine revelation] against him,

Ezek. 38:3 And say: The Lord [Yahweh: God the Father] says this very thing, Behold, I, the Lord [Adonai: Jesus Christ], am against you, Gog, top official over Rosh [Russia], Meschech [Turkey, southeast of Black Sea], and Tubal [eastern Turkey],

Ezek. 38:4 So I will gather you together in military formation and will set a hook through your cheekbone [you are my helpless prisoners] and will bring you forward for battle, that is, your entire military force, horses and cavalymen, clothed for battle with all kinds of armour, a huge body of organized fighting men with shields [defensive weapons] and helmets [head gear] and swords [offensive weapons],

Ezek. 38:5 Including Persia [Iran], Ethiopia [including Sudan and Eritrea] and Libya [including Algeria and Tunisia], all with helmets [head gear] and shields [defensive weapons],

Ezek. 38:6 Gomer [Turkey, perhaps Germany] and his entire armed force [body of troops], the descendants of Togarmah [Turkey & Armenia] from the distant north, and his entire armed force, and many other nations [coalition hordes] with you.

Ezek. 38:7 Start getting prepared [making alliances and arms deals]. You [Gog] must prepare yourself [Russian military], as well as all your coalition [Islamic jihadists] who have been gathered together [mobilized in a staging area by the sovereignty of God] with you. Moreover, you [Gog] will serve as military commander [arms supplier] for them.

Ezek. 38:8 After many days [prophetic future], you [Gog] will be called up to fulfill this commission [to act as military commander and weapons supplier]. During the last years, you yourself will appear before the gathering [he will personally join his troops in battle] and will come into the land [Israel] which has been brought back by the sword [under the pressure of battle] and has been regathered from many nations into the land of Israel, which has been recreated entirely from the abandoned desert [empty wasteland]. Moreover, this [land] will return out from the [Gentile] nations and all of them [Jews] will be living [resettled] in a time of peace and security.

Ezek. 38:9 Moreover, you [Gog] will rise up suddenly like a violent rainstorm [bringing devastation] and will march in like a cloud that covers the land [overwhelmingly superior force]. Indeed, you yourself [Gog] will be present [leading the troops] as well as all those [Russian army] around you

and all the nations [Islamic coalition] with you.

Ezek. 38:10 The Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] says this: Indeed, it will come to pass, at that time [during the last days] unspoken thoughts will enter your mind and you will devise an evil plan,

Ezek. 38:11 And you will say: I will declare war and march against the land which has been thrown-away [abandoned open country]. I will attack at a time when they are at rest and when they are living during a time of peace [due to a peace treaty or cease-fire], all [Jews and Gentiles] residing in a land which will exist without city walls or security gates - as a matter of fact, entrances will not exist for them [security arrangement has been made] –

Ezek. 38:12 To obtain booty [national plunder] and to strip the enemy of personal life and property [spoil], to turn your hostility against that place which is inhabited [environmental devastation] and against the people [both Jew and Gentile] who have been regathered from many nations, who have earned and accumulated property and possessions and who will reside at the center of the inhabited earth [Israel is the center of the world in God's eyes].

Ezek. 38:13 Saba and Dedan [Saudis] and the merchants [dealers, negotiators] of Tarshish [Mediterranean coastal region] and all the young lions [powerful new nations during the last days] will ask in unison: Have you [Gog] come to obtain booty [national plunder]? Have you gathered together your coalition [Islamic] to strip the enemy of life [murder], to steal silver and gold [precious metals], to rustle cattle and poultry, to strip the enemy of significant personal property?

Ezek. 38:14 Therefore, son of man [Ezekiel], proclaim the future and declare to Gog: The Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh] says this: In that day when My people Israel are dwelling safely, you will come to recognize this fact.

Ezek. 38:15 Then you will march from your camp [staging area] out of the far north, you and many people [garrisons] with you, all of them riding war horses – the entire coalition [no reserves held back], indeed, a huge army [fighting force],

Ezek. 38:16 And you will declare war and march [mount up] against My people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. It will be during the last days when I will bring you against My land [Jesus Christ controls the future] so that all the Gentile nations will come to know Me when I have been acknowledged as holy by you, Gog, in their presence [before their very eyes].

Ezek. 38:17 The Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh] declares this: Gog, are you the one whom I spoke about in former days by the hand of My servants, the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days, as a matter of fact, for years [they repeated this prophecy many times over a long period of years], that I would bring you against them?

Ezek. 38:18 Now it will come to pass on the same appointed day [as divinely planned], on the day in which Gog will declare war and march against the land of Israel, declares the Lord [Adonai] God

[Yahweh], that My wrath [holy anger] will rise up in My nostrils.

Ezek. 38:19 As a matter of fact, I spoke according to My divine jealousy in the fire of My divine anger [judgment]: Surely in that day [when Gog launches his invasion] there will be a great earthquake near [in the neighborhood of] the land of Israel,

Ezek. 38:20 And the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the open fields and all kinds of reptiles which crawl upon the ground and all men upon the face of the earth will be shaken at the Lord's presence and the mountains will be broken into pieces and dashed to the ground and the canyon walls will collapse and every [man-made] wall will fall to the ground,

Ezek. 38:21 Furthermore, I will call upon him [Gog] complete fear, a sword throughout every mountain, says the Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh]. A man's sword [offensive weapon] will be used against his brother.

Ezek. 38:22 Then I will pronounce judgment on him [Gog] with a deadly plague [pestilence], even a blood disease, and I will inundate [overwhelm] him and all of the troops with him [coalition forces] with heavy rain and hailstones in addition to fire and sulphur. I will cause it to rain even upon the many [Islamic] nations allied with him [those who support the coalition forces, wherever they live].

Ezek. 38:23 And so [because of divine judgment], I will be acknowledged as extremely powerful and treated as holy and will be glorified and will be known in the sight of many nations, and they will understand that I am God [Yahweh].

Ezek. 39:1 Now, son of man [Ezekiel], you proclaim a prophecy against Gog, and say: The Lord God says this: Behold, I am against you, Gog [commanding general], governing official over Rosh [Russia], Meschech [Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea], and Tubal [eastern Turkey],

Ezek. 39:2 And I will gather you together and will guide you and will bring you down from the far north and I will lead you onto the mountains of Israel,

Ezek. 39:3 And I will strike your bow out of your left hand and will cause your arrows to fall from your right hand.

Ezek. 39:4 You will fall [be destroyed] upon the mountains of Israel, you [Gog] and all the troops with you [coalition forces]. They [the Russian-Islamic army] will be offered as a sacrifice to a large number of vultures, all kinds of ravenous [parasitic] birds [ravens, crows, eagles], and I will offer you as a sacrifice to be eaten by all kinds of predatory animals [jackals, hyenas, coyotes, wolves].

Ezek. 39:5 You will fall [be killed] in front [of your troops] on open country [doesn't reach his goal inside Israel], because I have spoken it, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

Ezek. 39:6 Then I will send fire upon Magog [Central Asian Islamic nations] and those who dwell safe and secure on coastal areas [other Islamic host nations]. They will come to know that I am God [Yahweh].

Ezek. 39:7 Indeed, My holy Name will be made known in the midst of My people Israel, and My holy Name will no longer be profaned. In addition, the nations will know that I am God [the Lord], the Holy One in Israel.

Ezek. 39:8 Behold, it [the exact prophetic time] has come. Furthermore, now you will know that it has arrived, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh]. This is the day concerning which I have spoken.

Ezek. 39:9 Then [after the Lord has destroyed the Russian-Islamic coalition] those who dwell in the cities of Israel will march out and will set the weapons on fire and will burn both shields and javelins, bows and arrows, including hand-held clubs and spears, and they will burn them with fire for seven years.

Ezek. 39:10 Furthermore, they will not gather wood out of the open country nor cut timber out of the forests, but instead they will burn the weapons with fire. In fact, they will plunder those [dead Russian-Islamic troops] who planned to plunder them, and strip the weapons off those [dead Russian-Islamic troops] who planned to strip the weapons off them, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

Ezek. 39:11 And it will come to pass in that day: I will give to Gog an abominable place for a grave in Israel, a burial ground which passes by the eastern approach to the [Dead] sea, including a border built around it and blocking the entrance way to the valley, and they [the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists] will be buried in that place, Gog and all his army, and it will be called [renamed] the valley [burial ground] of Hamon-Gog [Gog and his army].

Ezek. 39:12 As a matter of fact, the nation of Israel will bury them [the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists] for seven months so that the land might be cleansed.

Ezek. 39:13 Moreover, all the people from the region [even those outside the nation Israel] will bury them [the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists], and it will become a memorial event to them, a day on which I will be honored and respected, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

Ezek. 39:14 In addition, they will give orders to a special detachment of men [inspectors and disposal teams] for continual duty, who will travel throughout the land burying those [bodies] which remain upon the surface of the land [leftovers] for the purpose of cleaning it. They will continue to search outside the border [outskirts of Israel] for seven months,

Ezek. 39:15 And each one [designated inspector] who travels throughout the land and sees a man's bone [skeletal remains] will erect a signpost [stone landmark] beside it until those who are on the

burial detail bury it in the valley of Hamon-Gog.

Ezek. 39:16 In addition, the name of the [burial] city will be Hamonah [the dead multitude]. Indeed, the land will be swept clean.

Ezek. 39:17 Furthermore, to you, son of man [Ezekiel], the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] says this: Speak to every winged fowl [bird of prey] and every wild beast [predatory animal] of the countryside: Gather yourselves together and come on! Assemble yourselves all around [on every side] to My sacrificial feast which I have slaughtered and prepared as a great sacrificial offering for you upon the mountains of Israel. Indeed, you will devour meat and you will drink blood.

Ezek. 39:18 You will eat the flesh [sacrificial meat] of mighty warriors [Russian troops and Islamic jihadists] and drink the blood of the ruling officials of the earth [Russian and Islamic politicians]: rams and young bulls and male goats and all the fattened cattle of Bashan [various ranks of soldiers, jihadists and politicians].

Ezek. 39:19 And you will eat fat [the best part of a sacrificial offering] to the point of indulgent satisfaction and you will drink blood to the point of drunkenness from My sacrificial feast which I have slaughtered and prepared for you.

Ezek. 39:20 And so you will be filled [gorged] at My table with horses and charioteers and mighty riders and with all kinds of fighting men [warriors], declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

Ezek. 39:21 Moreover, I will set my glory before you [Jews in Israel] and all the Gentiles will see My perfect justice which I have executed [both blessing and judgment upon Israel when due] and My hand [hostile power] which I have brought upon them.

Ezek. 39:22 Then [as end-time events unfold] the nation of Israel will recognize that I am the Lord [Yahweh] their God [Elohim] from that day and beyond [forward].

Ezek. 39:23 In addition, all the Gentiles will understand that the nation of Israel was exiled [led into captivity] because of their sin, because they rejected Me [Jesus Christ as their Messiah]. As a consequence, I hid My presence from them and turned them over into the hands of their enemies. Then they all fell by the two-edged sword [died as prisoners-of-war].

Ezek. 39:24 I have given to them [Israel] according to their state of cultic uncleanness [impurity] and according to their rebellious iniquity [perfect justice in action]. Indeed, I have hidden My presence from them.

Ezek. 39:25 Therefore, the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] declares this: Now I will revoke the captivity [and dispersion] of Jacob and will show mercy upon the nation of Israel. Furthermore, I will arouse a zealous response for My holy name.

Ezek. 39:26 Now [as the end times begin] they have borne their shame and all their wrongdoing which they have committed out of unfaithfulness against Me when they [historically] dwelled safely upon their land. Now [as the end times begin] no one will be afraid,

Ezek. 39:27 Since I have returned them into it [Israel] from the nations and have regathered them out from hostile enemy lands and have become sanctified in them in the presence of many nations.

Ezek. 39:28 Then they [Jews in Israel] will realize that I am the Lord [Yahweh] their God [Elohim], Who led them into exile [captivity] among the Gentile nations. However, I will regather them into the land [of Israel] and will not leave them there [among the Gentile nations] ever again.

Ezek. 39:29 As a matter of fact, I will never again hide My presence from them. Instead, I will pour out My Spirit upon the nation of Israel, declares the Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh].

## ***Introduction***

I decided to translate and study Ezekiel 38-39 because of the plethora of books that have come out on these chapters since 9-11 and the following war on terrorism. Every pastor with an interest in eschatology seems to be writing something on the topic. It is always good to study such matters in depth rather than take a few sensational writers at their word. What I have discovered is that the vast majority of what I have read (see reading list) is quite accurate, in spite of some rather unusual speculation popping up now and again. I was surprised to find that even the “Left Behind” version of the events in Ezekiel 38-39 are close to the mark. I have read some of the anti-Left Behind books in the market place and so far I have found them all to be nauseating. Why? It is my sincere belief that there was another Reformation in history that was marked by the reintroduction of dispensational theology into the forum of Biblical exegesis. As an avid adherent of dispensational theology, for many reasons I won’t go into here, it shouldn’t be a surprise to anyone that I agree with the dispensationalist view of Ezekiel. Even more to the point, why would any Bible teacher or student deliberately ignore a historical Reformation?

In my opinion, this is exactly what covenant theologians have done. If you do not embrace dispensational theology and its consistently literal hermeneutic, as opposed to the variety of camps in the covenant theology tradition, I guarantee that you do not understand biblical eschatology in general and Ezekiel in particular. And if the percentages I see quoted are true, that approximately one-third of the Bible deals with eschatology, then it is quite pathetic to be in the camp of non-dispensationalists - because one-third of the Bible is a closed book to covenantals. Some of the older writings on Ezekiel, from those with covenant theology or preterist leanings, are so far away from the truth that I consider them dangerous to anyone who has a desire to understand the eschatological truths in Scripture. Some of these commentators taught the first part of Ezekiel and abandoned their pursuit of the latter chapters when their

theological system prevented them from having anything intelligent to say. If only other Bible scholars of their persuasion would do the same! As you will see from my study of Ezekiel, it is really quite simple to understand if you begin with the correct dispensational premise. (LWB)

Chapters 38 and 39 contain oracles against Gog. The general theme is that, after Israel's settlement in Palestine, when the neighboring peoples have been rendered harmless, Jehovah will entice the far-distant peoples of the North to invade the country, and will overwhelm them in a disaster so terrible that none shall remain to challenge the peace of Israel, and Jehovah's power shall be universally recognized. (W. Wadde) In the last great division of Ezekiel's prophecy the themes are distinct and significant. Chapter 34 emphasized the rulers; chapter 35, the enemies; chapter 36, the nation converted; chapter 37, the nation resurrected; chapters 38-39, the land; and chapters 40-48, the sanctuary. Chapters 38-39, it is generally recognized, constitute one prophecy. They tell, if interpreted literally, of a coming northern confederacy of nations about the Black and Caspian seas with Persia and North Africa, who will invade the promised land after Israel's restoration to it. (C. Feinberg)

The aim of Washington's IMF 'market reforms' in the former Soviet Union was brutally simple: destroy the economic ties that bound Moscow to each part of the Soviet Union, from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan, from Georgia to Azerbaijan, from Estonia to Poland, Bulgaria or Hungary. Though it was never stated, IMF shock therapy was intended to create weak, unstable economies on the periphery of Russia, dependent on Western capital and on dollar inflows for their survival – a form of neocolonialism ... The Russians were to get the standard third world treatment, much as an African former colony or a banana republic – IMF conditionalities and a plunge into poverty for the population. A tiny elite were allowed to become fabulously rich in dollar terms, and manipulable by Wall Street bankers and investors ... The majority of Russians were plunged into existential poverty ... Behind the nice rhetoric of market-oriented reform, the region was being carved up in much the manner the European powers had colonized and divided Africa 100 years before ... It also opened up the potential for American and allied oil companies to control what had been the world's largest oil and natural gas producer ... American and British oil companies scrambled to exploit the potentially vast oil reserves believed to lie under the Caspian Sea off Baku. (W. Engdahl) At some point in the future, American and British interests will show weakness in their ability to control their Persian Gulf interests and the Russian/Islamic alliance will make a bid for control by attacking Israel as a cover. (LWB)

This chapter, and that which follows it, are concerning Gog and Magog, a powerful enemy to the people of Israel, that should make a formidable descent upon them, and put them into a consternation, but their army should be routed and their design defeated ... Gog seems to be the king and Magog the kingdom; so that Gog and Magog are like Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Some think they find them afar off, in Scythia, Tartary, and Russia. Others think they find them nearer the land of Israel, in Syria, and Asia the Less. Ezekiel is appointed to prophesy against Gog, and to tell him that *God is against him*, v. 2, 3. Note, God does not only see those that are now the enemies of his church and set himself against them, but he foresees those that will be so and lets them know by his word that he is against them too, and yet is pleased to make use of them to



serve his own purposes, for the glory of his own name; surely *their wrath shall praise him*, and the *remainder thereof he will restrain*, Ps. 76:10. (M. Henry) In addition to the slaughter of Israel's enemies on the battlefield, anti-Semitism will be judged (Zech. 14:12-15) throughout the world. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

Ezekiel's war as described in chapters 38 and 39 will consist of an Arab coalition of nations led by Russia for the purpose of exterminating the Jews of Israel and controlling the city of Jerusalem. The Russian payoff will be the ability to control the oil-rich Persian Gulf ... If the Arab nations unite their forces under Russia's leadership, which has been helping Iran develop nuclear weapons for several years, the inferno described in Ezekiel 38-39 will explode across the Middle East, plunging the world toward Armageddon. (J. Hagee) Perhaps due to internal weakness or collapse of America, Russia decides to reverse the "process of bringing every major oil region of the world under more or less U.S. control, from the Caspian Sea to Iraq, from West Africa to Columbia." (W. Engdahl) The great prophecies of Ezekiel 37, 38, 39 are end-time and latter day in their fulfillment (Ezek. 38:8, 16). This great invasion from the north is prior to the reign of the Antichrist and involves conditions as well as periods of time which exclude it from the 3-1/2 years embracing Antichrist's reign (Ezek. 38:11; 39:9, 14). It is possible that the Antichrist takes his rise from this pre-tribulation conflict. (J. Gerig)

The Russians and the Arabs may use UN Security Council resolutions as the legal pretext for the coming Russian-Arab invasion of Israel. This invasion will be a key event in Bible prophecy. The new coalition against international terrorism may set the stage for the coming Russian-Arab invasion of Israel – the prophesied War of Gog and Magog described by Ezekiel 38-39. (G. Jeffrey) That the primary reference of the names Gog and Magog is to the northern powers, headed up by Russia, all agree ... Gog is the prince, Magog his land. (L. Talbot) The Gogs and Magogs in Ezekiel and Revelation are not the same at all: The definite location is given in Ezekiel 38 and 39, whereas Revelation 20 states clearly the universal character of that spasmodic, but ineffective uprising. (C. Feinberg) The former Soviet Union, of course, is precisely north of Israel (39:2), from which this prophecy was written. And they are supplemented by "a great company" (38:4), by "all thy bands" (39:4), which could be translated "satellite nations." (J. White) There is almost universal agreement among prophetic scholars that this army comes from Russia and her satellites, whose ruler is known as "the king of the north" in the pattern of end-time events. (C. Mason, Jr.)

The name "Israel" was not applied to an organized nation from the time of Bar Kochba (c. 135 A.D.) until 1948. Some Jews had returned to Judea, Samaria and Galilee from the Babylonian captivity at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (in the last third of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.). But by no means was this the wholesale "return from all nations" of which Ezekiel wrote. Nor indeed has there yet been any such invasion of the Holy Land by the northern peoples in the manner which Ezekiel foresaw. In other words, Ezekiel's prophecy has never yet, until our time, by any stretch of the imagination been fulfilled. So Ezekiel was either mistaken, or his prophecy is for days yet to come. (W. McBirnie) There has never been a war with Israel which fulfills the prophecies of Ezekiel 38-39. If one believes that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is infallible and must

be fulfilled, the only logical conclusion is that this portion of Scripture, like many others, is still due a future fulfillment. (J. Walvoord)

Here are the nine specific geographical locations listed in Ezekiel 38:1-6 (M. Hitchcock), with Ancient Name first, Modern Nation second, and Explanation third.

- 1) Rosh – Russia – Ancient Sarmatians, known as Rashu, Rasapu, Ros, and Rus.
- 2) Magog – Central Asia – Ancient Scythians, Islamic southern republics of the former Soviet Union with a population of 60 million Muslims. This territory could include modern Afghanistan.
- 3) Meschech – Turkey – Ancient Muschki and Musku in Cilicia and Cappadocia.
- 4) Tubal – Turkey – Ancient Tubalu in Cappadocia.
- 5) Persia – Iran – Name changed from Persia to Iran in 1935.
- 6) Ethiopia – Sudan – Ancient Cush, south of Egypt.
- 7) Libya – Libya – Ancient Put, west of Egypt.
- 8) Gomer – Turkey – Ancient Cimmerians, from the 7<sup>th</sup> century to 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. in central/western Anatolia.
- 9) Beth-togarmah – Turkey – Til-garimmu, between ancient Carchemish and Haran in southern Turkey.

From this list it is clear that at least six key allies will come together for this invasion: Russia, Turkey, Iran, Libya, Sudan, and the nations of Central Asia. Amazingly, all of these nations except Russia are Muslim nations. (M. Hitchcock) When has Israel ever been invaded by all these nations listed in Ezekiel 38:1-6? Or when did God ever destroy an invading army like this with fire and brimstone from heaven, plagues, earthquakes, and infighting among the invaders? The answer? Never. That's because Ezekiel is describing an invasion that is still future even in our day ... You will scan your world atlas in vain for the nations of Rosh, Gomer, Magog, Meschech, Togarmah, or Put. The names of some of these areas have changed numerous times through the millennia. But the modern nations that inhabit the same geographical territory as these ancient peoples and nations will invade Israel. (M. Hitchcock, T. Ice) I speculate that a part of old Russia (the Islamic part) instigates an attack on Israel still leaving Russia the nation strong enough to be the King of the North to fulfill its role in future prophecy (Dan. 11:40) during the Battle of Armageddon. The conflict with two Russian invasions of Israel is solved. The Islamic part of Russia is destroyed at the beginning of the Tribulation, and the Russia of Moscow and Tobolsk (King of the North) is destroyed at the end of the Tribulation at Armageddon. (DDSrail)

Who were these countries in Ezekiel's day? The nations inhabited the rugged area north and east of the Fertile Crescent - in what is today northern and eastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, and the former Soviet republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan ... What could unite such a diverse group? The answer is Islam. (C. Dyer) The attack in Ezekiel 38-39 is a Russian bid for control of the Middle East politically and commercially. Because it is a surprise attack, however, there is no record of armies being marshaled against the invaders. Instead God intervenes supernaturally to save His people and wipes out the invading force by a series of catastrophes described in Ezekiel 38:18-23. This war shatters the period of peace and prepares the way for the next and

final period. (L. Chafer) This is not to be confused with Armageddon, the “war to end all wars.” The Bible also foresees that ultimate conflict, but the Russo-Israeli war is to precede it. (T. McCall & Z. Levitt)

If Bible prophecy had a list of credits, it would read, “directed by God.” God is not only the author of the script, He is the producer and director as well. He is orchestrating, organizing, and overruling world events to set the stage so that all the props and players will be in the right place when the curtain goes up at the Rapture. Over and over again in Ezekiel 38-39 God makes it clear that He is in charge, that He’s the director. If there’s one thing we learn from Ezekiel 38-39 above all else, it’s that God is in control ... While the specific time is harder to pin down, the general identification can be ascertained with certainty. While some believe that the events in Ezekiel 38-39 have already occurred, the vast majority of Bible scholars agree that this invasion has not been fulfilled in the past, but wholly awaits a future fulfillment. (M. Hitchcock) Gog’s invasion cannot be identified with any known historical event. (F. Bruce)

## **CHAPTER 38**

LWB **Ezek. 38:1** Now the word of the Lord [Yahweh] came face-to-face to me, saying:

KJV **Ezekiel 38:1** And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The word of the Lord, known as Yahweh in the Hebrew, came to Ezekiel (Ingressive Aorist, Qal Imperfect) on yet another occasion (Frequentative). Ezekiel heard the voice of God audibly (Dramatic Present, Qal Infinitive), which in our day should not be taken lightly. When was the last time God spoke in an audible voice to you? Your answer had better be, “Never!” Nobody hears the voice of God today unless they are mentally ill, but Ezekiel was a prophet chosen by the sovereignty of God to foretell the future during the Jewish dispensation. The Lord communicated His message to Ezekiel and he communicated it to the general public, especially Israel. This is chapter 38, so the audible voice of God has been coming to Ezekiel on a customary, almost habitual nature. The ingressive aorist (Greek) points to this as the beginning of another prophetic vision, while the frequentative imperfect (Hebrew) points to this as a recurring method of receiving revelation from God.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Although I do not despise prophesying, I entertain a very intense disgust of those who know nothing about them, and yet pretend to be their interpreters. (C. Spurgeon) Things haven’t changed much over the years with self-proclaimed experts in prophecy. Yet, there is a need for

speculation or these events will come upon us in inexcusable ignorance. (DDSrail web document) Some suggest a “general literal” interpretation where the details are not necessarily so. The writer cannot allow himself such liberties in interpreting the plain statements of the prophetic Scriptures. It is either the grammatical, literal, historical interpretation or we are adrift on an uncharted sea with every man the norm for himself. There is not a syllable at the beginning of this chapter to alert us to explain the passage in any other than the literal method. (C. Feinberg) Reporter Ezekiel makes a fantastic prediction in the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> chapters, which gives a perfect word picture of the build-up in the Middle East, which in God’s time, will result in the greatest military drama of all the ages. 100% fulfillment to date gives this correspondent the right to be heard. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:1** Now (introductory) the word (Subj. Nom.) of the Lord (Poss. Gen.; Yahweh) came (γίνομαι, AMI3S, Ingressive, Deponent; היה, Qal Fientive Imperf.3S, Frequentative) face-to-face to me (Acc. Adv.), saying (λέγω, PAPtc.NMS, Dramatic, Circumstantial; אמר, Qal Fientive Inf., Gerund):

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:1** καὶ ἐγένετο λόγος κυρίου πρὸς με λέγων

<sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:1** וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:1** et factus est sermo Domini ad me dicens

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:2** Son of man [Ezekiel], set your face against [denounce the ambusher] Gog [commanding general] and the land of Magog [Central Asian Islamic nations], the governing official [military leader] over Rosh [Russia], Meschech [Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea], and Tubal [eastern Turkey], and proclaim a prophecy [divine revelation] against him,

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:2** Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

“Son of man” is a term used by the Lord that refers to Ezekiel as His appointed prophet. The Hebrew word for “man” in this verse is “ha-adam,” which points to Ezekiel as a human rather than angelic communicator. The Lord commands Ezekiel (Imperative mood) to set his face against Gog, the top official of a Russian federation of states that will include the former Soviet republics in Central Asia called Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and the Ukraine. I am neither a cartographer nor the son of a cartographer, but considerable research has been done (cited) that might prove of interest to you. The extensive etymology of Magog points to this broad area known as Central Asia, all Islamic nations except for the Ukraine. The Lord is going to ambush the Russian ambushers. He commands Ezekiel to issue a

prophecy (Imperative mood) against this top official of the Russian federation. The ingressive aorist points to the beginning of a prophecy that will be elaborated on for the next two chapters.

The Lord is about to reveal His plans against this man, his country and the satellite nations in his federation. Gog is not the actual name of this top official, but is rather the title and authority of the man (top official) who heads up the most powerful country in the region to the north of Israel (Rosh or Russia) and Magog (Central Asia Muslim nations). Some historians have connected Meschech and Tubal to the inhabited areas next to two rivers with the same historic name, which is of course, close to two cities (Moscow and Tobolsk) that were derived from the people who once settled there. I think sufficient evidence today points to Meschech and Tubal being part of modern day Turkey. See Grant R. Jeffrey's book, 'War On Terror: Unfolding Bible Prophecy', for a list of sources that identify the key players in this future invasion. Also see 'The Truth Behind Left Behind' by Mark Hitchcock and Thomas Ice, as well as "After the Empire" by Mark Hitchcock.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The Gog of Ezekiel's predictions was the leader from the land of Magog. (C. Feinberg) The Byzantine and Arabic writers frequently mention a people called "Rus," dwelling in the country of the Taurus, and reckoned among the Scythian tribes, so that there is no reason to question the existence of a people known by the name Rosh ... Meschech and Tubal, the Moschi and Tibareni of classical writers, dwelt, according to the passage before us, in the neighborhood of Magog. (Keil & Delitzsch) According to Herodotus, the Scythians lived in the territory north of the Black Sea, in the vast steppes of Russia, stretching from the Ukraine in the west to the region of Siberia in the east. Originally, all of the Scythian tribes lived in the area of central Asia, which is located today in the former central Asian republics or the Soviet Union ... This area today is located within the five former central Asian republics of the U.S.S.R. (M. Hitchcock)

Gog is a human leader and Magog are a people. (J. Walvoord) The way the name Gog is used in Ezekiel 38-39 certainly reveals that Gog is a person, not a place ... It is not the person's name but a kingly title like pharaoh, czar, or president. Gog is the general over this coalition of nations in its great military campaign against Israel ... The Scythians of Magog and the Sarmatians of Rosh clearly show us that the Russians are coming! The fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of the independent Muslim republics may actually give Russia a stronger alliance and stake in Islamic affairs. (M. Hitchcock) Rosh is mentioned the first time in Ezekiel 38:2 and is then repeated in 38:3 and 39:1. If Rosh were simply a title, it would probably be dropped in these two places; when titles are repeated in Hebrew, they are generally abbreviated. (Hitchcock, Ice) Why did the Holy Spirit inspire the prophet Ezekiel to write of Gog at all if the prophecy defies any reasonable or correct interpretation, and is without profit? (L. Bauman)

The early history of the tribes of Meschech and Tubal is cited by the ancient Greek historian Herodotus; in his day these tribes lived in the province of Pontus in northern Turkey (Histories, III, 94; VII, 78). Josephus gives them the same location but says that the ancient names of Meschech

and Tubal had become Meschen and Theobelian by the time of his writing (Antiquities, I, 124-125). Later, these tribes pushed on toward the land east and north of the Black Sea, the land which is now Russia. It is hard to miss the preservation of these names in the two most important centers of the eastern and western halves of the modern state of Russia – Moscow and Tobolsk. Moscow is on the Moskva River, Tobolsk is on the Tobol River. In the region of the Tobol there are five to ten other cities whose names obviously are variations upon the ancient tribal words. Here the same names are given to an ancient people who occupied parts of northern Turkey and Russia, to two major cities, and to two great rivers in Russia. (J. Boice)

Ezekiel's prophecy clearly indicates that Gog will be at the head of a nation that will deliberately declare open war on the eternal God Himself, and that between God and Gog there will be war to the death, with no quarter shown. The entire prophecy proclaims this mutual and unrelenting hatred between God and Gog. Gog appears as the implacable foe of the God-conscious Jew, pillaging the land of Jacob and attempting to destroy the inhabitants thereof. Gog is supremely guilty of profaning the name of God among the nations. No other nation on earth does so completely fit into the divine portraiture of a completely anti-God nation as does modern Russia. If, as all signs indicate, we are at the closing hour of Gentile dominion on this earth, then what other nation could possibly be the "Gog" of Ezekiel's prophecy if Russia is not? (L. Bauman) "Prophecy against him" means to foretell his ruin and destruction. (J. Gill) The title "son of man" (Hebrew: Ben-Adam) is used 92 times in Ezekiel, he being representative of the whole human race ... We think it is unfortunate that the translators of the KJV did not translate "Rosh" as it actually is in the ancient Hebrew manuscripts. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:2** Son (Voc. Address) of man (Adv. Gen. Ref.; referring to Ezekiel), set (στηρίζω, AAImp.2S, Ingressive, Command; שׂים, Qal Fientive Imperative MS; denounce, ambush, lay siege, impose, attack) your (Poss. Gen.) face (Acc. Dir. Obj.) against Gog (Acc. Opposition; commanding general), and (connective; also, as well as) the land (Acc. Opposition) of Magog (Gen. Place; Central Asia), the governing official (Acc. Appos.; chief ruler, prince, minor king, tribal leader) over Rosh (Gen. Place; Russia), Meschech (Gen. Place; Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea), and (connective) Tubal (Gen. Place; eastern Turkey), and (continuative) proclaim a prophecy (προφητεύω, AAImp.2S, Ingressive, Command; foretell the future, interpret a revelation; נִבָּא, Niphal Resultative Imperative MS) against him (Acc. Opposition),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:2** υἱὲ ἀνθρώπου στήριξον τὸ πρόσωπόν σου ἐπὶ Γωγ καὶ τῇ γῇ τοῦ Μαγωγ ἄρχοντα Ρως Μοσοχ καὶ Θοβελ καὶ προφήτευσον ἐπ' αὐτὸν

בֶּן־אָדָם שִׁים פְּנֶיךָ אֶל־גּוֹג אֶרֶץ הַמָּגוּג וְנָשִׂא <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:2**  
 רֹאשׁ מִשְׁךְ וְתִבְל וְהִנְבֵּא עָלָיו:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:2** fili hominis pone faciem tuam contra Gog terram Magog principem capitis Mosoch et Thubal et vaticinare de eo

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:3** And say: The Lord [Yahweh: God the Father] says this very thing, Behold, I, the Lord [Adonai: Jesus Christ], am against you, Gog, top official over Rosh [Russia], Meschech [Turkey, southeast of Black Sea], and Tubal [eastern Turkey],

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:3** And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

God the Father (Yahweh) command Ezekiel (Imperative mood) to say (Qal Perfect): the Lord Jesus Christ (Adonai) has something important to communicate (Dramatic Present) to the top official over the Russian provinces. The prophetic perfect tense points to the absolute certitude that the vision Ezekiel is about to see will happen as planned by omnipotent God. What is the first thing the Lord has to say? “I am completely opposed to you, Gog.” The leader of the Russian federation is in big trouble – the Lord is against him. Because he is the top official over the most powerful country in the region, he thinks he is invincible. But the sovereign God of the universe is about to remind him just how powerless he truly is.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Verses 3-9 contain in general terms the determinate counsel of God concerning Gog. Jehovah is about to mislead Gog to a crusade against His people Israel, and summons him to prepare for the invasion of the restored land of Israel. (Keil & Delitzsch) Meschech in Hebrew is also used as Musku and Muski, a people who in Assyrian times dwelt in western or northwestern Armenia ... or in Persian times apparently farther northeast or southeast of the Euxine Sea. (BDB) Throughout its history, Russia has been anti-Semitic and, in its final form, will be led by a dictator who will lead an Arab coalition of nations to crush Israel. God makes it clear that He will judge Russia in the land of Israel, and Russia will not come out alive. (J. Hagee)

It is to be understood that Gog is the name given to the leader of this confederacy and his land is called Magog, which is composed of three parts: Rosh, Meschech and Tubal. (J. Pentecost) The biblical and extra-biblical data, though sparse, would imply that Meschech and Tubal refer to geographical areas or countries in eastern modern Turkey, southwest of Russia and northwest of Iran. These land areas or countries appear to be located generally toward the south of the Black and Caspian Seas in the modern countries of Turkey, Russia, and Iran. (F.Gaebelein) The Greek name Moschi, derived from the Hebrew name Meschech, is the source of the city of Moscow. (W. Gesenius)

If the Lord God is against this government, we must be if we are to be properly synchronized with the universe, instead of kow-towing to and trembling before it in fear. Why should we then give an anti-God and anti-Israel government “favored-nation trade status” and loan millions of dollars of tax



money that comes from pockets of God-fearing, Bible-believing American Jews and Christians especially since Russia singles these out for persecution, biting the very hand that feeds them, and refusing to hear God's voice? (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:3** And (continuative) say (λέγω, AAImp.2S, Constative, Command; אמר, Qal Fientive Perfect Certitude 2MS): The Lord (Subj. Nom.; God the Father: Yahweh) says (λέγω, PAI3S, Dramatic; אמר, Qal Fientive Perfect Certitude 3MS) this (Acc. Spec.) very thing (Dat. Ind. Obj.), Behold (interjection), I (Subj. Nom), the Lord (Nom. Appos.; Jesus Christ: Adonai), am (ellipsis) against you (Acc. Opposition), Gog (Voc. Address), top official (Acc. Appos.; chief ruler, prince, minor king, tribal leader) over Rosh (Gen. Place; Russia), Meschech (Gen. Place; Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea), and (connective) Tubal (Gen. Place; eastern Turkey),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:3** καὶ εἰπὼν αὐτῷ τάδε λέγει κύριος κύριος ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἐπὶ σὲ Γωγ ἄρχοντα Ρως Μοσοχ καὶ Θοβελ

וְאָמַרְתָּ כֹה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה הִנְנִי אֵלֶיךָ גּוֹג  
נָשִׂיא רֹאשׁ מִשָּׁדָד וְתַבְלִי <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:3**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:3** et dices ad eum haec dicit Dominus Deus ecce ego ad te Gog principem capitis Mosoch et Thubal

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:4** So I will gather you together in military formation and will set a hook through your cheekbone [you are my helpless prisoners] and will bring you forward for battle, that is, your entire military force, horses and cavalymen, clothed for battle with all kinds of armour, a huge body of organized fighting men with shields [defensive weapons] and helmets [head gear] and swords [offensive weapons],

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:4** And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of *armour*, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Because the Lord is against the plans of Gog to ambush the nation of Israel, He is going to gather his army together (Predictive Future) into a place of His own choosing. Gog is going to think that he is acting alone, by his own free will and determination, but in reality God is completely in control of the situation. With absolute certitude (Prophetic Perfect) the Lord is going to gather the military forces of Gog (Latin: armed gladiators) into a relatively small geographical area outside Israel where He is going to destroy 5/6 of this ambushing army (Latin: multitude) by supernatural means. God is going to place a hook or ring in the cheekbone of Gog and his military force and is going to drag them down from Russia into this battlefield as if they were all



slaves. The Russian atheists will think they have prepared this ambush by their own free will; the Islamic Fascists will think Allah has brought them to holy jihad by fate. Both factions are dead wrong; the sovereignty and omnipotence of God is dragging them into this battle by divine fiat. Those who worship their own volition (self-idolatry of the Russians) and those who worship a false god (Islamic demon possession) will be destroyed together by the sovereignty of God. The factitive perfect means there is no possibility of Gog doing anything outside the will of God.

The military force commanded by Gog is not a rag-tag army. They are a huge body of organized fighting men, completely equipped with weapons and armour of all kinds. The description of this military force is in accordance with the understanding and vocabulary that Ezekiel had to work with on the occasion of this prophetic vision. There are two schools of thought held by most prophetic Bible scholars. The first option is that the horses, shields, helmets, swords and other descriptions of battle gear represent modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century provisions. Ezekiel saw a vision of a future battle in which tanks, armoured personnel carriers and soldiers outfitted with body armour and AK-47's were preparing to invade Israel. Since he had no frame-of-reference for such modern weaponry, he "called them as he saw them." Another option is that an electro-magnetic pulse (EMP) has been previously detonated in the middle-east (nuclear weapon), shutting down all modern forms of transportation and communication, and battles are once again being fought with 19<sup>th</sup> century weaponry. In my opinion, both options have merit. Having recently read some documentation on EMP written by the Department of Homeland Security, I lean towards an army provisioned by non-electrical transportation, communication and weaponry.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Jehovah will entice God with his mighty army, which includes subordinate nations, to prepare an invasion of the mountains of Israel, where the returned exiles are dwelling in peace. (W. Wardle) The army is depicted as one splendidly equipped and very numerous ... Besides the defensive arms, the greater and smaller shield, they carried swords as weapons of offense. (Keil & Delitzsch) Russia springs a surprise attack on Israel four years before the second coming of Christ. (J. Walvoord) If Dr. Walvoord is correct in his timing, that places this battle during the midpoint of the Tribulation. (LWB) With Russia probably the leading world power in the world, or at least in the Middle East, her destruction, as described in Ezekiel 38 and 39, would remove the only great military power in the world at that time. There is no indication that countries in the western hemisphere, such as the United States, would come into play at this time, and it is probable that they had less political power than they did previously. (J. Walvoord)

God will divert Gog from his planned program and method of attack. The ideas of coercion and unwillingness are present ... The placing of hooks in the jaws indicates the enemy would be powerless to pursue his original objective; divine restraint would hold him in check ... The Lord would see to it that Gog did engage himself initially in his venture of madness. The directing force was ascribed to God, but Satan was the secondary motivating power as in 2 Samuel 24:1 and 1 Chronicles 21:1. (C. Feinberg) In the words, "I place rings in thy jaws," Gog is represented as an unmanageable beast, which is compelled to follow its leader; and the thought is thereby expressed,

that Gog is compelled to obey the power of God against his will – to lead him away from his land, or natural soil ... Ezekiel gives prominence to the leading of God, which controls the manifestations even of evil. (Keil & Delitzsch) God pictures these invading nations as a huge crocodile that he drags out of the water. (M. Hitchcock)

This scarcely reads like the description of a modern army. But we need not press the interpretation to such a literal degree that we demand of Ezekiel, who lived 2,500 years before the invention of modern technological weapons, to state things in terms that would make sense to him and also to us 25 centuries later. We must not expect him to know the details of modern armour, but we do know that he foresaw a heavily armed mobile force. That is all we need to read into it. (W. McBirnie) Ezekiel didn't have tanks and missiles and rocket launchers and airplanes in his vocabulary. He did have armour and bows and arrows and swords. (J. Sears) The "hooks in your jaw" symbolism comes from a special bridle used on a rebellious horse to make it submissive to the rider's will. Sharp hook-like protrusions on the bit (mouthpiece) irritate the inside of the horse's cheek, making it painful to resist turning when the reins are pulled and forcing the horse to go where the rider wants. It's a graphic illustration of how the Lord will drag Russia into this confrontation. (J. Kelley)

I will turn thee back – as a refractory wild beast, which thinks to take its own way, but is bent by a superior power to turn on a course which must end in its destruction. Satan shall be, by overruling Providence, permitted to deceive them to their ruin. (R. Jamieson) This section (4-16) portrays Israel lying peacefully and securely in her land following her restoration by God (chapters 36-37). God had fulfilled His covenants with His people, and they were basking in the land's fruitfulness and the unquestioned security that they possessed in the strength of God's faithfulness to His word. Unexpectedly their safety was in grave jeopardy. Like a storm cloud's sudden darkness, disaster loomed on the northern horizon as an awesome horde of nations from every corner of the earth appeared. (F. Gaebelein) The sense is, that He would so work and influence the heart of Gog, that he should be inclined to come out of his own land and invade Judea – that is, incline his heart to take such a step, which should be to his destruction. (J. Gill)

Russia has so many billions of rubles invested and her lot has been so fully cast in the Middle East, having lost so many wars to Israel by proxy, she could not stand the further embarrassment of "the captain forsaking a sinking ship." The hooks are in her jaws as her eyes are filled with, "I want the oil, the Suez, the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea." The Soviets are getting in deeper and deeper under the pretext of helping the Arabs: the Arab leaders and people seem blind to the Soviets' real intents as they lean on the Kremlin as "a friend," only at last to be pierced through by deception, learning too late that their half-brother, Israel, was their best friend who had come to help them. (E. Josephson) The hook in the Russian cheekbone will probably be control of oil pipeline from Baku across Turkey to a port in Israel, while the hook in the Islamic cheekbone will be the destruction of Israel – pushing all Jews into the Mediterranean Sea. (LWB)

**Ezek. 38:4** So (coordinating, result) I will gather you (Acc. Dir. Obj.) together in military formation (συνάγω, FAIR, Predictive; שׁוּב, Qal Fientive Perfect Certitude 1MS) and (continuative) will

set (נָתַן, Qal Fientive Perfect Certitude 1S) a hook (Acc. Dir. Obj.; ring) through your cheekbone (Instr. Manner; as though you are my helpless prisoners) and (continuative) will bring you forward for battle (נָסָה, Hiphil Causative Perfect 1S), that is (explanatory), your (Poss. Gen.) entire (Acc. Measure) military force (Acc. Dir. Obj.), horses (Acc. Gen. Ref.) and (connective) cavalrymen (Acc. Gen. Ref.), clothed for battle (ἐνδύω, Perf.PPtc.AMP, Descriptive, Attributive) with all kinds of (Acc. Spec.) armour (Acc. Manner), a huge body (Nom. Measure) of organized fighting men (Subj. Nom.; congregation) with shields (Descr. Nom.; defensive weapons) and (connective) helmets (Descr. Nom.; head gear) and (connective) swords (Descr. Nom.; offensive weapons: sabers, daggers),

BGT **Ezekiel 38:4** καὶ συνάξω σε καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν δύναμίν σου ἵππους καὶ ἱππεῖς ἐνδεδυμένους θώρακας πάντας συναγωγὴ πολλή πέλται καὶ περικεφαλαῖαι καὶ μάχαιραι

וְשׁוּבְבִתִּיךָ וְנָתַתִּי חֲחִים בְּלַחֲיֶיךָ וְהוֹצֵאתִי  
 אֹתְךָ וְאֶת-כָּל-חֵילֶךָ סוֹסִים וּפָרָשִׁים לְבָשִׁי מְכַלּוֹל כָּלָם  
 קָהָל רַב צִנָּה וּמִגֵּן תַּפְשֵׁי חֲרָבוֹת כָּלָם:

VUL **Ezekiel 38:4** et circumagam te et ponam frenum in maxillis tuis et educam te et omnem exercitum tuum equos et equites vestitos loriceis universos multitudinem magnam hastam et clypeum arripientium et gladium

LWB **Ezek. 38:5** Including Persia [Iran], Ethiopia [including Sudan and Eritrea] and Libya [including Algeria and Tunisia], all with helmets [head gear] and shields [defensive weapons],

KJV **Ezekiel 38:5** Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

## TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

If you stick with the Hebrew and ignore the Greek, two members of this alliance would be called Cush and Put. Persia is easy to identify in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, since its name was only changed in the last century (1935) to Iran (a derivative from the word Aryan). Cush and Put are more difficult in Hebrew, but the LXX and Vulgate identifies them as Ethiopia and Libya – two nations in north Africa that are easy to identify on modern maps. But don't forget that the boundaries of a nation 2,500 years ago would most likely not correlate with the same boundaries we know today. By observing ancient maps of this region, what used to be called Ethiopia also includes Sudan and Eritrea today. By observing ancient maps of Libya, we can see that it also includes Algeria and Tunisia. With the exception of Egypt, and possibly Morocco, Cush and Put cover most of north Africa. The list of Islamic countries continues to expand this anti-Semitic military coalition.

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

The ancient historian Josephus also traced the Cushites (he called them Chusites) to the land of Ethiopia. But the land once known as ancient Ethiopia encompassed far more territory than does the country we know today by that name. It included the modern-day country of Sudan and possibly modern-day Eritrea as well. Josephus wrote that “Phut ... was the founder of Libya, and called the inhabitants Phutites.” But again, ancient Libya actually encompassed more territory than does the country we know by that name today. Thus, it is reasonable to believe that Ezekiel’s Put also included the modern-day countries of Algeria and Tunisia, though it may not have extended as far as Morocco. (J. Rosenberg) They are well furnished with arms and ammunition, and bring a good train of artillery into the field. (M. Henry)

Phut or Put is identified by Josephus as the founder of Libya whose inhabitants were originally known as “the Putties.” It reached from Libya to Mauritania and the Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. (Harpazo Network) Some have found great difficulty in the references to armour, buckler, shield, sword and helmet, but even in our day of advanced weapons of warfare it is interesting to learn that in some parts of the world conflict is going on with primitive weapons. (C. Feinberg) Cush has often been referred to as the area east of Egypt and west of the Red Sea ... Gomer was usually associated with the ancient Cimmerians, some who were located in Asia Minor and others in Eastern Europe. (J. Walvoord)

Much speculation has arisen from the fact that these are ancient weapons contemporary with Ezekiel but not describing modern warfare. Some regard these ancient weapons as simply typical or figurative of modern warfare. Others attempt to explain these weapons on the basis that they are quickly and readily made and possibly may be used in the period where other weapons have been subject to disarmament. The final answer to explain the weapons is unknown. The fact that they are on horses, however, is not strange as Russia today has troops on horses as a part of their military operations. (J. Walvoord) Only the shield and helmet are mentioned as their equipment. (Keil & Delitzsch) Ethiopia is important to Russia’s hopeful control of the Mid-East because of her strategic location at the southern end of the Red Sea where Orient shipping could be cut off to Israel by blockading the Gulf of Aden. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:5** Including (adjunctive; also) Persia (Subj. Nom.), Ethiopia (Subj. Nom.; Cush) and (connective) Libya (Subj. Nom.; Put), all (Nom. Appos.) with helmets (Instr. Manner; head gear) and (connective) shields (Instr. Manner; defensive weapons),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:5** Πέρσαι καὶ Αἰθίοπες καὶ Λίβυες πάντες περικεφαλαίαις καὶ πέλταις

<sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:5** פֶּרֶס כּוֹשׁ וּפּוּט אֲתָם כָּלָם מִגֶּן וְכוּבָע׃

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:5** Persae Aethiopes et Lybies cum eis omnes scutati et galeati

**LWB Ezek. 38:6** Gomer [Turkey, perhaps Germany] and his entire armed force [body of troops], the descendants of Togarmah [Turkey & Armenia] from the distant north, and his entire armed force, and many other nations [coalition hordes] with you.

**KJV Ezekiel 38:6** Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: *and* many people with thee.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Persia, Ethiopia and Libya are easy to identify; Gomer and Togarmah are more difficult. Both of them started out as neighbors in Turkey, but the Galatians (Gomer) wandered north while the Phrygians (Togarmah) wandered east. Some commentators keep them both in their original Turkey, while others allow Gomer to extend into Germany and Togarmah to extend into the southeastern Russian provinces, i.e., Northern Asia Minor or the Balkan states. The boundaries may not be well-defined, but the countries will be able to field a sizeable military force. In both cases, the Greek “pantes” or the Hebrew “kohl” point to a rather large body of troops, an entire armed force. The phrase “many people” refers to the rest of the coalition that is not specifically identified by country. A lot of lesser nations will join the Russian-Islamic invasion to one extent or another.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The King of the North I conceive to be the autocrat of Russia ... that Russia occupies a place and a very momentous place, and the prophetic word has been admitted by almost all expositors. (J. Cumming) Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians, but were then called Gomerites. (Josephus) The question is whether the Gomerites drifted from what we now call Turkey to other countries over the centuries. (J. Rosenberg) Bible scholars generally believe that Beth-togarmah refers to the people of Turkey and Armenia and the Turkic-speaking peoples who spread out over time across central Asia, including those in the modern-day countries of Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. (J. Rosenberg) It is incontestable that the inhabitants of Gaul [France] and Spain are descended from Gomer. (Voltaire) Gog comes from the north, while at Armageddon the armies come from the whole earth. (J. Pentecost) Ancient Togarmah was also known as Til-garamu (Assyrian) or Tegarima (Hittite) and its territory is in modern Turkey, which is north of Israel. (M. Hitchcock)

Many think these names militate against a literal interpretation of the passage because the nations and countries mentioned are so distant from Canaan, but such considerations do not trouble armies to that extent today. (C. Feinberg) Beth Togarmah has been identified with Armenia located to the north of Israel ... The only nation that the description “far north” would fit would be Russia, which is immediately to the north of Israel, with Moscow being directly north of Jerusalem. (J. Walvoord) Where were these countries in Ezekiel’s day? These nations inhabited the rugged area north and east of the Fertile Crescent - in what is today northern and eastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, and the former Soviet republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Most of the countries described by Ezekiel are today part of Turkey. (C. Dyer) With painful vividness, Ezekiel describes Gog and his forces dragged to the conquest by hooks in the jaws. Prisoners of war sometimes thus were cruelly

led off to their doom, but these are soldiers advancing confidently to the attack. Ezekiel means that divine Providence can work even through hellish agents. (A. Blackwood, Jr.)

The placement of the allies was researched and decided by Bible students long before the Iron Curtain takeover of eastern Europe, before the independence of Israel, before the rise of Russian communism, and even before the alliance of distant nations was considered militarily feasible. The Hebrew lexicon of Wilhelm Gesenius, written in the early 1800's, gives an analysis from which we do not differ. Imagine what the scoffers thought back then! (Z. Levitt) Valuable information is given in the Talmud; Gomer is there stated to be the Germani, the Germans. That the descendants of Gomer moved northward and established themselves in parts of Germany seems to be an established fact. This identification is supported by most all commentators and historians. (A. Gaebelein) That this is not an exhaustive list is seen from "and many people with thee." This prophecy anticipates an extensive alliance of powers along with Russia that will resist Israel and the Roman empire in the last days. (J. Pentecost)

We listened to reports on Jerusalem radio with great dismay about the "fly over" agreement Turkey had made with Russia to permit Russian planes to airlift Sam 3 missiles to Egypt and Syria, to ferry military experts, Mig fighters and other war materiel over Turkey air space, to be used against Israel. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:6** Gomer (Subj. Nom.; Cimmerians) and (connective) his (Gen. Rel.) entire (Nom. Measure) armed force (Acc. Accompaniment; troops, army), the descendants (Subj. Nom.; house) of Togarmah (Gen. Spec.; Phrygians) from the distant (Adv. Gen. Ref.; farther) north (Gen. Place), and (connective) his (Gen. Rel.) entire (Nom. Measure) armed force (Acc. Accompaniment; troops, army), and (connective) many other (Nom. Measure; crowd, majority, coalition) nations (Subj. Nom.; peoples, representatives, delegates) with you (Gen. Accompaniment).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:6** Γομερ καὶ πάντες οἱ περὶ αὐτόν οἶκος τοῦ Θεργᾶμα ἀπ' ἐσχάτου βορρᾶ καὶ πάντες οἱ περὶ αὐτόν καὶ ἔθνη πολλὰ μετὰ σοῦ

גֹּמֶר וְכָל-אַנְפִּיָּהּ בֵּית תְּוֹגֶרְמָה יִרְכָּתִי צָפוֹן <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:6**  
וְאֶת-כָּל-אַנְפִּיּוֹ עַמִּים רַבִּים אִתְּךָ:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:6** Gomer et universa agmina eius domus Thogorma latera aquilonis et totum robur eius populi que multi tecum

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:7** Start getting prepared [making alliances and arms deals]. You [Gog] must prepare yourself [Russian military], as well as all your coalition [Islamic jihadists] who have been gathered together [mobilized in a staging area by the sovereignty of God] with you. Moreover, you [Gog] will serve as military commander [arms supplier] for them.



<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:7** Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

### ***TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS***

The Lord commands Gog (Imperative mood) to start getting ready (Ingressive Aorist) for his invasion. He has placed the responsibility on Gog to arm and lead this military coalition against Israel. The first command to “get ready” points to the secret alliances Gog will need to make with his coalition forces. After those agreements for man and material have been made, possibly for oil concessions, the troops need to be gathered in a staging area to prepare for war. The nominative case, however, means the Islamic troops will be responsible for preparing themselves. Gog will command them and arm them with weapons, but he won’t have to prepare them for the invasion. They will be more than eager to train and join the fight against Israel because of their hatred for Jews. So why is the Lord commanding Gog to start getting ready for the invasion of His Own people in Israel? Gog has been chosen by God (Qal Perfect Certitude) to lead this invasion (Predictive Future tense), but the outcome has already been decided in the Supreme Court of Heaven.

The Lord determined in eternity past that this invasion force will be virtually wiped-out, so His command is really a sarcastic swipe at those who hate Israel so much that they are willing to die to attack her. Nothing is left to chance here. The invading army will gather itself together and will attack; the Lord Himself will ultimately destroy them. The people living in Israel at this time will have returned from nations all over the earth to live in their native homeland. Many of them will have no idea why they were drawn to such a small place in the desert with so many enemies surrounding them. The passive voice means they have been gathered together in Israel by the sovereignty of God. The dramatic perfect tense means He has done this in a miraculous manner over a short period of time when nobody would have thought such a thing could happen. God is in control. He has brought Jews from all over the world back to their ancient homeland, and He is in the process of staging and bringing a Russian-Islamic coalition into existence to attack them.

### ***RELEVANT OPINIONS***

If ever an invasion could succeed because of superior numbers, this will be it. But the story has not been told ... Gog is to be a guard – actually, the leader and commander – to them all. (C. Feinberg) What’s the payoff for the Arabs? They believe the Islamic fanatical vision of exterminating the Jews can be realized with Russia’s help. Absolute control of Jerusalem as the capital for the new Palestinian state will be within their grasp. However, there is one problem looming on the horizon: God Almighty, whom the Russians defy and Islamists denounce, has brought this evil axis of power into Israel to bury it before the eyes of the world. The destruction of Russia and its Islamic allies is going to be the most powerful object lesson the world has seen since Pharoah and his army were drowned in the Red Sea. (J. Hagee) “Guard” could also be translated “weapons supplier.” (J. Sears) Orders are given to make all imaginable preparation for this expedition ... Gog will serve as a guard to the rest of the confederates. As commander-in-chief, let him engage to take care of their safety; let

him pass his word for their security, and take them under his particular protection. (M. Henry)

Whoever Gog may be, he is to be a mighty military power in full command of a huge confederacy of northern nations. This should throw some light on the probable outcome of this present world convulsion. Russia, and not Germany, will be the “Fuehrer” of northern Europe when the smoke rolls away from the gory battlefields of the present war ... Sounds as if the vicious old northern Bear, when he emerges from his ill-smelling den, will have the proverbial “ring in his nose!” This one who is to be proclaimed as “commander” unto all the anti-God forces on earth thus appears in the final prophetic picture as a sort of gigantic monkeyish ass – an ass in that he possesses the audacity to lift his heels against the eternal God Who sits in the heavens above, and monkeyish in that he prances about with a hook in his jaw and the chain in the hand of the God of the Jew! No wonder that “He that sitteth in the heavens will laugh.” (L. Bauman) Prepare thee and all thine with all needful accoutrements for war, that ye may perish together! (R. Jamieson) Gog is the head of the armies in his invasion, but at Armageddon the Beast is the head of the invasion. (J. Pentecost)

**Ezek. 38:7 Start getting prepared** (ἐτοιμάζω, APImp.2S, Ingressive, Command; כּוֹן, Niphal Reciprocal Imperative MS, Passive; get ready: make alliances, smuggle arms). **You** (Subj. Nom.; Gog) **must prepare** (ἐτοιμάζω, AAImp.2S, Ingressive, Command; כּוֹן, Hiphil Reflexive Imperative MS) **yourself** (Reflexive Acc.; the Russian military force), **as well as** (inferential) **all** (Nom. Measure) **your** (Gen. Rel.) **coalition** (Subj. Nom.; Islamic jihadists) **who have been gathered together** (συνάγω, Perf.PPtc.NMP, Dramatic, Substantial; קָהַל, Niphal Reciprocal Passive Ptc. MP; mobilized in a staging area by the sovereignty of God) **with you** (Gen. Accompaniment). **Moreover** (continuative), **you** (Gog) **will serve as** (εἰμί, FMI2S, Predictive; הָיָה, Qal Waw Perf. 2MS, Certitude; in the capacity of) **military commander** (Acc. Appos.; guard, weapons supplier) **for them** (Dat. Adv.).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:7** ἐτοιμάσθητι ἐτοίμασον σεαυτὸν σὺ καὶ πᾶσα ἡ συναγωγὴ σου οἱ συνηγμένοι μετὰ σοῦ καὶ ἔσῃ μοι εἰς προφυλακὴν

הַכֵּן וְהִכֵּן לְךָ אֶתְּהָ וְכָל־קְהָלָךְ הַנִּקְהָלִים <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:7**  
עֲלֶיךָ וְהָיִיתָ לָהֶם לְמִשְׁמָר:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:7** praepara et instrue te et omnem multitudinem tuam quae coacervata est ad te et esto eis in praeceptum

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:8** After many days [prophetic future], you [Gog] will be called up to fulfill this commission [to act as military commander and weapons supplier]. During the last years, you yourself will appear before the gathering [he will personally join his troops in battle]



**and will come into the land [Israel] which has been brought back by the sword [under the pressure of battle] and has been re-gathered from many nations into the land of Israel, which has been recreated entirely from the abandoned desert [empty wasteland]. Moreover, this [land] will return out from the [Gentile] nations and all of them [Jews] will be living [resettled] in a time of peace and security.**

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:8** After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land *that is* brought back from the sword, *and is* gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

When the time is ripe according to God's timeclock (Predictive Future), He will call Gog forward to fulfill his commission as the weapons supplier and military commander of the Russian-Islamic coalition. "After many days" is an eschatological period of time in the future and is a commonly used introductory formula in Scripture. "During the last years" further defines this future time by placing it near the end of time, toward the consummation or final years of the Church Age. At that time there will be a gathering and a re-gathering. The re-gathering will be the return of Jews to the nation Israel; the gathering will be the alliance of her enemies against her and their formation in the north to prepare for the invasion. Gog himself will appear before the coalition troops (Predictive Future) and will personally join them in battle. He will lead them (Latin: congregation of gladiators) into the land (Israel) which has been brought back (Dramatic Perfect) under the pressure of battle.

Israel will be regathered (Dramatic Perfect) by Jews who are living in many Gentile nations. The passive voice points to their regathering as something the Lord has instituted. Each Jewish family, wherever they are living, will make a decision to return to the land of their ancestors; but they will be motivated to do so by the divine prompting of the Lord. The gathering of the enemy troops is represented by the imperfect tense (for satanic reasons), while the regathering of Jews to Israel is represented by the perfect tense (for divine reasons). The land of Israel is represented by hills and mountains. This land will be recreated (Dramatic Aorist) entirely from abandoned territory. Before the Jews returned to their land early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Israel was a wasteland – nothing but rubble and barren desert. Nobody was interested in this piece of real estate; nobody of any consequence was living there. The return of scattered Jews from nations all over the world to the small piece of land in the Middle East (Futuristic Perfect) will provide a place for them to live in relative peace and security.

Some commentators object to the translation "peace" and emphasize "security." The word in the LXX is εἰρήνης, which is often translated as peace and prosperity; the Hebrew בְּטָחָה (betah) means: in safety, without worry, and *peacefully*. I like the option *safety*, but I wouldn't say Israel today is any more safe than *peaceful*. And as for *without worry*, well, maybe they do live without worry - but I wouldn't be if I was surrounded by so many enemies! Fruchtenbaum's preference for "confidence" is actually closer to the Latin Vulgate (*confidenter*) than the Hebrew or Greek. I

like the translation *security*, because even if they are not completely safe, or in peace, or without worry, we must all agree that they have an extremely advanced security force.

The partitive genitive points to this piece of land being right in the middle of hostile, Gentile nations. As everyone knows today, Israel is but a speck of land surrounded by an enormous expanse of land inhabited by her enemies. This doesn't appear to be a fulfillment of living "in peace and security," but before they returned to their ancient homeland, Jews were being persecuted in almost every nation they resided in. In all the major countries they have lived in for many centuries (Germany, France, Spain, Russia, etc.) they have been rounded-up and murdered for no justifiable reason. Now, for the first time in over 2,000 years, they can live in a land they can call home and defend themselves against their enemies. Compared to the life of persecution they have lived in Gentile nations, living in Israel today is one of peace and security. There was no protection for them in their Gentile sponsor nations, but now they are now recognized (by most countries) as a nation unto themselves. They are a prosperous commercial nation and one that is well protected by a strong military.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The notation of time indicated that the attack of the enemy would not take place for a long time. The events here predicted were not to be expected in the lifetime of Ezekiel or his contemporaries ... The time element was distinctly stated as "in the latter years," which is equivalent to "the latter days" of verse 16. No student of prophecy can afford to overlook this phrase in the OT or its parallel in the NT. A wrong interpretation here will result in confusion, and colour the entire picture. (C. Feinberg) The attack was unexpected and was imposed on a people who were not prepared militarily to defend themselves. The invaders were described as so great in number that they look like a "cloud covering the land" in verse 9. (J. Walvoord) The "mountains of Israel" known as the Golan Heights remain hotly disputed land and will eventually become ground zero in the War of Gog and Magog. (J. Rosenberg)

There is a land without a people. There is a people without a land. Give the land without a people to the people without a land. (T. Hertzl) The Jewish nation is a ghost nation. Only the God of Israel has kept the Jewish people alive. (C. Weizmann) Ezekiel 37 has been fulfilled, and the nation Israel is hearing the footsteps of the Messiah. (D. Ben-Gurion) Russia needs a warm water entrance into the waterways of the world ... The oil deposits of the Near East are essential for the survival of modern nations. Russia needs oil ... The minerals of the Dead Sea are so great that they cannot be evaluated on today's market. God has been baiting a hook. (J. McGee) The mysterious region beyond the Taurus Mountains is portrayed as the lair from which Yahweh will lead Gog out like an animal on a leash. (D. Block)

The enemies of the Truth are rallied and commanded by a leader of conspicuous ability. Gog is an ideal character, one possessing great military genius, faculty for organization, power to maneuver vast armies, reveling in destruction, and animated by a mighty hatred of the good. (G. Barlow) The divine call to Gog and his allied hordes to "Get Ready" is ironical. The reason for their gigantic

military buildup is so the proud leader and his allies may be destroyed together. Let him be a guard to his confederates if he can! (M. Unger) Two phrases, “after many days” and “in the latter years,” push the prophecy into a distant future. Later verses in Ezekiel 38-39 include similar phrases. (M. Brubaker)

**Ezek. 38:8** After many (Gen. Measure) days (Adv. Gen. Time; prophetic introductory formula: an eschatological period of time in the future), you will be called up to fulfill this commission (פָּקַד, Niphal Passive Simple Future Incomplete Imperf.2MS; ἐτοιμάζω, FPI3S, Predictive; to serve as military commander and weapons supplier). During the last (Gen. Measure; final, the end) years (Gen. Extent of Time), you yourself will appear before the gathering (ἐρχομαι, FMI3S, Predictive, Deponent; בּוֹא, Qal Fientive Simple Future Incomplete Imperf.2MS; he will personally join his troops in battle) and (continuative) will come (ἔκω, FAI3S, Predictive) into the land (Acc. Place; Israel) which has been brought back (ἀποστρέφω, Perf.PPtc.AFS, Dramatic, Attributive; שׁוּב, Polel Ptc.FS, Causative) by the sword (Acc. Means; under the pressure of battle) and has been regathered (συνάγω, Perf.PPtc.GMP, Dramatic, Circumstantial, populated; קָבַץ, Pual Factitive, Ptc.FS) from many (Gen. Measure) nations (Abl. Source, Gen. Origin; Gentiles) into the land (Acc. Place; hills and mountains) of Israel (Gen. Spec.), which (Nom. Appos.) has been recreated (γίνομαι, API3S, Dramatic, Deponent, arisen, brought back; הָיָה, Qal Stative Perf.3P, Completed Action) entirely (Gen. Measure; completely) from the abandoned desert (Nom. Origin; empty wasteland, rubble). Moreover (continuative), this (Subj. Nom.; land) will return (ἐξέρχομαι, Perf.AI3S, Futuristic, Deponent; שׁוּב, Hophal Causative Perf.3FS, Completed Action) out from the nations (Partitive Gen., Separation; Gentiles) and (continuative) all of them (Subj. Nom.; regathered Jews) will be living (κατοικέω, FAI3P, Predictive, inhabit, settle; יָשַׁב, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Experience, establish a home, sit down, hold a meeting with other nations) in a time of peace and security (Gen. Extent of Time; harmony, tranquility).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:8** ἀφ' ἡμερῶν πλειόνων ἐτοιμασθήσεται καὶ ἐπ' ἐσχάτου ἐτῶν ἐλεύσεται καὶ ἦξει εἰς τὴν γῆν τὴν ἀπεστραμμένην ἀπὸ μαχαίρας συνηγμένων ἀπὸ ἐθνῶν πολλῶν ἐπὶ γῆν Ἰσραὴλ ἢ ἐγενήθη ἔρημος δι' ὅλου καὶ οὗτος ἐξ ἐθνῶν ἐξελήλυθεν καὶ κατοικήσουσιν ἐπ' εἰρήνης ἅπαντες

מִיָּמִים רַבִּים תִּפְקַד בְּאַחֲרִית הַשָּׁנִים תְּבוֹא <sup>WTT</sup> Ezekiel 38:8

אֶל-אֶרֶץ מְשׁוֹבֶבֶת מִחֶרֶב מְקַבֶּצֶת מֵעַמִּים רַבִּים עַל הָרִי  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר-הֵיוּ לְחֶרֶב תָּמִיד וְהִיא מֵעַמִּים הוֹצָאָה  
 וַיָּשְׁבוּ לִבְטַח כָּלֵם:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:8** post dies multos visitaberis in novissimo annorum venies ad terram quae reversa est a gladio congregata est de populis multis ad montes Israhel qui fuerunt deserti iugiter haec de populis educta est et habitaverunt in ea confidenter universi

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:9** Moreover, you [Gog] will rise up suddenly like a violent rainstorm [bringing devastation] and will march in like a cloud that covers the land [overwhelmingly superior force]. Indeed, you yourself [Gog] will be present [leading the troops] as well as all those [Russian army] around you and all the nations [Islamic coalition] with you.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:9** Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Gog and his coalition forces will rise up suddenly (Predictive Future) like a violent rainstorm that brings destruction and ruin to personal property (Latin: tempest). They will come against Israel with overwhelmingly superior forces, so many of them that they cover the land around her like a cloud (Dramatic Aorist tense). The Qal Perfect points to their rising up against Israel like a storm as being successful in its planning and execution. The Qal Imperfect points to their attempt to “cover the land of Israel like a cloud” as being unsuccessful in its fruition. As we will see in coming verses, their invasion is a success all the way up to the time when they actually begin to enter the populated cities – they are destroyed by God just prior to their actual entering. In case anyone thinks Gog will escape this battle, the Lord reiterates that he will be leading the invading force in person (Predictive Future). He will be present, rallying the Russian army beside him, and directing the movement of the coalition of Islamic nations as well. He will not be directing this battle from the comfort of a rear command post; he will be in the midst of the invasion force directing traffic, so to speak.

There are several theories on the timing of this invasion in history. I think too much is made out of the phrase “dwells in peace and prosperity,” as if they must be living in a state of “perfect” peace and prosperity such as we enjoy in the United States today. If you look at the brief history of regathered Israel, you will not see much peace, and only recently will you see a degree of prosperity. But if you compare the lack of peace and prosperity of the Jewish people as they were scattered around the globe for the past 2,000 years - with how they are living in their homeland today - they are indeed living in a state of greatly increased peace and prosperity. Therefore, I do not agree with some Bible scholars (that I have a lot of respect for) who place this invasion during the first half of the Tribulation. I think the “burning of their weapons for seven years” (39:9) is a far more important determinant on when this invasion will occur. Of course, that means I think it will happen at the beginning of the Tribulation, coinciding with the

rapture. I think that explains why nobody helps defend Israel – those who would, have been raptured. And I find it difficult to believe that Israel will still be burning Russian-Islamic weapons from this invasion during the Millennium.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Ezekiel says that these Islamic nations, led by Russia, will come against Israel “in the last days” at a time when the people of Israel are living in peace and prosperity. This probably describes the first half of the Tribulation, when Israel will be living under her peace treaty with Antichrist. Near the middle of the Tribulation, Russia and her Islamic allies will descend upon the nation of Israel “like a storm ... like a cloud covering the land.” God’s destruction of this Islamic coalition will pave the way for Antichrist to take control of the world. (M. Hitchcock) Gog will see to it that he has plenty of allies and enough mercenaries to carry through his satanic scheme. (C. Feinberg) Israel will face overwhelming odds ... Nowhere in the text does Ezekiel indicate that any nation will come to Israel’s side to defend her against such a massive onslaught ... In the end, Israel will stand alone, on the brink of extinction. (J. Rosenberg) There is no mention at all of any subjective guilt on Gog’s part. Everything has been objectively arranged by God, the fulfillment of what has been proclaimed earlier. (W. Zimmerli)

A force so large that it resembles a cloud covering the land will quickly be reduced to food for the vultures, resulting from such confusion on the field of battle that surviving enemy soldiers actually turn upon each other. (J. Kelley) His own army should be very numerous, and this increased by his confederates, or such who will voluntarily join him in this expedition. (F. Gaebelin) Ezekiel has not given an exhaustive list of the allies. But you will notice that the nations Ezekiel does list are the farthest nations in each direction known in his day ... Ezekiel specifically listed these “far nations” but left the door open to include other nations closer to Israel in every direction. (M. Hitchcock) The opening frame portrays Yahweh as a general mobilizing the forces of Gog and his allies for his own military agenda ... Gog’s invasion of the land represents part of the calculated plan of God for His people. (D. Block)

The Soviet Union decided in 1969 to proceed with the construction of a fleet of dirigibles (airships). A fleet, even on giant sized dirigible, would appear as a cloud. The dirigible would be much improved over the ones built 40 years ago, being nuclear powered and also virtually silent, using non-inflammable helium gas from Russia’s large natural sources. They could stay airborne six or seven years. In mass production the dirigibles would be very inexpensive compared to building roads, airports or to the building of large airplanes. Russia’s dirigibles, built with light plastic, can be built with 500 to 1,000 ton payloads. Sound fantastic? This means one dirigible could carry 5,000 troops, averaging 200 lbs. each with pack, and the maximum 1,000 tons, an additional 500 tons of supplies and munitions. Neither mountains, bad roads, nor no roads would present any difficulty. One dirigible could carry hundreds of tons of air-to-air missiles. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:9** Moreover (continuative), you (Gog) will rise up

**suddenly** (ἀναβαίνω, FMI2S, Predictive; עלה, Qal Waw Perf.2MP, Certitude, mount up, ascend, come against) **like a violent rainstorm** (Comp. Nom.; bringing devastation, ruin) **and** (continuative) **will march in** (הֵלַךְ, FAI2S, Predictive; בוא, Qal Fientive Imperf.2MS, Potential, come, arrive) **like a cloud** (Comp. Nom.) **that covers** (κατακαλύπτω, AAInf., Dramatic, Purpose; כסה, Piel Inf. Plurative) **the land** (Acc. Place; overwhelming superior force). **Indeed** (emphatic), **you yourself** (Nom. Appos.; Gog) **will be present** (εἰμί, FMI2S, Predictive, leading the invading forces; היה, Qal Stative Imperf.2MS, Simple Futurity) **as well as** (connective) **all** (Nom. Measure) **those** (Subj. Nom.; אֵלֶּיךָ, troops: Russian army) **around** (near) **you** (Acc. Assoc.) **and** (connective) **all** (Nom. Measure) **the nations** (Subj. Nom.; Islamic coalition) **with you** (Gen. Assoc. or Accompaniment).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:9** καὶ ἀναβήσῃ ὡς ὑέτος καὶ ἤξεις ὡς νεφέλη κατακαλύψαι γῆν καὶ ἔσῃ σὺ καὶ πάντες οἱ περὶ σέ καὶ ἔθνη πολλὰ μετὰ σοῦ

וְעָלִיתָ כְּשָׂאָה תְּבוּאָה כְּעָנָן לְכֶסֶת הָאָרֶץ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:9**  
תְּהִיָּה אִתָּה וְכָל־אֲנָפִיךָ וְעַמִּים רַבִּים אִתָּךְ: ס

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:9** ascendens autem quasi tempestas venies et quasi nubes ut operias terram tu et omnia agmina tua et populi multi tecum

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:10** The Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] says this: Indeed, it will come to pass, at that time [during the last days] unspoken thoughts will enter your mind and you will devise an evil plan,

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:10** Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, *that* at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Ezekiel now gives Gog an inalterable prediction (Predictive Future) on something that will happen in the future. The prediction comes from the Lord God - Adonai Yahweh (Hebrew), a double “kurios” in the Greek, and Dominus Deus in the Latin. Why is Ezekiel using this dual identification? This is his way of emphasizing the absolute sovereignty and omnipotence of God. This is his way of saying these things will come to pass without deviation (Qal Perfect of Certitude) because God will make them happen in exactly the precise manner His will determines them to happen. There is no chance that Gog will deviate from his evil plan. There is no chance that man’s volition will in any way prevent the will of God from coming to fruition just the way He has it planned for the last days. For all intents and purposes, Gog will reject both the existence and power of God – so Ezekiel slaps him in the face by affirming that the very God



he rejects will control future events that encompass even his pseudo-free will.

The middle voice points to these evil thoughts coming from Gog's own thoughts, which means he will be held accountable for them. The preposition, however, points to these thoughts coming from outside himself, i.e., of satanic origin. The Qal Imperfect points to his schemes as being nothing but disconnected thoughts. The Qal Perfect points to these disconnected thoughts (Latin: cogitations) being formulated into a full-blown evil plan. At first, Gog thinks about the possible roadblocks to this Middle East policy. Then he makes alliances with the violent Islamic coalition. Then he watches the military movements of Israel and her allies, and begins looking for her weak spots. When the timing is just right according to his calculations, Gog prepares his forces for an all-out invasion. This is a seriously thought-out plan, waiting for the perfect time to execute it. In other words, all the tumblers have to be in place for Gog to launch such a bold initiative.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

That the invasion is planned by Gog does not conflict with his being brought against the land by divine overruling; his thoughts as well as his actions are foreordained. (F. Bruce) For centuries the possibility of such a coalition seemed remote. Those who sought to understand the significance of Ezekiel's message tried to make sense of his prediction by looking for alternative identifications of the participants ... But what could unite such a diverse group? The answer is Islam ... More than 50 million Muslims live in six former Soviet republics. Both Turkey and Iran are working feverishly – with Saudi Arabia – to replace Moscow as the dominant influence in these regions ... A northern coalition of nations united by a common religion seems entirely possible – and the two leading players are Turkey and Iran. (C. Dyer) God foreknows and determines things to come, even those things that seem most free and contingent, as the thoughts of men's hearts. (G. Barlow)

Jehovah might be regarded as causing these plans to arise in Gog's mind. (W. Wardle) Nothing in this statement is meant in any way to lessen human responsibility. The point is that God is ultimately and finally in control. He's the director. He is the one who is making sure the stage is perfectly set for His great prophetic production. (M. Hitchcock) Hardly could an enemy of the living God "think an evil thought" more evil than to think to destroy the chosen people (Rom. 9:4-5), "who are Israelites; whose is the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom is Christ as concerning the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever." (L. Bauman) Gog is totally oblivious to the fact that he is but a puppet on Yahweh's strings. He imagines he is campaigning against Israel of his own free will. (D. Block)

**Ezek. 38:10** The Lord (Subj. Nom.; אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos.; יְהוָה) says (λέγω, PAI3S, Static; אָמַר, Qal Fientive Perf.3MS, Completed Action) this (Acc. Dir. Obj.; כֵּן, thus): Indeed (emphatic, affirmative), it will come to pass (ἐπιμύ, FMI3S, Gnomic,

take place, happen; Qal Stative Waw Perf.3MS, Certitude), at that (Dat. Spec.) time (Loc. Time; during the last days) unspoken thoughts (ῥῆμα, Subj. Nom., events, thoughts, words; דִּבְרֵי) will enter (ἀναβαίνω, FMI3S, Predictive, arise from within, come upon from without; עלה, Qal Fientive Imperf.3MS, Desiderative) your (Poss. Gen.) mind (Acc. Disadv.) and (continuative) you will devise (λογίζομαι, FMI2S, Predictive, Deponent, consider, evaluate, dwell upon; חשב, Qal Waw Perf.2MS, Certitude) an evil (Noncompl. Acc.; criminal, injurious) plan (Acc. Dir. Obj.; design, idea),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:10** τάδε λέγει κύριος κύριος καὶ ἔσται ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ ἀναβήσεται ῥήματα ἐπὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ σου καὶ λογίῃ λογισμοὺς ποιηροὺς

כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנִי יְהוָה יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:10**  
יֵעָלוּ דְּבָרַיִם עַל-לִבְּךָ וְחִשְׁבֹּת מַחֲשַׁבֶּת רָעָה:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:10** haec dicit Dominus Deus in die illa ascendent sermones super cor tuum et cogitabis cogitationem pessimam

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:11** And you will say: I will declare war and march against the land which has been thrown-away [abandoned open country]. I will attack at a time when they are at rest and when they are living during a time of peace [due to a peace treaty or cease-fire], all [Jews and Gentiles] residing in a land which will exist without city walls or security gates - as a matter of fact, entrances will not exist for them [security arrangement has been made] -

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:11** And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Ezekiel even goes so far as to tell Gog exactly what he will say (Qal Perfect Certitude) at that time. He will declare war by marching (Predictive Future tense) against the land of Israel which has been despised for so many years (Descriptive Perfect tense) and which everyone but the Jews has totally abandoned. This is open desert country where little-to-no economic activity has reached. He will attack (Predictive Future tense) at a time when the citizens of Israel are at rest. This could be a reference to the Sabbath or it could be a reference to a temporary cease in hostilities between Israel and the Islamic world. They will also be living during a time of peace (Futuristic Present tense). The Hebrew participle of Simultaneous Action means Gog will time his invasion for the most inopportune time for Israel and the most advantageous (from the perspective of a surprise attack) for the Russian-Islamic coalition. The Deliberative Imperfect tense points to these plans by Gog as being his personal desire; however, his plans will not work out as he hopes.



The surprise attack he plans will end up being a trap; God will surprise him with an attack that will destroy most of his command. All those in Israel will be living (Futuristic Present tense) in the land without city walls to protect them from foreign invaders. There will also be no need for security gates at that time. As a matter of fact, there will be no need for entrances into the country of any kind. Some kind of treaty or security agreement will be provided that enables Israel to let down her guard. Since Gog will be planning a surprise invasion with many of Israel's enemies, this is, of course, a false security arrangement. What will make Israel comfortable enough to dispense with her fences, trenches and security gates? What will make commercial traffic in-and-out-of Israel free and open to all travelers? Perhaps there is a permanent United Nations' backed security force protecting Israel. Perhaps all terrorists in the region have departed to be with Gog in the land to the north. Perhaps there is a new technological method of tracking people and preventing terrorists from entering. It's all speculation at this time.

### ***RELEVANT OPINIONS***

In Ezekiel's day, every major city was fortified with tall walls and massive gates. So he is amazed to describe the latter-days Israel as "the land of unwallled villages." Today, fortress walls are no defense against modern weapons. Modern cities, including those in Israel today, can be described as "unwallled villages." (J. Sears) Superficially, all Middle East crises can be attributed to historical events; but below the surface a more sinister reason prevails – the satanic influence on history. There is an evil that permeates not only the Middle East but the entire world. Without understanding the nature of that evil and the extent of its pernicious outreach, you will never unravel the complexities of historical trends. Nor will you realize why the Jews have been singled out as the object of hatred, the universal scapegoat. Nor why the Jews, more than any other race, have experienced man's inhumanity to man, or why anti-Semitism exists at all ... No one tampers with the Jews without terrible consequences. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

In Ezekiel 38-39 there are a definite number of allied nations that attack Israel in a time of "rest" to capture its "wealth," whereas at the battle of Armageddon it is "all nations" allied with Antichrist against Jerusalem to destroy the Jewish people who are in distress. Such differences argue against this war being the same as or a part of that battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation. My preference is to place this battle before the Tribulation, during the present-day period when Israel is experiencing the first phase of physical restoration – a period to which this restoration language could apply. There is nothing in the description of Israel in Ezekiel 38-39 that does not fit the reality of the modern State of Israel today. This time frame also resolves the problem of how Israel (Ezek. 39:9-16) disposes of the captured weapons and the slain bodies of Gog and his allies. (R. Price) The tramp of Gog's marshaled legions begins! They are off to their predestined end – a bonehouse in Palestine! (L. Bauman)

This will happen after the beginning of the restoration, for Israel is seen to be inhabiting their own land ... Because of a desire for spoil at the expense of an easy prey, the King of the North, satanically

inspired, invades Palestine ... We know from Revelation 12:14-17 that Israel is not going to dwell in the land in peace and safety during the latter half of the seventieth week, but will be the special target of Satan's attack. (J. Pentecost) It's possible that the peace here refers to peace through military strength, which the Hebrew term "betach" (security) can imply. (R. Price) They are viewed as living securely, all of them, without fear of invasion or deportation ... Men's minds are occupied with plans for security; so Israel in that day will be living without fortifications, without military installations, and without barriers of any kind against easy access to their land. (C. Feinberg)

It is significant that Israel has the "open door policy." Anyone can come to Israel from any nation. Arab nations have "closed doors." No one from any nation is permitted entrance into an Arab country if he has an Israel visa stamped in his passport, while all tourists from all nations including those possessing Arab visas travel freely (and from Arab countries) into Israel. A non-Jew visiting Israel said, "I feel much safer here than in Chicago." (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:11** And (continuative) you will say (λέγω, FAI2S, Predictive; אָמַר, Qal Waw Perf.2MS, Certitude): I will declare war and march (ἀναβαίνω, FMI1S, Predictive; עָלָה, Qal Fientive Imperf.1S, Desiderative) against the land (Acc. Opposition) which has been thrown-away (ἀπορίπτω, Perf.PPtc.AFS, Descriptive, Attributive, cast aside, jump overboard, despised; פְּרוּזוֹת, deserted open country). I will attack (ἤκω, FAI1S, Predictive; בּוֹא, Qal Fientive Imperf.1S, Desiderative, come upon with hostility) at a time when they are at rest (ἡσυχάζω, PAPtc.AMP, Futuristic, Temporal, Sabbath: quiet, silent, not working; שָׁקֵט, Qal Fientive Ptc.MP, Simultaneous Action) and (connective) when they are living (οἰκέω, PAPtc.AMP, Futuristic, Temporal; יָשָׁב, Qal Stative Ptc.MP, Simultaneous Action, dwelling) during a time of peace (Adv. Gen. Time), all (Acc. Appos.) residing (κατοικέω, PAPtc.AMP, Futuristic, Modal; יָשָׁב, Qal Stative Ptc.MP, Simultaneous Action, dwelling) in a land (Acc. Place) which (Dat. Ind. Obj.) will exist (ὑπάρχω, PAI3S, Futuristic) without (neg. adv.) city walls (Descr. Nom.) or (continuative) security gates (Descr. Nom.) - as a matter of fact (emphatic), entrances (Subj. Nom.; of any kind, doors to the city) will not (neg. adv.) exist (εἰμί, PAI3P, Futuristic) for them (Dat. Adv.) -

BGT **Ezekiel 38:11** καὶ ἐρεῖς ἀναβήσονται ἐπὶ γῆν ἀπερριμμένην ἥξω ἐπὶ ἡσυχάζοντας ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ καὶ οἰκοῦντας ἐπ' εἰρήνης πάντας κατοικοῦντας γῆν ἐν ᾗ οὐχ ὑπάρχει τεῖχος οὐδὲ μοχλοὶ καὶ θύραι οὐκ εἰσὶν αὐτοῖς

וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶעֱלֶה עַל-אֶרֶץ פְּרוּזוֹת אֲבוֹא <sup>WTT</sup> Ezekiel 38:11

הַשְׁקָטִים יֵשְׁבִי לְבִטָּח כָּלֵם יֹשְׁבִים בְּאֵין חוֹמָה וּבְרֵיחַ  
וְדִלְתִּים אֵין לָהֶם:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:11** et dices ascendam ad terram absque muro veniam ad quiescentes habitantesque secure omnes habitant sine muro vectes et portae non sunt eis

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:12** To obtain booty [national plunder] and to strip the enemy of personal life and property [spoil], to turn your hostility against that place which is inhabited [environmental devastation] and against the people [both Jew and Gentile] who have been regathered from many nations, who have earned and accumulated property and possessions and who will reside at the center of the inhabited earth [Israel is the center of the world in God's eyes].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:12** To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places *that are now* inhabited, and upon the people *that are* gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Part of Gog's evil plan will include obtaining national plunder (Purpose Infinitive) and stripping the enemy (Culminative Aorist tense) of personal life and property – to the victor goes the spoil. This national plunder and personal spoil are both cognate accusatives: plunder the plunder and spoil the spoil. He will also turn all of his pent-up hatred and hostility against the deserted land itself, perhaps a reference to the environmental devastation his troops leave in their wake. And of course, his hatred and hostility is not against the land only, but also against all the people (Jews and Gentiles) who have been regathered (Dramatic Perfect tense) from many nations into the land of Israel. Normally we think in terms of Jews only, but just as in the days of Moses, a mixed multitude came out of Egypt with him.

In the same manner, there are other people (Gentiles) that will also move to Israel for one reason or another. Gog has no intention of separating Jews from Gentiles; he plans to rob and murder everyone in Israel without exception. These people who have returned to Israel and who are living there in peace, will be very successful in earning and accumulating wealth (Intensive Perfect tense). They will be living (Futuristic Present tense) at the center of the inhabited earth, since in God's eyes Israel is the center of human civilization (Latin: the umbilical cord). As you can see, Gog will have many seemingly disconnected thoughts regarding this invasion, but they will all combine into one devious, surprise attack. He intends to spare nobody.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The enemy will see the opportunity of the day to invade, overrun with ease and come off with a handsome prize, for the returned people will have come with much wealth. The enemy, greedy of Israel's wealth, will embark on a campaign of conquest for gain. (C. Feinberg) As the navel is set in the center of the human body, so is the land of Israel the navel of the world ... situated in the center

of the world, and Jerusalem is the center of the land of Israel, and the sanctuary in the center of Jerusalem, and the holy place in the center of the sanctuary, and the ark in the center of the holy place, and the foundation stone before the holy place, because from it the world was founded. (Qedoshim, Midrash Tanchuma) Directions in the Bible are always in relation to Israel, which is the center of the earth according to Ezekiel 38:12. (M. Hitchcock)

A covetous desire for the possessions of the people of God, and envy at its exalted position in the centre of the world, are therefore the motives by which Gog is impelled to enter upon his predatory expedition against the people living in the depth of peace. (Keil & Delitzsch) Russia will target Israel, the epicenter, the people who live “at the center of the world.” (J. Rosenberg) Until our generation, the geographic area of the land of Israel was anything but something to be prized. It did not have any wealth; it was a land that was strewn with stones; a land that was backward as far as civilization is concerned. (J. Walvoord) Gog comes to take spoil, while at Armageddon the nations assemble to destroy the people of God. (J. Pentecost)

**Ezek. 38:12** To obtain (προνομεύω, AAInf., Culminative, Purpose, steal; שָׁלַל, Qal Fientive Inf., Purpose) booty (Cognate Acc.; plunder) and (continuative) to strip the enemy of (σκυλεύω, AAInf., Culminative, Purpose; בָּזַז, Qal Fientive Inf., Israel) personal life and property (Cognate Acc.; plunder), to turn (ἐρημόω, Perf.PPtc.AFS, Intensive, Purpose; שָׁוַה, Hiphil Factitive Inf.) your (Poss. Gen.) hostility (Acc. Dir. Obj.; hand) against that place (Acc. Place; wasteland: Israel, the land itself) which (Nom. Appos.) is inhabited (κατοικίζω, API3S, Dramatic; יָשַׁב, Niphil Passive Ptc., Attributive) and (continuative) against the people (Acc. Dir. Obj.; Jews and Gentiles) who have been regathered (συνάγω, Perf.PPtc.ANS, Dramatic, Substantival; אָסַף, Pual Factitive Ptc.MS, Causative) from many (Gen. Measure) nations (Abl. Source, Origin), who have earned and accumulated (ποιέω, Perf.APtc.AMP, Intensive, Substantival; עָשָׂה, Qal Fientive Ptc.MS) property and possessions (Acc. Dir. Obj.; livestock) and who will reside (κατοικέω, PAPtc.AMP, Futuristic, Circumstantial; יָשַׁב, Qal Fientive Ptc., Substantival) at the center (Acc. Spec.; midst, navel) of the inhabited earth (Gen. Place; Israel is the geographical center of the planet in God's eyes).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:12** προνομεύσαι προνομήν καὶ σκυλεύσαι σκῦλα αὐτῶν τοῦ ἐπιστρέψαι χεῖρά σου εἰς τὴν ἡρημωμένην ἢ κατωκίσθη καὶ ἐπ' ἔθνος συνηγμένον ἀπὸ ἐθνῶν πολλῶν πεποιηκότας κτήσεις κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τὸν ὀμφαλὸν τῆς γῆς

לְשַׁלֵּל וּלְבַזֵּז בְּזֵי לְהַשִּׁיב יָדָךְ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:12**

עַל-חֲרָבוֹת נוֹשְׁבֹת וְאֶל-עַם מְאַסְף מְגוּרִים עֹשֶׂה מְקַנָּה וְקַנְיָן  
יִשְׁבִּי עַל-טִבּוֹר הָאָרֶץ:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:12** ut diripias spolia et invadas praedam ut inferas manum tuam super eos qui deserti fuerant et postea restituti et super populum qui est congregatus ex gentibus qui possidere coepit et esse habitator umbilici terrae

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:13** Saba and Dedan [Saudis] and the merchants [dealers, negotiators] of Tarshish [Mediterranean coastal region] and all the young lions [powerful new nations during the last days] will ask in unison: Have you [Gog] come to obtain booty [national plunder]? Have you gathered together your coalition [Islamic] to strip the enemy of life [murder], to steal silver and gold [precious metals], to rustle cattle and poultry, to strip the enemy of significant personal property?

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:13** Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

There will be a host of nations sitting on the sidelines during this invasion. They will be caught by surprise just like Israel and will not be prepared to assist her. Saba and Dedan, the negotiators of Tarshish, and all the young lions will ask Gog pointed questions (Predictive Future tense) when they see the massive troop movement into the hills and mountains surrounding Israel (Interrogative Indicative mood). Saba (Sheba) and Dedan are the nations that comprise the Arabian peninsula, primarily Saudi Arabia. The merchants (foreign traders) of Tarshish are nations that trade along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. There are obviously strong commercial links between Israel and these nations. The young lions are powerful new nations during the last days, perhaps the United States and Great Britain. It appears that the countries which are able to give support to Israel are geographically located too far away to help in time or are preoccupied with other problems.

The questions are all centered on Gog's purpose for invading Israel. Why is he doing this? Question #1: Have you come (Dramatic Present tense) to steal national plunder? Have you gathered your Islamic coalition together (Hiphil Perfect) for the purpose of murdering the enemy? Question #2: Have you come to steal silver and gold (precious metals, probably in the Dead Sea)? Question #3: Have you come to rustle cattle and poultry (Dramatic Aorist tense)? Question #4: Have you come to steal significant personal property (Dramatic Aorist tense) from the citizens of Israel? What these multiple questions are meant to communicate is total surprise – Israel and her economic partners are equally shocked that such an invasion is actually occurring. Also notice that Egypt, Syria and Iraq are not mentioned as part of the invaders.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

These nations “and all their young lions” [England’s symbol is that of a lion. America is an offspring of England; hence, the young lions] will not come to Israel’s rescue. They will not send massive military forces to drive Russia and the Arabs out of Israel. Instead, the Western World is simply going to make a passive diplomatic response. It’s obvious to the nations of the world what Russia and the Arabs are doing, and yet the Western world is doing absolutely nothing to stop them. Why won’t America respond? Let me venture to say that after America’s extended war in Iraq, the next administration will probably be Democratic and will withdraw from Iraq, vowing to stay out of the Middle East in the future ... When America sees Russia and the Arabs going into Israel, it will be simply a war above and beyond its national will to respond. (J. Hagee) The questions asked may be ironical to point up the enormity of that venture upon which the invading nations will have embarked. (C. Feinberg) There is a protest against Gog’s invasion, but at Armageddon there is no protest for all nations are joined against Jerusalem. (J. Pentecost)

Sheba and Dedan are spectators here, not participants. (F. Bruce) Sheba and Dedan represent the Arabian countries (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, etc.) who will be standing nervously on the sidelines. The group “merchants of Tarshish” sounds very much like the European community (and the USA, which might be “the young lions thereof”). Note that they are neither participating in the invasion nor helping defend Israel. (J. Sears) Tarshish was the name of a Phoenician port in Spain, between the two mouths of the Guadalquivir (the name given to the river by the Arabs, and meaning the great wady or water-course). It was founded by a Carthaginian, and was the farthest western harbour of Tyrian sailors. (Harpazo Network) The nations of the world will take note of Gog’s action and will issue a protest, but the protest is only in the form of lip service. The action here reminds one of the impotence of world organizations like the United Nations that often bark but rarely back it up with any bite. (M. Hitchcock)

Verse 13 mentions Sheba and Dedan (southern Arabian caravan-trading nations) and Tarshish (any of a number of sites in mid and western Mediterranean coastal areas). These distant lands will of course be interested in Gog’s invasion of Israel because they hope to be able to buy the plundered goods for resale in the various areas with which they trade. (D. Stuart) There is turmoil in the world of the merchants. The question of booty arouses their interest so that they ply Gog with wordy, verbose questions ... The business and commercial interests of the world traders who wish to change the faith of the helpless people of God into resignation by means of their apparent power (what can faith do against the interests of high finance!) make themselves heard ... One can hear in them the thoughts of Gog and the encouraging words of the merchants to him. (W. Zimmerli)

The lion is England’s state symbol, and for 400 years Britain was the king of powers. Since England is the mother of the U.S., we would be considered “a young lion,” as well as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc. Though England has proved herself at times unfaithful and sometimes a false friend she is in the orbit of Israel’s friends ... Dr. Thomas E. Norton, editor of Chemicals Magazine, stated that a “modest estimate” of the value of the mineral deposits in the Dead Sea would be \$1,267,000,000,000,000. This is one quadrillion, two hundred sixty-seven trillion dollars. It is estimated that the Dead Sea contains 2 trillion metric tons of potassium chloride; 900 billion metric tons of magnesium bromide; 11 trillion, 900 billion metric tons of sodium chloride; 22 trillion metric

tons of magnesium chloride; and 6 trillion metric tons of calcium chloride. Whoever holds the Dead Sea holds the key of the Middle East. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:13** Saba (Subj. Nom.) and (connective) Dedan (Subj. Nom.; Saudi Arabian peninsula) and (connective) the merchants (Subj. Nom.; wholesalers, buying agents, dealers) of Tarshish (Nom. Spec.; Karchedonia, Mediterranean coastal region) and (connective) all (Nom. Measure) the young lions (Subj. Nom.; powerful new nations during the last days) will ask (λέγω, FAI3P, Predictive; אמר, Qal Fientive Imperf.3MP, Simple Futurity) in unison (Gen. Accompaniment; together): Have you (Gog) come (έρχομαι, PMI2S, Dramatic, Interrogative Ind., Deponent; בוא, Qal Fientive Ptc.MS) to obtain (προνομεύω, AAInf., Constative, Purpose; שלל, Qal Fientive Inf., steal) booty (Cog. Acc.; national plunder)? Have you gathered together (συνάγω, AAI2S, Constative, Interrogative Ind.; קהל, Hiphil Factitive Perf.MS, Completed Action) your (Gen. Assoc.) coalition (Cog. Acc.; assembly) to strip the enemy of (σκυλεύω, AAInf., Dramatic, Purpose; בוז, Qal Fientive Inf., Israel) personal life (Cognate Acc.; murder), to steal (λαμβάνω, AAInf., Dramatic, Purpose, carry away; נשא, Qal Fientive Inf.) silver (Acc. Dir. Obj.) and (connective) gold (Acc. Dir. Obj.; precious metals), to rustle (ἀποφέρω, AMInf., Dramatic, Purpose, carry off; לקח, Qal Fientive Inf.) cattle (Acc. Dir. Obj.; livestock) and (connective) poultry (Acc. Dir. Obj.; flocks, birds), to strip the enemy of (σκυλεύω, AAInf., Dramatic, Purpose; בוז, Qal Fientive Inf., Israel) significant (Acc. Measure) personal property (Cognate Acc.; plunder)?

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:13** Σαβα καὶ Δαιδαν καὶ ἔμποροι Καρχηδόνιοι καὶ πᾶσαι αἱ κῶμαι αὐτῶν ἐροῦσίν σοι εἰς προνομήν τοῦ προνομεῦσαι σὺ ἔρχῃ καὶ σκυλεῦσαι σκῦλα συνήγαγες συναγωγήν σου λαβεῖν ἀργύριον καὶ χρυσίον ἀπενέγκασθαι κτήσιν τοῦ σκυλεῦσαι σκῦλα

שָׁבָא וְדֶדָן וְסַחְרֵי תַרְשִׁישׁ וְכָל־כְּפָרֶיהָ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:13**  
יֹאמְרוּ לִי הַלְשָׁלָל שָׁלָל אַתָּה בָּא הֶלְבֹז בֹּז הַקְהֵלָתָ  
קִהַלְתָּ לְשָׂאתָ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לְקַחַת מִקְנֶה וּמִקְנֵי לְשָׁלָל שָׁלָל  
גָּדוֹל: ס

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:13** Seba et Dedan et negotiatores Tharsis et omnes leones eius dicent tibi numquid ad sumenda spolia tu venis ecce ad diripiendam praedam congregasti multitudinem tuam ut tollas argentum et aurum auferas supellectilem atque substantiam et diripias manubias infinitas



LWB **Ezek. 38:14** Therefore, son of man [Ezekiel], proclaim the future and declare to Gog: The Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh] says this: In that day when My people Israel are dwelling safely, you will come to recognize this fact.

KJV **Ezekiel 38:14** Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know *it*?

### TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord now commands (Imperative mood) Ezekiel to proclaim the future and make a certain declaration (Constative Aorist tense) to Gog. Once again, He addresses Ezekiel as the “son of man.” And once again, the Hebrew “Adonai” and “Yahweh” (Latin: Dominus and Deus) are used to emphasize the deity and sovereignty of God. In the future day when Israel is dwelling (Infinitive of Time) safely, Gog will suddenly come to realize (Ingressive & Predictive) that Israel has let her guard down and is indeed living peacefully with her neighbors. What appears on the surface to be a setback to his plans (dwelling in peace with her neighbors) turns out to be an opportunity to plan and execute a surprise invasion against her. The passive voice (Gk.) points to this realization coming from a source other than Gog himself, i.e., from Satan.

### RELEVANT OPINIONS

Again the attention was focused on the fact that Israel will be living in imagined security ... The Lord knew full well that Gog will have already acquainted himself with the fact of Israel’s political condition in order to be sure of his attack. The Lord revealed His knowledge of every hidden purpose and motivation. (C. Feinberg) Yahweh will bring Gog upon the land in order that the nations may recognize His sovereignty when He is sanctified before them by destroying Gog. (R. Alexander) Gog is given enough rope to be eventually hung by. With unprovoked, brutal aggression he intends to take advantage of a defenseless people who have been given a new lease on life and are enjoying a new freedom and prosperity. (L. Allen) Since the normal deity-nation-land relationships are operative, for Gog to attack this people and invade this land is to challenge their/its divine patron. (D. Block)

**Ezek. 38:14** Therefore (transitional), son (Voc. Address) of man (Adv. Gen. Ref.; Ezekiel), proclaim the future (προφητεύω, AAImp.2S, Constative, Command; נבא, Niphil Middle Imp.MS, prophesy) and (continuative) declare (λέγω, AAImp.2S, Constative, Command; אמר, Qal Waw Perf.2MS, Stative) to Gog (Dat. Ind. Obj.): The Lord (Subj. Nom., אֱלֹהֵי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה) says (λέγω, PAI3S, Static; אמר, Qal Fientive Perf.MS) this (Acc. Dir. Obj.): In that (Dat. Spec.) day (Loc. Time) when My (Gen. Poss.) people (Subj. Acc.) Israel (Acc. Appos.) are dwelling (κατοικίζω, APInf.,



Constative, Time; יֵשֶׁב, Qal Stative Inf.) **safely** (Gen. Manner; peacefully), **you will come to recognize** (ἐγείρω, FPI2S, Predictive, be awakened to; יָדַע, Qal Fientive Imperf.2MS, Ingressive; perceive) **this fact** (ellipsis).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:14** διὰ τοῦτο προφήτευσον υἱὲ ἀνθρώπου καὶ εἰπὸν τῷ Γωγ τάδε λέγει κύριος οὐκ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ ἐν τῷ κατοικισθῆναι τὸν λαόν μου Ἰσραὴλ ἐπ' εἰρήνης ἐγερεθήσῃ

לְכֵן הִנְבֵּא בֶן־אָדָם וְאָמַרְתָּ לְגֹג כֹּה אָמַר <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:14**  
אֲדַנִּי יְהוָה הֲלוֹא בַיּוֹם הַהוּא בִּשְׁבַת עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִבְטַח  
תִּדְּעַ:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:14** propterea vaticinare fili hominis et dices ad Gog haec dicit Dominus Deus numquid non in die illo cum habitaverit populus meus Israhel confidenter scies

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:15** Then you will march from your camp [staging area] out of the far north, you and many people [garrisons] with you, all of them riding war horses – the entire coalition [no reserves held back], indeed, a huge army [fighting force],

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:15** And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

## TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

Once Gog realizes that Israel is dwelling in a false sense of security, thinking her neighbors are at peace with her at last, then he will march (Predictive Future tense) out of his camp in the far north. This area to the extreme north of Israel could either be the home of Gog in Russia, or the remote staging area in Syria (just north of Israel) for the mass of troops he is arming for the invasion. There will be many people with him when he attacks, one garrison of troops after another. They will all move towards Israel mounted on horses (Modal Participle). As stated before, this could be literal horses – or it could be some form of troop carriers that to Ezekiel’s frame of reference looked like horses and chariots. The entire coalition from the north will descend upon Israel, a huge army, a trained fighting force. The word “entire” or “whole” means everyone is ready and willing to invade Israel. Gog doesn’t consider leaving a contingency of troops (reserves) in the north to protect home base, because nobody would think of counter-attacking there in the first place.

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

Gog comes from the “remotest parts of the north.” The general location of Gog’s home base, therefore, is in the region that is remotely north of Israel. Interestingly, the word Caucasus means “Gog’s Fort.” Gog and Chasan (fort) are the two words from which the word Caucasus is derived. The Caucasus mountain range is between the Black and Caspian Seas in the southern part of the

former U.S.S.R. This mountain range is named “Gog’s Fort!” (M. Hitchcock) It is well known who has been dominant in this region of the world ever since the end of the last global conflict, an area which has actually kept the entire world in turmoil constantly. Russia is a power that must be reckoned with now, and surely will figure largely in the events that lie ahead, especially when the church is raptured to meet her risen Lord. (C. Feinberg)

This attack will be another means of God’s displaying to the nations His holy character and sovereign power. (C. Dyer) Russia is caught squarely on the needle of the compass here – the hard facts of the global grid locate Moscow directly to the far north of Jerusalem ... The most likely staging areas from which to launch a massive attack involving ground forces coming from the remote parts of the north would be within Turkey and Syria. (P. Goodman) The so-called Arab-Israel War is really a Soviet invasion of the area, instigated by the Kremlin. The Soviet rulers have sold the Arab political and military leaders “a bill of goods.” Can anyone be so naïve as to believe the Russian hierarchy loves the Arab people so much that without these rich prizes sparkling in their eyes they would come down only to save the Arabs from being devoured by the “cruel jaws of the ferocious Israelis?” (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 38:15** Then (consecutive) you will march (הָיָה, FAI2S, Predictive; בּוֹא, Qal Waw Perf.2MS, Certitude) from your (Gen. Poss.) camp (Gen. Place; staging area, inhabited place) out of the far (Gen. Measure; extreme end, farthest, most distant) north (Gen. Place), you (Gen. Appos.; Gog) and (connective) many (Nom. Measure) people (Subj. Nom.; garrisons) with you (Gen. Accompaniment), all of them (Nom. Appos.) riding (רָכַב, Qal Fientive Ptc.MP, Modal; mounted on) war horses (Obj. Gen.) – the entire (Nom. Measure; no reserves held back) coalition (Nom. Appos.; assembly of troops), indeed (emphatic), a huge (Nom. Measure; enormous, multitude) army (Nom. Appos.; fighting force),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:15** καὶ ἤξεις ἐκ τοῦ τόπου σου ἅπ' ἐσχάτου βορρᾶ καὶ ἔθνη πολλὰ μετὰ σοῦ ἀναβάται ἵππων πάντες συναγωγὴ μεγάλη καὶ δύναμις πολλή

וּבֹאֶת מִמְּקוֹמָךְ מִיִּרְכַּתִּי צִפּוֹן אֶתָּה וְעַמִּים <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:15**  
רַבִּים אֶתָּךְ רֶכֶבִּי סוּסִים כָּלָם קָהָל גָּדוֹל וְחֵיל רַב:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:15** et venies de loco tuo a lateribus aquilonis tu et populi multi tecum ascensores equorum universi coetus magnus et exercitus vehemens

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:16** And you will declare war and march [mount up] against My people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. It will be during the last days when I will bring you against My land [Jesus Christ controls the future] so that all the Gentile nations will come to know Me when I have been acknowledged as holy by you, Gog, in their presence [before their very eyes].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:16** And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

### ***TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS***

The Lord predicts with absolute certainty (Future tense) that Gog will declare war and march against His people Israel. Gog's army will be so large that it will cover the land like a cloud (Constatative Aorist tense). The Lord also pronounces Israel to be His people – not the Russians, not the Europeans, and definitely not the Islamic coalition. The Lord also unequivocally states that these future events will not occur until the last days (Predictive Future tense). That should have been enough to silence the ammillennial and postmillennial philosophers over the centuries, but some people are more interested in pet theories than in the Word of God. In the last days, the Lord God Himself will bring Gog against His land.

This will be an act of divine sovereignty. God is the active instigator (Hiphil Causative) of this future event, not a passive bystander. What is His purpose in doing this? One of the reasons is so all the Gentile nations will come to understand (Ingressive Aorist tense) that He is the one and only holy God. They will know that He is sacred and true because Gog himself will end up acknowledging (Culminative Aorist tense) that the God of Israel is holy (Latin: sanctified, sacred), in spite of his hatred towards Him. And Gog will not be allowed to do this in private; he will be forced by events totally out of his control to acknowledge God in front of their very eyes (Latin: ocular) as his armed coalition is destroyed.

### ***RELEVANT OPINIONS***

Verses 14-16 are a clear statement of the design of God in leading Gog against His people and land ... This is purely prophetic, expressing the certainty of the divine determination as a thing clearly proved. (Keil & Delitzsch) That the God of Israel uses the opposition of His people's enemies to make His ways more widely known is declared to Pharaoh in Exodus 9:16. (F. Bruce) Ezekiel makes it clear that America's and Europe's diplomatic inquiry means absolutely nothing to Russia and the Arabs. When Russia leads its Arab allies into Israel, the Western superpowers simply watch ... America and Europe will not save Israel – God will. (J. Hagee) God is actually planning and permitting this invasion for His glory. (J. Sears) God will bring this mighty enemy against His people. He Himself will bring them. But if we understand what He aims at, we shall be well reconciled to it. (M Henry) The phrase “in the last days” places these events at the end times, since this phrase is normally used to refer to the time of Israel's final restoration and the rule of Messiah. (R. Alexander)

Ezekiel is telling us that this invasion will occur in the final time of history in preparation for the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom of Christ. (M. Hitchcock) In going against Israel, the nations will come to know God for He will show Himself holy. As a result of the unsuccessful attack Israel will be delivered and God glorified. (C. Dyer) “Like a cloud, to cover the land” could be a massive air invasion launched from southern Russian airfields. In tandem with the air strikes, troops

amassed in the staging areas will surge forward in a seemingly endless caravan of armored transport vehicles, perhaps in a two-pronged invasion. Both thrusts will pin their military sights squarely on Jerusalem. (P. Goodman) Israel will survive a great invasion from the north, completely unscathed in such a way that even the greatest of skeptical secularists will acknowledge it was a miracle of God. (R. Price)

**Ezek. 38:16** And (continuative) you will declare war and march (ἀναβαίνω, FMI2S, Predictive; עלה, Qal Waw Perf.2MS, Certitude, mount up) against My (Poss. Gen.) people (Acc. Opposition) Israel (Acc. Appos.) like (comparative) a cloud (Nom. Subj.) that covers (καλύπτω, AAInf., Constativ, Inf. As Dir. Obj. of Verb; כסה, Piel Factitive Inf.) the land (Acc. Dir. Obj.). It will be (εἰμί, FMI3S, Predictive; היה, Qal Stative Imperf.3FS, Simple Futurity) during the last (Gen. Spec.; end) days (Gen. Extent of Time) when (temporal) I will bring (ἀνάγω, FAI1S, Predictive; בוא, Hiphil Causative Waw Perf.1MS, Certitude; the sovereignty and omnipotence of God is behind both historical and future events) you (Acc. Dir. Obj.) against My (Poss. Gen.) land (Acc. Opposition; Israel) so that (purpose) all (Nom. Measure) the Gentile nations (Subj. Nom.) will come to know (γινώσκω, AASubj.3P, Ingressive, Result; ידע, Qal Fientive Inf., recognize) Me (Acc. Dir. Obj.) when I have been acknowledged as holy (ἀγιάζω, APInf., Culminative, Temporal, held in reverence; קדש, Niphil Tolerative Inf.1S, acknowledge as sacred) by you (Gen. Agency), Gog (Gen. Appos.), in their (Poss. Gen.) presence (Prep. Gen.; in front of their very eyes).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:16** καὶ ἀναβήσῃ ἐπὶ τὸν λαόν μου Ἰσραὴλ ὡς νεφέλη καλύψαι γῆν ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν ἔσται καὶ ἀνάξω σε ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν μου ἵνα γνῶσιν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη ἐμέ ἐν τῷ ἀγιασθῆναί με ἐν σοὶ ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν

וְעָלִיתָ עַל-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּעָנָן לְכַסּוֹת הָאָרֶץ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:16**  
בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים תִּהְיֶה וְהִבֹּאוּתִיךָ עַל-אֶרֶצִּי לְמַעַן יָדַעַת  
הַגּוֹיִם אֹתִי בְהִקְדָּשִׁי בְךָ לְעֵינֵיהֶם גּוֹג: ס

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:16** et ascendes super populum meum Israhel quasi nubes ut operias terram in novissimis diebus eris et adducam te super terram meam ut sciant gentes me cum sanctificatus fuero in te in oculis eorum o Gog

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:17** The Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh] declares this: Gog, are you the one whom I spoke about in former days by the hand of My servants, the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days, as a matter of fact, for years [they repeated this prophecy many times over a long period of years], that I would bring you against them?

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:17** Thus saith the Lord GOD; *Art* thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days *many* years that I would bring thee against them?

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Lord God (Adonai Yahweh, Dominus Deus] asks Gog a sarcastic question (Static Present tense). Is Gog the one He has been talking about for years (Dramatic Aorist tense) through the hand of His servants, the prophets of Israel? This is, of course, a rhetorical question – because the answer is affirmative! The Lord knows that Gog is that man. The prophets have been predicting his arrival on the scene for many years – decades, even centuries. The Lord predicted long, long ago that He would bring Gog (Dramatic Aorist tense) out of the north against His people, Israel. The nature of this sarcasm is that the Lord is asking Gog if he realizes that he is the one that has been prophesied about for so many years. In other words, “Gog, do you realize that you are that man?!”

In that future day Gog will think he is acting independent of any divine power, but the Lord is nevertheless behind his every thought and deed. There is no such thing as a will operating independent of the Lord. That is blasphemous! Those who think their free will is ruling the day are guilty of the worst kind of idolatry – worship of their own self. Gog will have an excuse, because he will be an unbeliever; Christians have no excuse for believing such philosophical nonsense. Once again, the Lord says “I will bring you against them,” i.e., My people. Gog will mount up and ride south against Israel, but God is the causative agent. Gog means to do evil, but God has planned to use his actions for good.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Though there are no specific references to Gog in any of the other prophets, there are general references to the final destruction of the enemies of God’s people. (F. Gaebelein) The purpose of Ezekiel 38-39 is no mystery when viewed in transition to the rapture and the beginning of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week. God is changing dispensations. His relationship with the Church has ended. His relationship with Israel of old is being re-established. He is making His intent clear to the post rapture world. Everyone will see God’s hand in these events. (DDS)

**Ezek. 38:17** The Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos. , יְהוָה) declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static; אָמַר, Qal Fientive Perf.3MS, Prophetic) this (Acc. Dir. Obj.): Gog (Dat. Address), are (εἰμί, PAI2S, Descriptive, Interrogative Ind.) you (Subj. Nom.) the one whom (Gen. Appos.) I spoke about (λαλέω, AAI1S, Dramatic; דִּבַּר, Piel Stative Perf.1S, Completed Action) in former days (Gen. Extent of Time; in times past) by the hand (Abl. Means) of My (Poss. Gen.) servants (Gen. Agency), the prophets (Gen. Appos.) of Israel (Gen.

Source), who prophesied (נָבִיא, Niphil Middle Ptc.MP, Substantival) in those (Dat. Spec.) days (Loc. Time), as a matter of face (emphatic), for years (Dat. Measure), that I would bring (אָגֵן, AAInf., Dramatic, Inf. As Dir. Obj. of Verb; בֹּא, Hiphil Causative Inf.) you (Acc. Dir. Obj.) against them (Acc. Opposition)?

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:17** τάδε λέγει κύριος κύριος τῷ Γωγ σὺ εἶ περὶ οὗ ἐλάλησα πρὸ ἡμερῶν τῶν ἔμπροσθεν διὰ χειρὸς τῶν δούλων μου προφητῶν τοῦ Ισραηλ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις καὶ ἔτεσιν τοῦ ἀγαγεῖν σε ἐπ' αὐτούς

<sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:17** אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי בַיָּמִים קְדָמוֹנִים בְּיַד עֲבָדַי נְבִיאֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנִּבְאִים בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם שְׁנִים לְהַבִּיא אֹתָךְ עֲלֵיהֶם: ס

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:17** haec dicit Dominus Deus tu ergo ille es de quo locutus sum in diebus antiquis in manu servorum meorum prophetarum Israhel qui prophetaverunt in diebus illorum temporum ut adducerem te super eos

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:18** Now it will come to pass on the same appointed day [as divinely planned], on the day in which Gog will declare war and march against the land of Israel, declares the Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh], that My wrath [holy anger] will rise up in My nostrils.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:18** And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, *that* my fury shall come up in my face.

## TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord has planned for the invasion of Gog and the fury of His wrath to explode on the same day in human history (Predictive Future tense). The sovereignty of God planned this in eternity past and it will happen (Perfect Certitude) exactly as ordered. Gog will declare war and march against the land of Israel (Culminative Aorist tense), and the Lord God (Adonai Yahweh) will become furious (anthropopathism). His holy anger (Latin: indignation) will rise up in His nostrils (anthropomorphism) – obviously something we don't want to be around to behold. The justice of God demands that something be done about this situation (Obligative Imperfect tense). These two events are part of the divine fiat. Gog will launch his invasion and the Lord will destroy his coalition on a near simultaneous basis. In other words, Gog will not accomplish his end game, but the Lord will definitely accomplish His.

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

The remarkable aspect of this prophecy is that the Scriptures do not reveal any opposing army attacking the invaders. Rather, it will be a time when God Himself by supernatural actions destroys the army. (J. Walvoord) The Lord Himself will undertake the destruction of Israel's enemies,



choosing to use no secondary agent, for this is to be a final and irrecoverable judgment. (C. Feinberg) Because it is a surprise attack, there is no record of armies being marshaled against the invaders. Instead, God intervenes supernaturally to save His people and wipes out the invading force by a series of catastrophes. (L. Chafer) “Fury” is as a man’s blood rises up in his face, and his colour appears, when he is wroth and angry – or in my nose, as men when they are angry puff and blow, expand their nose, and breathe through it. (F. Gaebelein)

**Ezek. 38:18** Now (transitional) it will come to pass (εἰμί, FMI3S, Predictive, occur as divinely planned; יהיה, Qal Waw Perf.3MS, Prophetic, happen) on the same (Dat. Spec.) appointed day (Loc. Time), on the day (Loc. Time) in which (Dat. Ref.) Gog (Subj. Nom.) will declare war and march (ἐρχομαι, AASubj.3S, Culminative, Temporal, Deponent; בוא, Qal Fientive Inf., Result) against the land (Acc. Opposition) of Israel (Gen. Spec.), declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) the Lord (Subj. Nom.; אֲדֹנִי) God (Nom. Appos.; יְהוָה), that (Ind. Nom.) My (Poss. Gen.) wrath (Subj. Nom., anthropopathism; holy anger, fury) will rise up (ἀναβαίνω, FMI3S, Predictive, ascend; עלה, Qal Fientive Imperf.3FS, Obligative) in My (Poss. Gen.) nostrils (Ind. Nom., anthropomorphism; nose, face).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:18** καὶ ἔσται ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ἣ ἂν ἔλθῃ Γωγ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ λέγει κύριος κύριος ἀναβήσεται ὁ θυμός μου

**Ezekiel 38:18** <sup>WTT</sup> וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא בְּיוֹם בּוֹא גּוֹג עַל-אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם  
יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶאֱמַר אֲדֹנִי יְהוָה תִּעָלֶה חֲמָתִי בְּאַפִּי

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:18** et erit in die illa in die adventus Gog super terram Israhel ait Dominus Deus ascendet indignatio mea in furore meo

**LWB Ezek. 38:19** As a matter of fact, I spoke according to My divine jealousy in the fire of My divine anger [judgment]: Surely in that day [when Gog launches his invasion] there will be a great earthquake near [in the neighborhood of] the land of Israel,

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:19** For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

## TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord continues to string more anthropopathisms together to communicate to Gog and others (Piel Perfect tense) that He is bringing judgment upon them in the future. He is jealous for His nation, Israel, and He is angry at anyone who presumes to attack His people. So with absolute certainty coming from His sovereignty over history, He predicts there will be (Future tense) a

great earthquake in the neighborhood of Israel. The word “surely” points to the consequences of His oath to His people. There is absolutely no chance this event will not occur in the future. He has decreed that it will happen at His perfectly appointed time. This great (Gk: mega) earthquake (Gk: seismic) will be primarily outside Israel, because the target is the invading coalition forces, not the people of Israel.

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

The first step will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The effect of this earthquake will be felt by all of God’s creatures on earth. (J. Walvoord) With apparent victory just within their grasp, the invading armies grind to a halt as a massive earthquake causes bridges and buildings to collapse. (C. Dyer) When did God ever destroy an invading army like this with fire and brimstone from heaven, plagues, earthquakes, and infighting among the invaders? The answer? Never. That is because Ezekiel is describing an invasion that is still in the future, even in our day. (M. Hitchcock) Gog’s military destination, “the land of Israel,” would be the scene of a theophany of judgment that causes cataclysmic devastation. In the context the sole victims of the theophany are Gog and his forces. (L. Allen)

**Ezek. 38:19** As a matter of fact (emphatic), I spoke (λαλέω, AAI1S, Constative; דבר, Piel Factitive Perf.1S, Completed Action) according to My (Poss. Gen.) divine jealousy (Nom. Manner) in the fire (Loc. Sph., heat, passion) of My (Poss. Gen.) divine anger (Abl. Manner, anthropopathism: judgment): Surely (affirmative) in that (Dat. Spec.) day (Loc. Time) there will be (εἰμί, FMI3S, Predictive; יהיה, Qal Stative Imperf.3MS, Simple Futurity) a great (Nom. Measure) earthquake (Pred. Nom; shaking) near (in the neighborhood of) the land (Gen. Place) of Israel (Gen. Spec.),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:19** καὶ ὁ ζῆλός μου ἐν πυρὶ τῆς ὀργῆς μου ἐλάλησα εἰ μὴν ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ ἔσται σεισμὸς μέγας ἐπὶ γῆς Ἰσραὴλ

וּבְקִנְאָתִי בְאֵשׁ-עִבְרָתִי דְבַרְתִּי אֶם-לֹא בַיּוֹם <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:19**  
הֲהוּא יִהְיֶה רָעַשׁ גָּדוֹל עַל אֲדָמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:19** et in zelo meo in igne irae meae locutus sum quia in die illa erit commotio magna super terram Israhel

**LWB Ezek. 38:20** And the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the open fields and all kinds of reptiles which crawl upon the ground and all men upon the face of the earth will be shaken at the Lord’s presence and the mountains will be broken into pieces and dashed to the ground and the canyon walls will collapse and every [man-made] wall will fall to the ground.



<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:20** So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

### ***TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS***

This earthquake will be so powerful that everything alive will be affected by it. This includes air, land and sea – as represented by birds, wild beasts and reptiles, and fish (Latin: pisces). Everything will be shaken (Predictive Future tense) by the power of this earthquake and every person will tremble at the presence of the Lord. The word “every” represents the greater part of mankind on planet earth (Latin: terra). Everyone that God wants to personally communicate with (i.e., unbelievers) will be gripped by fear and terror. Of course, if this attack coincides with the rapture, the only people remaining on earth will be unbelievers – and then we are back to the issue of “every” being every single man and woman alive. On top of this, the hills and mountains around Israel will break into pieces and will be dashed (Latin: subverted) to the ground (Predictive Future). Canyon walls and ravines will collapse and every man-made wall in the area will fall to the ground in pieces. All of this will happen precisely at the moment ordained by God (Perfect Certitude).

There are two occasions of the word “every” in this passage. This begs the question: If the first “every” means literally every single man and woman on earth, then does the second “every” mean every man-made wall on earth will collapse? If the first “every” means every single man and woman alive on earth is struck by fear and terror, the second “every” should mean every single man-made wall on planet earth. If this is true, then unbelievers at that time should (a) immediately believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and (b) get into the building and trades industry because a fortune will be made in reconstruction! Is the Lord speaking in hyperbole, expressing more than is literally meant? This could be a figure of speech called the “synecdoche of the genus,” where universals are used for particulars. In other words, “all” is put for the “greater part.” The greater part of mankind will be struck with terror and the greater part of man-made walls will collapse. Since Israel is the epicenter in God’s plan at this time, His use of the word “every” will extend as far as His will deems appropriate.

### ***RELEVANT OPINIONS***

Mountains and hillsides will slide down, blocking roads and burying those unfortunate enough to be on them at the time. The earthquake disrupts the original plans of the invaders and causes massive communication failures. All central command and control is lost as individual units find themselves isolated and alone. (C. Dyer) The very physical terrain of Palestine will be changed for the better accommodation of the multitudes that will dwell therein during the millennial reign of our Lord. (L. Bauman) The “steep places” or stairs (Song of Solomon 2:14) are steep terraces for vines on the sides of hills, to prevent the earth from being washed down by the rains. (R. Jamieson) Ezekiel 38:20-23 does not mention a battle. The destruction there is at the hand of the Lord through the convulsion of nature. (J. Pentecost)

**Ezek. 38:20** And (continuative) the fish (Subj. Nom.) of the sea (Gen. Place) and (connective) the birds (Subj. Nom.) of the air (Gen. Place) and (connective) the wild beasts (Subj. Nom.) of the open fields (Gen. Place, plains) and (connective) all kinds of (Nom. Measure) reptiles (Subj. Nom.) which crawl (ἔρω, PAPtc.NNP, Pictorial, Attributive; רָמַשׁ, Qal Fientive, Ptc.MS, creep) upon the ground (Gen. Place) and (connective) all (Nom. Measure) men (Subj. Nom.) upon the face (Gen. Spec.) of the earth (Gen. Place) will be shaken (σείω, FPI3P, Predictive, agitated, trembled, stirred; הָרַס, Niphal Middle Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) at the Lord's (Poss. Gen.) presence (Obj. Gen.) and (continuative) the mountains (Subj. Nom.; hills, steep places, steps) will be broken into pieces and dashed to the ground (ῥήγνυμι, FPI3S, Predictive; רָעַשׁ, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) and (continuative) the canyon walls (Subj. Nom.; ravines) will collapse (πίπτω, FMI3P, Predictive; נָפַל, Qal Fientive Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) and (continuative) every (Nom. Measure) wall (Subj. Nom.; man-made) will fall (πίπτω, FMI3S, Predictive; נָפַל, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) to the ground (Acc. Place).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:20** καὶ σεισθήσονται ἀπὸ προσώπου κυρίου οἱ ἰχθύες τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τὰ θηρία τοῦ πεδίου καὶ πάντα τὰ ἔρπετά τὰ ἔρποντα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς καὶ πάντες οἱ ἄνθρωποι οἱ ἐπὶ προσώπου τῆς γῆς καὶ ῥαγήσεται τὰ ὄρη καὶ πεσοῦνται αἱ φάραγγες καὶ πᾶν τεῖχος ἐπὶ τῇ γῇ πεσεῖται

<sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:20** וְרָעַשׁוּ מִפְּנֵי הַיָּם וְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וְחַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה וְכָל-הָרֶמֶשׂ עַל-הָאֲדָמָה וְכָל הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וְנִהְרָסוּ הַהָרִים וְנִפְּלוּ הַמְּדֻרְגּוֹת וְכָל-חוֹמָה לְאַרְץ תִּפּוֹל:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:20** et commovebuntur a facie mea pisces maris et volucres caeli et bestiae agri et omne reptile quod movetur super humum cunctique homines qui sunt super faciem terrae et subvertentur montes et cadent sepes et omnis murus in terra corruet

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:21** Furthermore, I will call upon him [Gog] complete fear, a sword throughout every mountain, says the Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh]. A man's sword [offensive weapon] will be used against his brother.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:21** And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

**TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

There is a divergence between the Greek and Hebrew in the first half of this passage. The Greek says the Lord will call a complete state of fear upon Gog and his army. This state of fear (Gk: phobia) appears to be each man thinking the man standing next to him is an enemy and not a friend. Every man will think the guy next to him is going to kill him, so they all draw their swords and begin fighting each other (Predictive Future tense). The Hebrew says the Lord God (Adonai Yahweh) will call for a sword throughout every mountain, which points to in-fighting among all the troops in the mountains around Israel. The cause may be a bit blurry, but the end result is certain: every man is fighting the other men around him and thousands are dying without engaging the Jews in battle. Both the Greek LXX and Hebrew have legitimate claims upon this verse. For the time being, I have combined the essence of the two in my translation. This is not a recommended hermeneutical practice, but at this time I cannot determine which version is more accurate.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The second great judgment that God will bring on the invaders will be that they will fight among themselves. (J. Walvoord) The Lord calls the sword against Gog, that his hosts may wound and slay one another. (Keil & Delitzsch) The war will begin all right, but Russian and Muslim forces will be firing at one another, not at the Jews. (J. Rosenberg) Supernatural panic will complete the picture of distress for man. The judgments, though so general and widespread that they must relate to the end of Israel's age, were taken from the pattern of the destruction of Sodom and the plagues of Egypt. (C. Feinberg) God will cause confusion to come among them as they turn and fight each other, slaughtering each other in history's greatest demonstration of friendly fire. (J. Hagee)

The multinational mix of the armies heightens their confusion. Some invaders speak Turkish, others speak Farsi, while still others speak Arabic. In the confusion and panic the invaders mistake these other groups for the enemy and fire on their allies. Many invaders will be killed by friendly fire. (C. Dyer) Gog rides to meet God! Did ever a conqueror ride forth on a more audacious ride? Fury is in the face of God, and wrath is in His nostrils, but He refuses to befoul His own holy hands by laying them directly upon the filthy beast. He simply calls for a sword to fulfill His will. God calls, and the "sword" leaps forth from its scabbard to obey. (L. Bauman) The Lord calls for assistance in executing judgment on Gog, while at Armageddon He is viewed as treading the winepress alone. (J. Pentecost)

**Ezek. 38:21** **Furthermore** (continuative), **I will call** (FAI1S, Predictive; קרא, Qal Waw Perf.1S, Simple Futurity, invoke) **upon him** (Acc. Dir. Obj.; Gog) **complete** (Nom. Measure) **fear** (Noncompl. Acc.; terror, phobia, panic), **a sword** (Subj. Nom.) **throughout every** (Nom. Spec.) **mountain** (Acc. Dir. Obj.), **says** (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) **the Lord** (Subj. Nom., יְהוָה) **God** (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה). **A man's** (Poss. Gen.) **sword** (Subj. Nom.; offensive weapon) **will be used** (עָלָה, FMI3S, Predictive, take place, happen; הָיָה, Qal Stative

Imperf.3FS, Certitude) against his (Gen. Rel.) brother (Acc. Opposition).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:21** καὶ καλέσω ἐπ' αὐτὸν πᾶν φόβον λέγει κύριος μάχαιρα ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἔσται

וְקִרְאתִי עָלָיו לְכָל־הָרִי חֶרֶב נֶאֱמַר אֲדַנִּי <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:21**  
יְהוָה חֶרֶב אִישׁ בְּאֶחָיו תִּהְיֶה:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:21** et convocabo adversum eum in cunctis montibus meis gladium ait Dominus Deus gladius uniuscuiusque in fratrem suum dirigetur

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:22** Then I will pronounce judgment on him [Gog] with a deadly plague [pestilence], even a blood disease, and I will inundate [overwhelm] him and all of the troops with him [coalition forces] with heavy rain and hailstones in addition to fire and sulphur. I will cause it to rain even upon the many [Islamic] nations allied with him [those who support the coalition forces, wherever they live].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:22** And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Then the Lord is going to pronounce judgment on Gog (Predictive Future tense) with pestilence and blood. Pestilence is another word for a deadly plague or epidemic. The ascensive use of “kai” points to this plague being related to blood itself, probably a blood disease (hemophilia) like AIDS but one that kills painfully and quickly. The plague could be separate from “the blood,” but few expositors that have taken that route have a good explanation of what “blood” means other than a violent death. The Lord is also going to overwhelm Gog and his coalition forces (Futuristic Present tense) with heavy rain and (Latin: immense) hailstones mixed with fire (Latin: igneous) and sulphur (brimstone). If you think this rain will be easy to withstand, think again. The hailstones that accompany it are going to be huge; hailstones could also be translated stone-sized or rock-heavy hail.

This judgment is going to be far more comprehensive than many think. The Lord is also going to cause this deadly rain (Hiphil Causative) to fall upon the many Islamic nations that are allied with Gog. In other words, this judgment will also be poured-out upon the citizens of the nations that support the coalition troops. This sounds a lot like the stated U.S. policy today of going after those who support terrorism as well as the terrorists themselves. The Lord will recognize no difference between military and civilian targets in that day. I’ve read some prophetic speculators who think chemical weapons and oil pipelines split apart by this great earthquake will be the “fire and brimstone.” But the Lord brought fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah long before chemical weapons and oil pipelines were in existence. He can do it again.

Let me speculate a minute at this juncture. There are many who believe the war in Iraq (2006) is a lost cause. There are even more who do not see any possibility of Iraq becoming one of (if not the) center of a future global economy. On one level, I agree with these people; on another level, I disagree with them. If every able-bodied Islamic fascist joins in this invasion by Gog, it is highly likely that those who are causing death and destruction in Iraq today will be killed by the Lord on the battlefield. The lure of invading Israel and wiping her out will outweigh any cut-and-run activities they have in Baghdad. And all those who support the Russian-Islamic coalition will also be killed by the Lord, wherever they live. The population of the entire Islamic Middle East (perhaps 5/6) will be virtually wiped out, leaving the largest oil fields on earth up for grabs. That will provide the setting for the rebuilding of Babylon by the antichrist, and the gathering of the nations for Armageddon.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The next form of judgment will be by plague and bloodshed ... The next judgment speaks of “torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulphur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.” (J. Walvoord) Pandemic diseases will sweep through the troops of the Russian coalition as well as through “the many peoples” who support these troops in their war of annihilation against Israel. (J. Rosenberg) The third weapon in God’s arsenal is great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Two of the most infamous cities that ever existed in history were the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Why are they famous? Their fame arises from the fact that they no longer exist. These are the two cities where God poured out fire and brimstone because of their great sin and iniquity, and they were obliterated from the earth. (J. Hagee) While Muslims believe in the prophecy of Gog and Magog, they appear to be totally ignorant of the fact that all the nations in Ezekiel 38 that will be destroyed by God are Muslim nations today, with the exception of Russia. (M. Hitchcock)

Does this passage teach that there will be a nuclear war? This passage itself is not conclusive. But this passage definitely tells us that something with the devastating power of nuclear war will be unleashed against the invaders. Rest assured that God doesn’t need any help from earthly weapons to make this happen. He was able to torch Sodom and Gomorrah without a single man-made weapon. (J. Sears) Some have suggested that the description of hailstones, fire and brimstone might be Ezekiel’s way of describing modern warfare, such as atomic warfare. There is a possibility that Ezekiel was using terms that he knew to describe a future situation for which he did not have a vocabulary. The language of Scripture indicates, however, that the victory over this invading horde is something that God does. It is God Himself, who is destroying the army. (J. Walvoord) Ezekiel 38-39 describes what we might call the “One Day War” or even the “One Hour War” because God will quickly, completely annihilate the Islamic invaders from the face of the earth by supernatural means. (M. Hitchcock)

In addition to the slaughter of Israel’s enemies on the battlefield, anti-Semitism will be judged throughout the world. The text of Zechariah 14:12-15 graphically pictures how God will deal with the last anti-Semites. “Now this will be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples

who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.“ (Zech. 14:12). This worldwide plague against anti-Semitism does not strike down its victims indiscriminately. The destruction is highly selective and afflicts only those who are already infected by the deadly virus of anti-Semitism in the Tribulation. Medical history has never recorded such a plague. Within moments the diseased victims begin to decompose while they are still living. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) In panic and confusion, the soldiers will wildly shoot at one another. The devastation, coupled with a lack of medicine and supplies and poor sanitation, will spawn deadly plagues. (C. Dyer) Gog is overthrown by convulsions of nature, but the armies at Armageddon are destroyed by the sword that goes out of Christ’s mouth. (J. Pentecost)

**Ezek. 38:22** Then (consecutive) I will pronounce judgment on (κρίνω, FAI1S, Predictive, condemn; שפט, Niphal Middle Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) him (Acc. Disadv.; Gog) with a deadly plague (Instr. Means; pestilence), even (ascensive) a blood disease (Instr. Means), and (connective) I will inundate (κατακλύζω, PAPtc.DMS, Futuristic, Circumstantial, flood; שטף, Qal Fientive Ptc.MS, overwhelmed) him (Acc. Disadv.) and (connective) all (Acc. Measure) of the troops (Acc. Gen. Ref.) with him (Gen. Accompaniment) with heavy rain (Instr. Means) and (connective) hailstones (Instr. Means) in addition to (connective) fire (Acc. Accompaniment) and (connective) sulphur (Acc. Accompaniment; brimstone). I will cause it to rain (βρέχω, FAI1S, Predictive; נטר, Hiphil Causative Imperf.1S, Simple Futurity) even (ascensive) upon the many (Acc. Measure) nations (Acc. Disadv.; Islamic coalition) allied with him (Gen. Accompaniment).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:22** καὶ κρινῶ αὐτὸν θανάτῳ καὶ αἵματι καὶ ὑετῷ κατακλύζονται καὶ λίθοις χαλάζης καὶ πῦρ καὶ θεῖον βρέξω ἐπ’ αὐτὸν καὶ ἐπὶ πάντας τοὺς μετ’ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐπ’ ἔθνη πολλὰ μετ’ αὐτοῦ

<sup>q</sup> וְנִשְׁפָּטְתִּי אֹתוֹ בְּדֶבֶר וּבַדָּם וּגְשָׁם שׁוֹטֵף <sup>WTT</sup> Ezekiel 38:22  
וְאֶבְנֵי אֱלֹהֵי שָׁמַיִם וְגִפְרִית אֲמִטִּיר עָלָיו וְעַל-אַנְפּוֹ  
וְעַל-עַמִּים רַבִּים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:22** et iudicabo eum peste et sanguine et imbre vehementi et lapidibus immensis ignem et sulphur pluam super eum et super exercitum eius et super populos multos qui sunt cum eo

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 38:23** And so [because of divine judgment], I will be acknowledged as extremely powerful and treated as holy and will be glorified and will be known in the sight of many nations, and they will understand that I am God [Yahweh].



<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:23** Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

As these horrendous judgments are carried out against them, Gog and his coalition will acknowledge that God is extremely powerful (Latin: magnify) and holy (Latin: sanctified) and they will glorify Him even as they are dying (Predictive Future tense). The Lord will also be known by all nations (Certitude) – not just Gog’s coalition forces, not just the nations who will sponsor the coalition forces – every nation on earth without exception will come to know Him. All nations and all peoples (unbelievers) will understand that He is God (Yahweh), that He indeed exists, and that He controls human history.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The overthrow of the enemy is intensified by marvelous plagues inflicted by God – pestilence and blood, torrents of rain and hailstones, and the raining of fire and brimstone upon Gog, as formerly upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Thus will Jehovah prove Himself to be the almighty God by judgment upon His enemies, and sanctify Himself before all the nations. (Keil & Delitzsch) The nations will recognize Yahweh’s sovereignty and glory as He is magnified through His judgment against Gog and sanctified as the Holy One in Israel. Israel will continue to recognize Yahweh’s holy name in this event, for Yahweh will not permit His holy name to be polluted through the defeat and removal of Israel from her land by Gog. (R. Alexander) By the unusual manifestations of His power obtuse man will come to realize the nature of the great God and Sovereign of the universe. (C. Feinberg)

The Gog and Magog war will be the first war that Israel wins without a fight, leading the nations to acknowledge the power of Israel’s God. It will also be the first time in modern history that Israel will be able to come away from the international negotiating table getting something instead of giving up something! And what Israel will appear to receive may be the freedom to build the Third Temple. Even if only a minority of Jews come to view the Temple as a place of worship, under these circumstances secular Israelis would probably not object to the rebuilding effort and might accept it as a national monument to Israel’s sovereignty as well as a fitting religious tribute to God for the victory over Gog and Magog. The rebuilding of the Temple by the Israelis most likely will be tolerated by the world’s major powers because they will be preoccupied with the Antichrist’s rise to power and their own problems stemming from various worsening conditions around the globe. (R. Price)

**Ezek. 38:23** And so (inferential), I will be acknowledged as extremely powerful (μεγαλύνω, FPI1S, Predictive, magnified, exalted; לָגַל, Hithpael Reflexive Estimative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) and (continuative) treated as holy (ἀγιάζω, FPI1S, Predictive; שָׁבַח, Hithpael Reflexive Estimative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) and (continuative) will be glorified (ἐνδοξάζομαι, FPI1S, Predictive,



Deponent, honored) and (continuative) will be known (γινώσκω, FPI1S, Predictive; יָדַע, Niphal Passive Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) in the sight (prep.) of many (Gen. Measure) nations (pagan people), and (continuative) they will understand (γινώσκω, FMI3P, Predictive; יָדַע, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) that (introductory) I (Subj. Nom.) am (εἰμί, PAI1S, Descriptive) God (Pred. Nom., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:23** καὶ μεγαλυνθήσομαι καὶ ἁγιασθήσομαι καὶ ἐνδοξασθήσομαι καὶ γνωσθήσομαι ἐναντίον ἐθνῶν πολλῶν καὶ γνώσονται ὅτι ἐγώ εἰμι κύριος

וְהַתְגַּדַּלְתִּי וְהִתְקַדְשְׁתִּי וְנִודַעְתִּי לְעֵינֵי גוֹיִם <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 38:23**  
רַבִּים וְיָדְעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה: ס

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 38:23** et magnificabor et sanctificabor et notus ero in oculis gentium multarum et scient quia ego Dominus

## CHAPTER 39

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:1** Now, son of man [Ezekiel], you proclaim a prophecy against Gog, and say: The Lord God says this: Behold, I am against you, Gog [commanding general], governing official over Rosh [Russia], Meschech [Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea], and Tubal [eastern Turkey],

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:1** 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:

### TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord instructs Ezekiel (Imperative of Command) to repeat the prophecy he just covered in chapter 38, but to add considerable details that he is about to receive this second time. This prophecy is directed against Gog, the commanding general and governing official over the Russian army. The prophecy comes directly from the Lord God - Adonai Yaweh in the Hebrew and Doninus Deus in the Latin. God is against Gog and his coalition, part of which is described as the region southeast of the Black Sea and eastern Turkey. This is the location of the first pair of Islamic jihadist forces.

### RELEVANT OPINIONS

As one studies these chapters he must keep in mind that 39:1-24 is essentially a restatement and expansion of 38:1-23. (R. Alexander) Turkey, Iran, and the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union are now fashioning their version of a New World Order. Libya and Sudan also seek closer ties with this group of Muslim nations. Whatever twists and turns that relationship takes in the years ahead, it will someday lead these countries to a disastrous invasion of the land of Israel. (C. Dyer) Ezekiel 39 is not a war. The enemy comes for war, but the victory is an act of God. Because of Ezekiel 39, there will be no need for objection to a Jewish Temple. Islam's pride will be lying dead on the mountains of Israel. (DDS) The early history of the tribes of Meshech and Tubal is cited by the ancient Greek historian Herodotus; in his day these tribes lived in the province of Pontus in northern Turkey (Histories, III, 94; VII, 78).

Josephus gives them the same location but says that the ancient names of Meshech and Tubal had become Meschen and Theolelian by the time of his writing (Antiquities, I, 124, 125). Later, these tribes pushed on toward the land east and north of the Black Sea, the land which is now Russia. It is hard to miss the preservation of these names in the two most important centers of the eastern and western halves of the modern state of Russia – Moscow and Tobolsk. Moscow is on the Moskva River, Tobolsk is on the Tobol. In the region of the Tobol there are five to ten other cities whose names obviously are variations upon the ancient tribal words. Here the same names are given to an ancient people who occupied parts of northern Turkey and Russia, to two major cities, and to two great rivers in Russia. (J. Boice)

Joe Stalin once said, "We have deposed the czars of the earth, and we shall now dethrone the Lord of heaven." When Russia put a rocket past the moon, called the Sputnik, and when it was nearing the sun, the following was heard on the radio in Russia: "Our rocket has bypassed the moon. It is nearing the sun. We have not discovered God. We have turned out lights in heaven that no man will be able to put on again. We are breaking the yoke of the gospel, the opiate of the masses. Let us go forth, and Christ shall be relegated to mythology." Before Russia even came into existence, God said, "I am against thee." (J. McGee) The prophet Ezekiel wrote these words from God on a papyrus scroll around 580 B.C. It has now been 26 centuries since he penned that epic prophecy, yet it has never been fulfilled. Not yet. (P. Goodman)

Meshech and Tubal were two nations in Cappadocia, in the northeast sector of Asia Minor. They were characterized in 32:26 as a bygone power in the world, along with Assyria and Elam. Here they are regarded as resurgent, an old menace come back to haunt their southern neighbors. (L. Allen) Chapter 39 retells the story of Gog'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, whereas a great deal of space is devoted to describing the massive slaughter of Gog's forces. In that 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. (D. Stuart)

Satan would appear as a refined intellectual with great dignity and say, "Now we must be diplomatic," as he seeks to subtly destroy righteousness and the righteous. But can one be diplomatic with a rattlesnake? Chamberlain was tricked this way by Hitler. Many keep offering peace plans, all

involving Israel's withdrawal from her own God-given land ... Whenever the Soviets have occupied a land they have never been known to leave ... To help starving people of any nation is commendable but to invite government leaders of whom the Almighty declares, "I am against thee" into your house as political bed-fellows (who discriminate against and persecute His people) will finally lead, not only to disenchantment and destitution of divine favour, but God's judgments. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:1** Now (transitional), son (Voc. Address) of man (Adv. Gen. Ref.; Ezekiel), you (Subj. Nom.) proclaim a prophecy (προφητεύω, AAImp.2S, Constative, Command; נבא, Niphal Middle Imperative MS) against Gog (Acc. Opposition), and (continuative) say (λέγω, AAImp.2S, Constative, Command; אמר, Qal Fientive Waw Perf.2MS, Prophetic): The Lord (Subj. Nom., אדני) God (Nom. Appos., יהוה) says (λέγω, PAI3S, Static; אמר, Qal Waw Perf.2MS, Prophetic) this (Acc. Spec.): Behold (interjection), I am (Subj. Nom., ellipsis) against you (Acc. Opposition), Gog (Voc. Address), the governing official (Acc. Appos.; chief ruler, prince, minor king, tribal leader) over Rosh (Gen. Place; Russia), Meschech (Gen. Place; Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea), and (connective) Tubal (Gen. Place; eastern Turkey),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:1** καὶ σὺ υἱὲ ἀνθρώπου προφήτευσσον ἐπὶ Γωγ καὶ εἰπὸν τάδε λέγει κύριος ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἐπὶ σὲ Γωγ ἄρχοντα Πως Μοσοχ καὶ Θοβελ

וְאָמַרְתָּ כֹה וְאָמַרְתָּ בֶן־אָדָם הִנֵּבָא עַל־גּוֹג וְאָמַרְתָּ כֹה וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲדֹנִי יְהוָה הִנְנִי אֵלֶיךָ גּוֹג נָשִׂיא רֹאשׁ מִשָּׁדַד וְתַבְלִי <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:1**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:1** tu autem fili hominis vaticinare adversum Gog et dices haec dicit Dominus Deus ecce ego super te Gog principem capitis Mosoch et Thubal

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:2** And I will gather you together and will guide you and will bring you down from the far north and I will lead you onto the mountains of Israel,

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:2** 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:

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Yahweh will gather Gog and his coalition forces together (Latin: seduce) and will guide them and bring them down from the far north (Perfect of Certitude). The Lord will also lead them onto the mountains of Israel. This series of perfect (Predictive Future) tenses denote absolute certitude; the sovereignty of God will be in complete charge of all events, from the inner thoughts to the outer actions of the Russian-Islamic coalition. Does the Lord destroy the entire

army or does he leave 1/6 of them alive to return home to fight again another day, i.e., at Armageddon? This is a lightly debated item between manuscript professionals who are more adept at Textual Criticism than most of us.

The KJV and others utilize an alternative translation of the 1<sup>st</sup> part of this verse taken from the Aramaic Bible - the Targum secundum – and certain Chaldean writings. This is where the phrase “and leave but a sixth part of you” comes from. Neither the Greek LXX nor the Latin Vulgate bear this phrase out, but that does not mean it is incorrect or should not be noted. The manuscript difference is between the root of **שׁשׁ** (Ethiopic: lead) and **שׁשׁ** (Aramaic: the sixth part). One letter makes all the difference in this word. I followed the lead of the Septuagint (καθοδηγέω: guiding or leading), but if the Lord leaves a remnant of 1/6 of the army alive - to fight again another day or to become believers - He has a perfectly good reason to do so.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The whole journey with its point of departure in the “furthest north” and its goal on the “mountains of Israel” is under Yahweh’s guidance. (W. Zimmerli) The **שׁשׁאֲתִיךָ** is not connected with **שׁשׁ** in the sense of “I leave a sixth part of thee remaining,” or afflict thee with six punishments, but in the Ethiopic it signifies to proceed, or to climb, and here, accordingly, it is used in the sense of leading on. (Keil & Delitzsch) God declares he will exterminate all but one-sixth of the Russian axis of evil that invades Israel. Five out of six warriors in that great army will be killed. That’s a death rate of 82% within just a few hours. It’s no wonder the world will be stricken with shock and awe. (J. Hagee) Russia has been guilty of more anti-Semitism than any other nation over a period of years. Why doesn’t God move against injustice? Well, He will when it is time. (J. McGee)

Some translate the Hebrew verb “lead thee on” as “leave but the sixth part” or “strike with six plagues” or “draw with a hook of six teeth.” But the first rendering is probably best. (C. Feinberg) The Russian-Arab armies will be utterly destroyed by earthquake, plague, hailstones, fire, and brimstone sent from God. The Lord will also afflict the Russian-Arab armies with a madness that will cause soldiers to attack their brother soldiers until 85 percent of the invading army will be left dead on the mountains surrounding the borders of Israel. (G. Jeffrey) Five-sixths of the Soviet Army involved will perish on the mountains of Israel. One-sixth will be turned back to go home and tell about it. (J. White) Of all that vast martial array, only one-sixth will live to cripple back over the mountains into their northern homes to tell the awful story. (L. Bauman)

**Ezek. 39:2** **And** (continuative) **I will gather you** (Acc. Dir. Obj.) **together** (συνάγω, FA1LS, Predictive; **שׁוּב**, Polel Causative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) **and** (continuative) **will guide** (καθοδηγέω, FA1LS, Predictive; **שׁשׁ**, Piel Causative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) **you** (Acc. Dir. Obj.) **and** (continuative) **will bring** (ἀναβιβάζω, FA1LS, Predictive; **עֲלֶה**, Hiphil Causative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) **you**

(Acc. Dir. Obj.) down from the far (Gen. Spec.; end) north (Gen. Place) and (continuative) I will lead (ἀνάγω, FAILS, Predictive; בוא, Hiphil Causative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) you (Acc. Dir. Obj.) onto the mountains (Acc. Place; hills) of Israel (Gen. Spec.),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:2** καὶ συνάξω σε καὶ καθοδηγήσω σε καὶ ἀναβιβῶ σε ἀπ' ἐσχάτου τοῦ βορρᾶ καὶ ἀνάξω σε ἐπὶ τὰ ὄρη τοῦ Ἰσραηλ

וְשִׁבַּבְתִּיךָ וְשִׂאֲתִיךָ וְהֵעֲלִיתִיךָ מִיָּדְךָ מִיְּמִינֶךָ וְהִבֵּאתִיךָ עַל-הָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:2**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:2** et circumagam te et seducam te et ascendere faciam de lateribus aquilonis et adducam te super montes Israhel

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:3** And I will strike your bow out of your left hand and will cause your arrows to fall from your right hand.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:3** And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Yahweh will knock the bow out of the archer's left hand and cause their arrows to fall out of their right hand (Predictive Future tense). For most archers, the left hand holds the bow while the right hand fits on the arrow and bends the bowstring. In other words, their long distance weapons will completely fail them. They won't be able to hold on to either their weapons or their ammunition. This leaves them with no alternative but close-quarter fighting, which means they will be incapable of fighting anyone but their fellow jihadists.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Bows and arrows stand for military might and capabilities. (M. Brubaker) The effect of Yahweh's action is to neutralize Gog's offensive power completely. (D. Block) No final answer can be given why primitive weapons are specified. (J. Walvoord) The weapons formed against Zion shall not prosper. (M. Henry) You must remember that Russia has always been anti-Semitic. At the present writing the largest population of Jews – outside the land of Israel and the United States – is over there in Russia. We are hearing a great deal of criticism of Russia for not permitting the Jews to leave. Well, in these last days God will deal with Russia for its treatment of His people. (J. McGee)

**Ezek. 39:3** And (continuative) I will strike (ἀπόλλυμι, FAILS, Predictive, destroy; נכה, Hiphil Factitive Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) your (Poss. Gen.) bow (Acc. Dir. Obj.) out of your (Poss. Gen.) left (Gen. Spec.) hand (Abl. Separation) and (connective) will cause your (Poss. Gen.) arrows (Acc. Dir. Obj.) to fall (καταβάλλω,

FAILS, Predictive; נפל, Hiphil Causative Imperf.1S, Simple Futurity) from your (Poss. Gen.) right (Gen. Spec.) hand (Abl. Separation).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:3** καὶ ἀπολῶ τὸ τόξον σου ἀπὸ τῆς χειρός σου τῆς ἀριστερᾶς καὶ τὰ τοξεύματά σου ἀπὸ τῆς χειρός σου τῆς δεξιᾶς καὶ καταβαλῶ σε

וְהָכִיתִי קִשְׁתְּךָ מִיַּד שְׂמְאוּלֶךָ וְחִצֶּיךָ מִיַּד  
יְמִינֶךָ אֶפִּיל׃ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:3**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:3** et percutiam arcum tuum in manu sinistra tua et sagittas tuas de manu dextera tua deiciam

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:4** You will fall [be destroyed] upon the mountains of Israel, you [Gog] and all the troops with you [coalition forces]. They [the Russian-Islamic army] will be offered as a sacrifice to a large number of vultures, all kinds of ravenous [parasitic] birds [ravens, crows, eagles], and I will offer you as a sacrifice to be eaten by all kinds of predatory animals [jackals, hyenas, coyotes, wolves].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:4** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The string of predictive future tenses continues. Yahweh tells Gog that he personally, along with his coalition forces, will be destroyed on the mountains of Israel. Not only will the invasion force be destroyed, but the nations that supported this invasion will also be destroyed. The Russian-Islamic troops will be offered as a sacrifice to a large gathering of vultures and other ravenous birds (Latin: aviary). Some other parasitic birds we are familiar with are ravens, crows, and eagles. They will gather on this battlefield in huge numbers for a feast of human flesh. The Lord will also offer the invasion force as a sacrifice to all kinds of predatory animals (Latin: beasts). The flesh of this army will be devoured by jackals, hyenas, coyotes and wolves. The jihadists will come to murder the Jews and feed them to birds and animals, but the Lord will kill the invasion force instead and offer them as a human sacrifice to beasts and fowl. Again, the Perfect tense in the Hebrew points to the absolute certainty that these events will happen.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The divine encounter with Gog would result in his weapons being dashed from his hands and in his military destination becoming the scene of defeat and of dishonor for his corpse. (L. Allen) The entire invading army will be wiped out. (J. Walvoord) All thy bands could be translated “satellite nations.” (J. White) Virgil represents the want of a burial, and being left to be fed upon by birds of prey, as severe a punishment of a wicked man as can be wished for. (J. Gill) Gog and his allied

hordes are to fall upon the mountains of Israel, and to be utterly swept away into the realms of Pluto. (L. Bauman) I can hear someone exclaim, “Do you mean God will actually do such a thing?” Certainly He will. The liberal theologian has a problem with the Creator destroying what He chooses, such as the Lord Jesus cursing a fig tree and also destroying a few pigs. I am not impressed with these people who get upset with God because He judges. I have a notion that God gets a little upset with them. (J. McGee)

**Ezek. 39:4** You will fall (πίπτω, FMI2S, Predictive, be destroyed; נפל, Qal Fientive Imperf.2MS, Simple Futurity) upon the mountains (Acc. Place) of Israel (Gen. Spec.), you (Subj. Nom.) and (connective) all (Nom. Measure) the troops (Nom. Accompaniment) with you (Acc. Accompaniment; coalition forces), as well as (connective) the nations (Nom. Assoc.) associated with you (Acc. Assoc.; supporting). They (the Russian-Islamic troops) will be offered as a sacrifice (δίδωμι, FPI3P, Predictive, given; נתן, Qal Fientive Perf.2S, Certitude) to a large number of (Acc. Measure; multitude) vultures (Obj. Gen.; birds of prey), all kinds of (Dat. Measure) ravenous (parasitic) birds (Dat. Ind. Obj.; ravens, crows, eagles), and (connective) I will offer you (Acc. Dir. Obj.) as a sacrifice (δίδωμι, Perf.AI1S, Futuristic) to be eaten (καταβιβρώσκω, APInf., Dramatic, Result, devoured; נתן, Qal Fientive Perf.2M, Certitude) by all kinds of (Dat. Measure) predatory animals (Dat. Ind. Obj.; jackals, hyenas, wolves, coyotes).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:4** ἐπὶ τὰ ὄρη Ἰσραὴλ καὶ πεσῇ σὺ καὶ πάντες οἱ περὶ σέ καὶ τὰ ἔθνη τὰ μετὰ σοῦ δοθήσονται εἰς πλήθη ὀρνέων παντὶ πετεινῷ καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς θηρίοις τοῦ πεδίου δέδωκά σε καταβρωθήναι

<sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:4** עַל־הָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּפּוֹל אַתָּה וְכָל־אֲגַפֶּיךָ וְעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר אִתְּךָ לְעִישׁ צִפּוֹר כָּל־כְּנָף וְחַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה נִתְּנָה לְאֹכְלָהּ

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:4** super montes Israhel cades tu et omnia agmina tua et populi qui sunt tecum feris avibus omnique volatili et bestiis terrae dedi te devorandum

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:5** You will fall [be killed] in front [of your troops] on open country [doesn't reach his goal inside Israel], because I have spoken it, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:5** Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken *it*, saith the Lord GOD.

**TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**



Gog will die in front of his troops in open country (Predictive Future tense). The Lord tells Gog he will be destroyed in “open country” as an additional slap in the face. Gog will not reach a major Israeli city. He will die outside Jerusalem; he will not reach his ultimate goal. The worst death imaginable for a commander is to die in front of his troops without attaining his military objective. God has decreed that this will happen by His spoken word. The sovereign, omnipotent God declares it to be so (Static Present tense).

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Gog's armies are arrayed in the open field, while at Armageddon they are seen in the city of Jerusalem. (J. Pentecost) For an army to fall on the open field means that it has been completely killed without survivors to carry the dead back home or even to bury the dead. (D. Stuart) The invasion thus has the function of a fire drill to test the system and hopefully confirm its efficiency. (L. Allen) Absence of burial was especially abhorrent in the Near East. (C. Feinberg) Some natural questions are raised about this. Some have suggested that the description of hailstones, fire and brimstone might be Ezekiel's way of describing modern warfare, such as atomic warfare. There is a possibility that Ezekiel was using terms that he knew to describe a future situation for which he did not have a vocabulary. The language of Scripture indicates, however, that the victory over this invading horde is something that God does. It is God, Himself, who is destroying the army. (J. Walvoord) They shall not be able to make their escape. Even upon the mountains he shall not find a pass that he shall be able to maintain, and on the open field he shall not find a road that he shall be able to make his escape by. (M. Henry)

**Ezek. 39:5** You will fall (πίπτω, FMI2S, Predictive; נפל, Qal Fientive Imperf.2MS, Simple Futurity, be destroyed) in front (Gen. Spec.; of your troops) on open country (Gen. Place; outside Jerusalem: doesn't reach his goal), because (causal) I (Subj. Nom.) have spoken (λαλέω, AAI1S, Constative; דבר, Piel Factitive Perf.1S, Certitude) it (ellipsis), declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) the Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:5** ἐπὶ προσώπου τοῦ πεδίου πεσῇ ὅτι ἐγὼ ἐλάλησα λέγει κύριος

עַל־פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה תִּפֹּל כִּי אֲנִי דִּבַּרְתִּי נְאֻם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה: <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:5**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:5** super faciem agri cades quia ego locutus sum ait Dominus Deus

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:6** Then I will send fire upon Magog [Central Asian Islamic nations] and those who dwell safe and secure on coastal areas [other Islamic host nations]. They will come to know that I am God [Yahweh].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:6** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

After dispensing with Gog and the invasion force, the Lord will send (Predictive Future tense) fire upon Magog – the Central Asian Islamic nations of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and the Ukraine. He will also send fire upon those who live safe and secure on coastal areas. Saudi Arabia is the first near-island that comes to mind, but there are a number of other nations that live on the coast and are primarily Islamic, i.e., Yemen, Iran, Ethiopia, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, etc. All of them will come to know (Ingressive) that the God of Israel is the true God (Yahweh).

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

God won't stop there (with the killing of the army). He will kill by means of divine fire all those who weren't part of the invading army but were allied with Gog. (D. Stuart) Not satisfied with the destruction of the armies of Gog, He attacks their home territories. (D. Block) In our modern vernacular: Not only the terrorists, but those who support the terrorists. (LWB) Those that shall abet (aid) Gog, virtually though not actively joining him in the invasion, shall be taught by bitter experience to know that their fancied security in the sea-girt or sea-washed and distant lands is a self-deceit; a fire from the Lord shall consume them, so that they shall know, to their cost, the God of power, Whom they refused to know as the God of grace and love. (G. Barlow) A special judgment will be visited also on the land from which the Russian army troops came. (J. Walvoord) The inhabitants of the distant coastlands of the west are associated as representatives of the remotest heathen nations. (Keil & Delitzsch) The last word "coastlands" could be a reference to the various continents, which would therefore include the United States, Great Britain, Japan, China, and other world powers. (J. Boice) God will also punish the homelands of the invaders. Sending fire implies destruction and military devastation. (C. Dyer)

This suggests that targets throughout Russia and the former Soviet Union, as well as Russia's allies, will be supernaturally struck on this day of judgment and partially or completely consumed. These could be limited to nuclear missile silos, military bases, radar installations, defense ministries, intelligence headquarters, and other government buildings of various kinds. But such targets could very well also include religious centers, such as mosques, madrassas, Islamic schools and universities, and other facilities that preach hatred against Jews and Christians and call for the destruction of Israel. Either way, we will have to expect extensive collateral damage, and many civilians will be at severe risk. (J. Rosenberg) The judgment (birds of prey of every kind) will not be confined to the destruction of the army of Gog, which has invaded the land of Israel, but will also extend to the land of Gog, and to all the heathen nations that are dwelling in security. (Keil & Delitzsch) Those dwelling in maritime regions, who had helped Gog with fleets and troops, shall be visited with the fire of God's wrath in their own lands. (R. Jamieson) The nation that will spawn the invasion will herself be destroyed. The coastlands imply the farthest reaches of the known world. (C. Dyer)

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. (C. Feinberg) Gog's homeland will also be visited in judgment. (F. Bruce) God will not only send fire upon the armies of Gog but will also pour out fire on Gog's homeland and headquarters in Magog. Millions of people will be wiped off the face of the earth in a moment of time! (M. Hitchcock) God will bring a fiery judgment on the territory of Magog and on her allies who felt secure in their coastlands or islands. God would use Gog's defeat as a demonstration to the nations that He, the Holy One of Israel, was the only true God. (F. Gaebelin) God has used fire and brimstone (whatever those are) to vaporize His enemies in the past. (J. Sears) The fire falling upon a land army is not nearly as difficult to imagine in this age as it was in Ezekiel's time. Napalm or even nuclear detonations might well be described in this way. But this is a matter of speculation. (McCall-Levitt)

**Ezek. 39:6** Then (consecutive) I will send (ἀποστέλλω, FAI1S, Predictive; שָׁלַח, Piel Causative Waw Perf.1S, Certitude) fire (Acc. Dir. Obj.) upon Magog (Acc. Place; Central Asian Islamic nations) and (connective) those (ellipsis) who dwell (κατοικέω, FMI3P, Predictive; יָשַׁב, Qal Stative Ptc.MP, Substantival, inhabit, live) safe and secure (Gen. Manner) on coastal areas (Gen. Place). They will come to know (γινώσκω, FMI3P, Ingressive; יָדַע, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) that (introductory) I (Subj. Nom.) am (εἰμί, PAI1S, Static) God (Pred. Nom., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:6** καὶ ἀποστελῶ πῦρ ἐπὶ Γωγ καὶ κατοικηθήσονται αἱ νῆσοι ἐπ' εἰρήνης καὶ γνώσονται ὅτι ἐγώ εἰμι κύριος

וְשָׁלַחְתִּי־אֵשׁ בְּמִגּוֹג וּבְיֹשְׁבֵי הָאֲרָצוֹת לִבְטַח  
וְיָדְעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:6** et emittam ignem in Magog et in his qui habitant in insulis confidenter et scient quia ego Dominus

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:7** Indeed, My holy Name will be made known in the midst of My people Israel, and My holy Name will no longer be profaned. In addition, the nations will know that I am God [the Lord], the Holy One in Israel.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:7** 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.

**TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Ezekiel uses the Imperfect tense to describe the knowledge that the Jewish people in Israel will arrive at and the Perfect tense to describe the knowledge that the non-Jewish (heathen) people outside Israel will arrive at. This is most curious. It sounds like Yahweh will make Himself known to the entire world, but some of His people (Israel) will remain unconvinced that He has rescued them while those outside Israel will have no doubt that it was God Who rescued them. It also sounds like there will still be those inside Israel that will continue to profane His Name even though the majority shut their mouths. In other words, the Imperfect tense seems to have an element of denial in it for some Jews in Israel, while the Perfect tense points to the rest of the world having no doubt in their mind that the God of Israel is (Gnomic Present tense) the Holy One and is the One Who has miraculously saved them from death and destruction.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Ezekiel has made it abundantly clear that Israel, under the Messiah, will lack human resources for defense against so powerful an aggressor. When this invader is defeated, then the “nations” will know that God has done it. (A. Blackwood, Jr.) By this judgment the Lord will make known His holy name in Israel, and show the heathen that He will not let it be blasphemed by them any more. (Keil & Delitzsch) With the destruction of Gog, God will begin to bring about Israel’s final restoration. What this statement means is that from that point he will begin to act openly against those who profane His name without worry of consequences. (M. Hitchcock) They shall be made to know by dear-bought experience that He is a God of power, and His people’s God and Saviour; and it is in vain for the greatest potentates to contend with Him; none ever hardened their heart against Him and prospered. (M. Henry) God’s intrinsic holiness is strongly expressed. (F. Gaebelein) The outcome of this war results in at least a temporary peace, as nations are forced to reckon with the divine protection uniquely afforded Israel, as well as the consequences for any nation that goes against her. (R. Price)

**Ezek. 39:7** Indeed (affirmative), My (Poss. Gen.) holy (Desc. Nom.; sacred) Name (Subj. Nom.; Person) will be made known (γινώσκω, FPI3S, Predictive; עֲלֵי, Hiphil Intransitive Imperf.1S, Injunctive) in the midst of (Loc. Place) My (Gen. Rel.) people (Gen. Rel.) Israel (Gen. Spec.), and (continuative) My (Poss. Gen.) holy (Descr. Nom.) Name (Subj. Nom.; Person) will no longer (neg. adv.) be profaned (βεβηλώ, FPI3S, Predictive, desecrated; לִלְחָל, Hiphil Intransitive Imperf.1S, Injunctive). In addition (adjunctive), the nations (Subj. Nom.; heathen) will know (γινώσκω, FMI3P, Predictive; יָדַע, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) that (introductory) I (Subj. Nom.) am (εἰμί, PAI1S, Gnomic) God (Pred. Nom., the Lord, יְהוָה), the Holy One (Nom. Appos.) in Israel (Loc. Place).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:7** καὶ τὸ ὄνομά μου τὸ ἅγιον γνωσθήσεται ἐν μέσῳ λαοῦ μου Ἰσραηλ καὶ οὐ βεβηλωθήσεται τὸ ὄνομά μου τὸ ἅγιον οὐκέτι καὶ γνώσονται τὰ ἔθνη ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι κύριος ἅγιος ἐν Ἰσραηλ

וְאֶת־שֵׁם קְדֹשִׁי אֲדַעֵב בְּתוֹךְ עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:7**  
וְלֹא־אֲחַל אֶת־שֵׁם־קְדֹשִׁי עוֹד וַיִּדְעוּ הַגּוֹיִם כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה  
קְדוֹשׁ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:7** et nomen sanctum meum notum faciam in medio populi mei Israhel et non polluam nomen sanctum meum amplius et scient gentes quia ego Dominus Sanctus Israhel

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:8** Behold, it [the exact prophetic time] has come. Furthermore, now you will know that it has arrived, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh]. This is the day concerning which I have spoken.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:8** Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this *is* the day whereof I have spoken.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Lord commands us all to pay close attention, because the exact prophetic time for the invasion of Gog has arrived. Does that mean it will happen tomorrow? It might, but this was written hundreds of years ago. In other words, when you see the coalition of nations aligning in the manner prescribed by Ezekiel, you will know (Gnomic Future tense) that the appointed time has arrived (Perfect of Certitude). The Lord God (Adonai Yahweh) has determined that these things will happen exactly as He predicted (Delocutive Piel Perfect tense). When “all the tumblers are in place,” the day will have arrived and the invasion will begin.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

When Russia joins with the Arab nations to attack Israel, their conscious motive will be to conquer the strategic territory of the Middle East and seize its enormously valuable oil reserves. God’s supernatural defeat of Russia and her Arab allies will drastically alter the geopolitical balance of power. (G. Jeffrey) Though this prophecy was to have its accomplishment in the latter days, yet it is here spoken of as if it were already accomplished, because it is certain. It is sure to be done when the time shall come as if it were done already. (M. Henry) The event is as sure as if it was now fulfilled. (J. Gill)

**Ezek. 39:8** **Behold** (imperative interjection; now hear this, pay attention), **it** (the exact prophetic time) **has come** (ἤκω, PAI3S, Static; בּוֹא, Qal Stative Ptc.FS). **Furthermore** (continuative), **now you will know** (γινώσκω, FMI2S, Gnomic) **that** (introductory) **it has arrived** (εἰμί, FMI3S, Gnomic; הָיָה, Niphal Passive Waw Perf.3FS,

Certitude; all doubt will be removed when you see these things happening around you), **declares** (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) **the Lord** (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) **God** (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה). **This is** (εἰμί, PAI3S, Descriptive) **the day** (Pred. Nom.) **concerning which** (Dat. Ref.) **I have spoken** (λαλέω, AAI1S, Epistolary, predicted; דָּבַר, Piel Delocutive Perf.1S, Prophetic).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:8** ἰδοὺ ἥκει καὶ γνώσῃ ὅτι ἔσται λέγει κύριος κύριος αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἡμέρα ἐν ᾗ ἐλάλησα

הִנֵּה בָּאָהּ וְנִהְיָתָה נֶאֱמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה הוּא <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:8**  
הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:8** ecce venit et factum est ait Dominus Deus haec est dies de qua locutus sum

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:9** Then [after the Lord has destroyed the Russian-Islamic coalition] those who dwell in the cities of Israel will march out and will set the weapons on fire and will burn both shields and javelins, bows and arrows, including hand-held clubs and spears, and they will burn them with fire for seven years.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:9** 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:

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

After the Lord has destroyed the Russian-Islamic coalition, those who live in the cities of Israel will march out to the battlefield (Predictive Future tense) and will set all the weapons on fire (Perfect of Certitude). They will burn both shields and javelins, perhaps a reference to defensive and offensive weaponry. They will also burn (Predictive Future tense) bows and arrows, as well as hand-held staffs and spears. Every imaginable type of weapon will be burned and the Israeli troops will be burning them for seven years (Perfect of Certitude). The continual fire required to burn so much military hardware is almost incomprehensible. It is also most interesting that they do not keep the weapons; they burn them instead. Even today, when the Israeli army uncovers hoards of weapons in caves and tunnels, they destroy them in short order.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The Lord will completely turn the tables on the enemy, for the plunderers will themselves be utterly plundered. What was intended for Israel will be recompensed upon their own heads. (M. Unger) Gog's intent to plunder would be reversed, as his troops' wooden weapons are seized and burned. Israel, hitherto safe in its cities, engages in mopping up operations ... The numeral "seven" becomes a catch-word, seven months of burial linking with seven years of burning, in both cases with threat-

free reference to Gog's immense army ... The dominant concerns of the unit are not only the burial of remains – but also the ritual cleanness of the land ... The decontamination would be a fitting and necessary corollary to God's triumph and so bring credit to its executors. (L. Allen)

Utter destruction of the enemies' military hardware is in mind ... Rather than being burned in one gigantic bonfire, the armaments provide the land with seven years' worth of firewood, relieving the inhabitants of the task of scrounging for fuel in the fields, or cutting down the forests. This has the added benefit of providing the environment with a sabbatical week of years to recover from the devastation the invading army had wreaked. (D. Block) They shall not lay them up in their armouries, nor reserve them for their own use, lest they should be tempted to put a confidence in them, but they shall burn them. (M. Henry) They shall burn them with fire seven years in the smelting furnaces of the steel mills in Israel and convert them into peaceful uses. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:9** Then (consecutive; after the Lord has destroyed the Russian-Islamic coalition) those (Subj. Nom.) who dwell (κατοικέω, PAPtc.NMP, Descriptive, Substantival; יָשָׁב, Qal Fientive Ptc.MP, Temporal) in the cities (Acc. Place) of Israel (Gen. Spec.) will march out (ἐξέρχομαι, FMI3P, Predictive, Deponent; מָצָא, Qal Fientive Waw Perf.3P, Certitude; go forth) and (continuative) will set the weapons (Dat. Ind. Obj.) on fire (καίω, FAI3P, Predictive; נָשַׁק, Hiphal Factitive Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) and (continuative) will burn (בָּעַר, Piel Waw Perf.3P) both (adjunctive) shields (Dat. Ind. Obj.; armour, defensive weapons) and (connective) javelins (Dat. Ind. Obj.; poles, offensive weapons), bows (Dat. Ind. Obj.) and (connective) arrows (Dat. Ind. Obj.), including (adjunctive) hand-held clubs (Dat. Ind. Obj.; forearm rods, staffs) and (connective) spears (Dat. Ind. Obj.; lances), and (continuative) they will burn (καίω, FAI3P, Predictive; בָּעַר, Piel Factitive Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) them (Dat. Ind. Obj.) with fire (Acc. Manner) for seven years (Acc. Extent of Time).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:9** καὶ ἐξελεύσονται οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὰς πόλεις Ἰσραὴλ καὶ καύσουσιν ἐν τοῖς ὅπλοις πέλταις καὶ κοντοῖς καὶ τόξοις καὶ τοξεύμασιν καὶ ῥάβδοις χειρῶν καὶ λόγχαις καὶ καύσουσιν ἐν αὐτοῖς πῦρ ἑπτὰ ἔτη

וַיִּצְאוּ וַיִּבְעֲרוּ יְשֻׁבֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְעֲרוּ יְהִשְׁקוּ  
בְנֶשֶׁק וּמִגֵּן וְצִנָּה בְּקִשְׁתִּים וּבְחֲצִים וּבְמִקְלֵי יָד וּבְרִמְחִים וּבְעֲרוּ  
בָהֶם אֵשׁ שִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:9** et egredientur habitatores de civitatibus Israhel et succendent et comburent arma clypeum et hastas arcum et sagittas et baculos manus et contos et succendent ea igne septem annis



**LWB Ezek. 39:10** Furthermore, they will not gather wood out of the open country nor cut timber out of the forests, but instead they will burn the weapons with fire. In fact, they will plunder those [dead Russian-Islamic troops] who planned to plunder them, and strip the weapons off those [dead Russian-Islamic troops] who planned to strip the weapons off them, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

**KJV Ezekiel 39:10** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Citizens of Israel will not have to gather (Subjunctive of Prohibition) wood out of the open country nor will they have to cut down timber (Subjunctive of Prohibition) out of the forests. Instead, they will burn enemy weapons (Predictive Future tense) to heat their homes! As a matter of fact, the Lord will allow the Jews to plunder the dead bodies of the Russian-Islamic troops just like their enemies had planned in their own minds to do to the Jews. The Purpose Participle provides the underpinning for the enemy plans. The Perfect of Certitude points to the result which has been planned by the irony of God. Not only will the Jews be allowed to take the personal property of the dead enemy soldiers, but they will be allowed to strip them of all their weaponry and other equipment. Again, the Russian-Islamic troops had planned to do this to the Jews, but it will boomerang on them (Perfect of Certitude). In short, the Israelis will take both personal and military property off the slaughtered Russian-Islamic soldiers and jihadists. There is absolutely no chance that these things will not happen exactly as stated, because the Lord God (Adonai Yahweh) declares it to be so.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

While plague devastates the ranks of their adversaries, Jewish soldiers will contribute to the defeat. Now will come their turn to “take the spoil of those who despoiled them;” now they receive repayment by going through the camps of the hostile armies to collect the wealth of the heathen. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) Every time they put fuel to the fire, and warm themselves by it, they will be put in mind of the number and strength of their enemies, and the imminent peril they were in of falling into their hands, which would help to enlarge their hearts in thankfulness to that God who had so wonderfully, so seasonably, delivered them. (M. Henry) They will not only take their weapons and burn them, but strip them of their garments, and take away their gold, and silver, and jewels, and everything of value they shall find about them. (J. Gill) This can mean the wood of gunstocks, etc., but also great supplies and storage tanks of fuel (perhaps nuclear) that a mechanized army must have and which Israel will convert to peaceful uses. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:10** Furthermore (continuative), they will not (neg. adv.) gather (λαμβάνω, AASubj.3P, Culminative, Prohibition; נָשָׂא, Qal Fientive Imperf.3P, Simple Futurity) wood (Acc. Dir. Obj.) out of the open country (Gen. Source, Abl. Separation) nor (neg. conj.)

cut down (κόπτω, AASubj.3P, Culminative, Prohibition; חָטַב, Qal Fientive Imperf.3P, Simple Futurity) timber (ellipsis) out of the forests (Gen. Source, Abl. Separation), but instead (adversative) they will burn (κατακαίω, FAI3P, Predictive; בָּעַר, Piel Factitive Imperf.3MP, Simple Futurity) the weapons (Acc. Dir. Obj.) with fire (Instr. Manner). In fact (emphatic), they will plunder (προνομεύω, FAI3P, Predictive, spoil; שָׁלַל, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) those (Acc. Dir. Obj.; members of the Russian-Islamic coalition) who planned to plunder (προνομεύω, AAPtc.AMP, Constative, Purpose, spoil; שָׁלַל, Qal Fientive Ptc.MP, Purpose) them (Acc. Disadv.), and (continuative) strip the weapons off (σκυλεύω, FAI3P, Predictive; בָּזָז, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) those (Acc. Dir. Obj. Members of the Russian-Islamic coalition) who planned to strip the weapons off (σκυλεύω, AAPtc.AMP, Constative, Purpose; בָּזָז, Qal Fientive Ptc.MP, Purpose) them (Acc. Disadv.), declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) the Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:10** καὶ οὐ μὴ λάβωσιν ξύλα ἐκ τοῦ πεδίου οὐδὲ μὴ κόψωσιν ἐκ τῶν δρυμῶν ἀλλ' ἢ τὰ ὄπλα κατακαύσουσιν πυρί καὶ προνομεύσουσιν τοὺς προνομεύσαντας αὐτοὺς καὶ σκυλεύσουσιν τοὺς σκυλεύσαντας αὐτούς λέγει κύριος

וְלֹא־יִשְׂאוּ עֲצִים מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה וְלֹא יִחָטְבוּ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:10**  
 מִן־הַיַּעְרִים כִּי בִנְשָׁק יִבְעֲרוּ־אֵשׁ וְשָׁלְלוּ אֶת־שִׁלְלֵיהֶם וּבָזְזוּ  
 אֶת־בְּזוּיָהֶם נָאֻם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה: ס

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:10** et non portabunt ligna de regionibus neque succident de saltibus quoniam arma succident igne et depraedabuntur eos quibus praedae fuerant et diripient vastatores suos ait Dominus Deus

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:11** And it will come to pass in that day: I will give to Gog an abominable place for a grave in Israel, a burial ground which passes by the eastern approach to the [Dead] sea, including a border built around it and blocking the entrance way to the valley, and they [the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists] will be buried in that place, Gog and all his army, and it will be called [renamed] the valley [burial ground] of Hamon-Gog [Gog and his army].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:11** 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.

**TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Lord makes another prediction that will come to pass (Perfect of Certitude) at exactly the right moment in time, on exactly the appointed day that He planned in eternity past. On that day, He will provide an absolutely abominable burial ground (Predictive Future tense) for Gog and his army inside the boundaries of the nation of Israel. What a slap in the face this will be for the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists, to be buried in the land that they hate above all others! This burial ground (Latin: sepulcher) will pass by the eastern approach to the Dead Sea (Attributive Participle) and will include a border built around it, enclosing the burial site from visitors. This burial ground will actually block the main thoroughfare through the valley to the sea, so travelers will have to drive either through or around its enclosure to get to their final destination. So in a very real sense, the burial ground will be a memorial to all those who travel on this road – a memorial to the sovereignty and omnipotence of the God of Israel. Gog and all of his Russian troops and Islamic jihadists will be buried there (Predictive Future tense), which explains why the name of this location will be changed to the Valley of Hamon-Gog. Hamon-Gog means the burial ground of Gog and all his army, the Multitude of Gog in the Latin Vulgate.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

A description of the burial of the horde begins with verse 11. Again, the picture is hyperbolic, with a whole valley so filled with bodies that people will have to pick a different route to go to the Mediterranean. This valley will be named Hamon Gog, which means Gog's multitude. (D. Stuart) It will be notoriously public, arresting travelers in their progress, compelling them to reflect on the signal judgment inflicted on the enemies of the covenant people. (G. Barlow) It shall stop the noses of the passengers. (Rabbi Kimchi) The place of Gog's burial will be the valley of the Jordan above the Dead Sea. Gog's burial will be east of the Dead Sea. (C. Feinberg) The Israelites shall bury the corpses in a valley, because, in a ritual sense, a corpse defiles the land. (W. Wardle) The slaughter shall be so general that there shall not be a sufficient number of the enemies left alive to bury the dead. (M. Henry) Gog only found a grave where he had expected the spoils of conquest. (R. Jamieson) The valley where Gog's army will be buried is on the east side of the Dead Sea in what is today Jordan. The valley will be clogged with the bodies of soldiers. (C. Dyer)

**Ezek. 39:11** And (continuative) it will come to pass (εἰμί, FMI3S, Predictive; הָיָה, Qal Waw Perf.3M, Certitude) in that (Dat. Spec.; appointed) day (Loc. Time): I will give (δίδωμι, FAI1S, Predictive; נתן, Qal Fientive Imperf.1S, Simple Futurity) to Gog (Dat. Disadv.) an abominable (Noncompl. Acc.) place (Acc. Place; specific location) for a grave (Acc. Purpose) in Israel (Loc. Place), a burial ground (Acc. Appos.) which passes by (ἐπέρχομαι, AAPtc.GMP, Constative, Attributive, Deponent, approaches, located near; עָבַר, Qal Stative Ptc.MP, passes by) the eastern approach (Gen. Spec.) to the sea (Loc. Place; Dead Sea), including (adjunctive) a border (Acc. Dir. Obj.; edge) built around it and blocking the entrance

way to (περιοικοδομέω, FAI3P, Predictive, enclosing; **סָבַח**, Qal Ptc.FS, blocking a road or entrance) the valley (Gen. Place), and (continuative) they (the Russian-Islamic troops and jihadists)

will be buried (περιοικοδομέω, FAI3P, Predictive; **קָבַר**, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) in that place (adv.), Gog (Acc. Gen. Ref.) and (connective) all (Acc. Measure) his (Gen. Rel.) army (Acc. Gen. Ref.), and (continuative) it will be called (καλέω, FPI3S, Predictive, named; καλέω, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) the valley (Nom. Appos.) of Hamon-Gog (Desc. Gen.; the burial ground of Gog and his army).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:11** καὶ ἔσται ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ δώσω τῷ Γωγ τόπον ὀνομαστόν μνημεῖον ἐν Ἰσραὴλ τὸ πολυάνδριον τῶν ἐπελθόντων πρὸς τῇ θαλάσῃ καὶ περιοικοδομήσουσιν τὸ περιστόμιον τῆς φάραγγος καὶ κατορύξουσιν ἐκεῖ τὸν Γωγ καὶ πᾶν τὸ πλῆθος αὐτοῦ καὶ κληθήσεται τὸ γαί τὸ πολυάνδριον τοῦ Γωγ

**Ezekiel 39:11** <sup>WTT</sup> וְהָיָה בַיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶתֵּן לְגִוְגַי מְקוֹם-שָׁם קָבַר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל גֵּי הָעֶבְרִים קִדְמַת הַיָּם וְחִסְמַת הָיָא אֶת-הָעֶבְרִים וְקָבְרוּ שָׁם אֶת-גִּוְגַי וְאֶת-כָּל-הַמוֹנָה וְקִרְאוּ גֵיא הַמּוֹן גִּוְגַי

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:11** et erit in die illa dabo Gog locum nominatum sepulchrum in Israhel vallem Viatorum ad orientem maris quae obstupescere facit praetereuntes et sepelient ibi Gog et omnem multitudinem eius et vocabitur vallis Multitudinis Gog

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:12** As a matter of fact, the nation of Israel will bury them [the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists] for seven months so that the land might be cleansed.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:12** And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The nation of Israel, primarily if not entirely its soldiers, will bury (Predictive Future tense) the Russian troops and the Islamic jihadists for seven months. The goal (Culminative Aorist tense) is to purify or cleanse the land (Potential Subjunctive mood), so the reference to seven months could either mean (a) the quantity of dead will be so great that it will take that long to accomplish the task, or (b) the decontamination of such a body of troops will slow things down beyond our comprehension. The “seven years of burning their weapons” is echoed by the “seven months of burying” the bodies of the soldiers and jihadists.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Death will come so suddenly to so many that it will take the better part of a year to finish the

burying. All facts emphasize the vast proportions of the catastrophe. (C. Feinberg) With typical Israeli civic pride and endeavor, they will sterilize their promised land. (Z. Levitt) The slain lie so dispersed on the mountains of Israel that it would be a work of time to find them out; and therefore it is left to the house of Israel to bury them as a piece of triumph in their overthrow. (M. Henry) The city's exact nature is unclear. Perhaps it is viewed as a city of the dead. (F. Gaebelein) It will be mandatory for Israel to build a town there to house the workers burying the dead, and for metal workers, truckers, mechanics, service stations, etc., who will be seven years cleaning up the war wreckage. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:12** As a matter of fact (continuative), the nation (Subj. Nom.; house, family, descendants) of Israel (Gen. Spec.) will bury (κατορύσσω, FAI3P, Predictive; קבר, Qal Waw Perf.3MP, Certitude) them (Acc. Dir. Obj.; the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists) for seven months (Loc. Time) so that (purpose) the land (Subj. Nom.) might be cleansed (καθαρίζω, APSbj.3S, Culminative, Potential; טהר, Piel Inf., Result, purified, scoured).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:12** καὶ κατορύξουσιν αὐτοὺς οἶκος Ἰσραὴλ ἵνα καθαρισθῇ ἡ γῆ ἐν ἑπταμήνῳ

וְקִבְרוּם בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעַן טָהַר אֶת־הָאָרֶץ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:12**  
שִׁבְעָה חֳדָשִׁים:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:12** et sepelient eos domus Israhel ut mudent terram septem mensibus

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:13** Moreover, all the people from the region [even those outside the nation Israel] will bury them [the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists], and it will become a memorial event to them, a day on which I will be honored and respected, declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:13** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Not only will the military and civilians of Israel be engaged in the burial of the invading troops, but all of their surviving neighbors in the region will assist them in the burial efforts (Predictive Future tense). More than likely, the politicians in Israel will request assistance from other nations to help in the cleanup efforts, and many countries will send troops and volunteers to help them. The day of Gog's destruction will become a memorial event to all nations (Perfect of Certitude), a day on which the Lord God will be honored and respected for years to come even by those who do not become believers (Culminative Aorist tense).

Atheists, agnostics and those of other religions may not abandon their false beliefs, but they will

recognize the awe-inspiring power of the Lord and they will respect His ability to protect Israel even if they do not recognize Him as the one and only true God. Although it is strange to comprehend, it is possible for some people to honor the power of God without actually believing in God. For example, many nations today respect the power of the United States while not actually liking the country or its people. Some nations (Axis of Evil) respect our military and economic power, but actually hate us. Like the Pharaoh, they will respect the source of the power, but hate the God who wields that power.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

God will be glorified in victory over the invading enemy. (C. Feinberg) God will use this terrible slaughter to show forth His power and to show rebellious people that He alone is God and that beside Him there is no other! (M. Hitchcock) Every one should contribute the utmost he can in his place towards the cleansing of the land from the pollutions of it, and from every thing that is a reproach to it. (M. Henry)

**Ezek. 39:13** Moreover (continuative), all (Nom. Measure) the people (Subj. Nom.) from the region (Gen. Place; even those outside of the nation Israel) will bury (κατορύσσω, FAI3P, Predictive; קבר, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) them (Acc. Dir. Obj.; the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists), and (continuative) it will become (εἰμί, FMI3S, Predictive; יהיה, Qal Waw Perf.3MS, Certitude) a memorial event (Pred. Nom.; noteworthy, important occasion) to them (Dat. Adv.), a day (Loc. Time) on which (Dat. Ref.) I will be honored and respected (δοξάζω, API1S, Culminative, glorified; כבד, Niphil Tolerative Inf.1S, Result), declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) the Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:13** καὶ κατορύξουσιν αὐτοὺς πᾶς ὁ λαὸς τῆς γῆς καὶ ἔσται αὐτοῖς εἰς ὀνομαστὸν ἡ ἡμέρα ἐδοξάσθην λέγει κύριος

וְקִבְּרוּ כָּל־עַם הָאָרֶץ וְהָיָה לָהֶם לְשֵׁם יוֹם  
הַכְּבֹדִי נָאִם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:13** sepeliet autem omnis populus terrae et erit eis nominata dies in qua glorificatus sum ait Dominus Deus

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:14** In addition, they will give orders to a special detachment of men [inspectors and disposal teams] for continual duty, who will travel throughout the land burying those [bodies] which remain upon the surface of the land [leftovers] for the purpose of cleaning it. They will continue to search outside the border [outskirts of Israel] for seven months,



<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:14** 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.

### ***TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS***

The politicians of the nations bordering Israel will give orders (Predictive Future tense) to a special detachment of men for continual duty. This detachment will consist of inspectors who will locate bodily remains, as well as a transport and disposal team. This special group of men will travel throughout the land (Iterative Present tense) in some sort of organized pattern, probably using GPS tracking devices, burying (Purpose) any bodies they find on the surface of the ground. No attempts will be made to dig up the bodies of those who were hiding in tunnels and caves waiting for the command to attack. Since their families and friends will have also been killed by the Lord, nobody will be looking for them. There will not be a need to identify their remains. Everything that is left over and visible to the naked eye will be taken care of in order to sweep the countryside clean (Culminative Aorist tense) for future inhabitation.

What the vultures and wild animals don't eat will be buried so there will be nothing left to contaminate the land or spread infectious disease to the general population. This special detachment of men will no doubt be clothed in biologically enclosed suits (chemical warfare uniforms and gear) and will have special equipment they will use to locate and dispose of the dead and scour the land of any remaining contaminants. Since we don't know what the essence of "fire and brimstone" is, there may be radioactivity present which will require a rather sensitive identification, transportation and disposal of remains. They will continue their search (Iterative & Durative Future) along the outskirts of the nation of Israel for seven months. The phrase "outside the border" points once again to the fact that the invading army failed to reach their goal of entering and destroying the nation Israel. The Lord killed them outside the border of Israel.

Allow me to speculate a bit. What if the rapture occurred before (or is in sync with) the attempted invasion of Israel by Gog and his coalition. All Christians will have been removed from the earth and will be in heaven with the Lord. At the same time, or shortly thereafter, the majority of the invading Russian troops and Islamic jihadists, as well as their families and friends who supported them, will have been killed by God and will be waiting for their dispatch orders to hell. With all Christians and the majority of the Russian-Islamic coalition gone from planet earth, the situation is ripe for the rise of the Antichrist. The remaining population will be thrilled at the absence of the world's "troublemakers." There would be no more Christians and relatively few Muslims to deal with. The peace offered by the Antichrist will be enthusiastically embraced by the majority of those who remain alive and are entering the Tribulation.

The loss of its Christian population will cripple the United States. The U.S. military force will be virtually non-existent and what is left will be needed at home to quell rioters, looters and murderers. The Middle East will be vacant; all the jihadists and their supporters are dead. The oilfields will be sitting idle, up for grabs to the highest bidder. The Antichrist will lead his



European confederation to the heart of the Middle East (Babylon) and will complete the construction there (begun by Saddam Hussein and resumed by the U.S.) for his headquarters. China will have her eyes on the oilfields, too. She will have what the European federation does not have – a huge standing army that can march in and take over the entire Middle East. The remnants of far northern Russia will likewise see the prize just waiting to be taken. This sets the stage for the Armageddon Campaign.

## **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

A standing commission shall be appointed to supervise the burial of Gog's remains. These men shall pass up and down the length of the land, inspecting every corner for remnants of the vanquished foes' warriors. (D. Block) To make sure that not a single bone remains to pollute the sacred territory, definitely commissioned men shall then search the land and erect a mark by any bone they discover, so that the burial parties may remove it into the valley. (W. Wardle) Though the office of gravemakers, or common scavengers of the country, seem but mean, yet, when it is for the cleansing and purifying of the land from dead works, it shall be mentioned to their honour. (M. Henry) According to this verse, the Israeli government will hire full-time professionals (men of continued employment) to oversee the burial and decontamination work. This sounds like the type of work needed after nuclear, biological or chemical warfare. (biblrytr.com)

**Ezek. 39:14** In addition (adjunctive), they will give orders to (διαστέλλω, FAI3P, Predictive; בָּרַל, Hiphil Factitive Perf.3MP, Certitude, select, single out, divide) a special detachment (Gen. Spec.; category) of men (Acc. Gen. Ref.; inspectors and removal teams) for continual duty (Adv. Purpose), who will travel throughout (ἐπιπορεύομαι, PMPtc.AMP, Iterative & Durative, Substantial, Deponent; בָּרַל, Qal Fientive Ptc.MP, Modal, pass through, journey) the land (Acc. Place) burying (θάπτω, AAInf., Constative, Purpose; עָבַר, Piel Factitive Ptc.MP, Purpose) those (Acc. Gen. Ref.; bodies) which remain (καταλείπω, Perf.PPtc.AMP, Dramatic, Attributive; יָתֵר, Niphil Tolerative Ptc.MP, Attributive, left overs) upon the surface (Gen. Spec.) of the land (Gen. Place) for the purpose of cleaning (καθαρίζω, AAInf., Culminative, Purpose, purifying; טָהַר, Piel Privative Inf. 3FS, Purpose, scouring, sweeping clean) it (Acc. Dir. Obj.; the land). They will continue to search (ἐκζητέω, FAI3P, Predictive, Durative & Iterative; חָקַר, Qal Fientive Imperf.3MP, Incompleted Action) outside the border (Acc. Place; the outskirts of Israel) for seven (numeral) months (Acc. Extent of Time),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:14** καὶ ἄνδρας διὰ παντὸς διαστελοῦσιν ἐπιπορευομένους τὴν γῆν θάψαι τοὺς καταλελειμμένους ἐπὶ προσώπου τῆς γῆς καθάρισαι αὐτὴν μετὰ τὴν ἑπτάμηνον καὶ ἐκζητήσουσιν

וְאֲנָשִׁי תָמִיד יִבְדְּלוּ עֲבָרִים בָּאָרֶץ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:14**  
מִקְבָּרִים אֶת־הָעֲבָרִים אֶת־הַנּוֹתָרִים עַל־פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ לְטַהֲרָהּ  
מִקְצָה שְׁבַע־חֳדָשִׁים יִחְקְרוּ:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:14** et viros iugiter constituent lustrantes terram qui sepeliant et requirant eos qui remanserant super faciem terrae ut emundent eam post menses autem septem quaerere incipient

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:15** And each one [designated inspector] who travels throughout the land and sees a man's bone [skeletal remains] will erect a signpost [stone landmark] beside it until those who are on the burial detail bury it in the valley of Hamon-Gog.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:15** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Each designated inspector who travels throughout the land (Prophetic Perfect tense) and sees a man's bone (Culminative Aorist tense) - perhaps an entire skeleton, perhaps not – will erect a marker of some kind (Predictive Future tense) next to it. The signpost could be a mound of rocks, some used and no longer functioning weapons, or maybe even the bones themselves. The idea is that the burial detail which follows behind (Descriptive Present) will see the marker and will transport and bury the remains (Result Subjunctive) in the valley of Hamon-Gog. Hamon-Gog, as mentioned previously, is the name of the mass burial ground where Gog and his forces (the Multitude) are disposed.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Whenever the inspectors discover so much as a bone of the enemy on the surface of the ground, the spot is to be marked with a signpost. (D. Block) Burial squads will act as spotters to mark the location of human remains. (M. Brubaker) The people of the land will soon grow weary of burying the pollutions of the country, and therefore they shall appoint men of continual employment that shall apply themselves to it and do nothing else till the land be thoroughly cleansed. (M. Henry) Sounds like the remains will be radioactive or toxic. (biblrytr.com)

**Ezek. 39:15** And (continuative) each (Nom. Measure) one (Subj. Nom.; inspector) who travels throughout (διαπορεύομαι, PMPtc.NMS, Descriptive, Substantial, Deponent; עָבַר, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Prophetic) the land (Acc. Place) and (continuative) sees (ὁράω,

AApTc.NMS, Culminative, Circumstantial; רָאָה, Qal Waw Perf.3MS, Prophetic) a man's (Poss. Gen.) bone (Acc. Dir. Obj.; collection of bones, skeleton) will erect (οἰκοδομέω, FAI3S, Predictive, build, construct; בָּנָה, Qal Waw Perf.3MS, Prophetic) a signpost (Acc. Dir. Obj.; location marker, stone landmark) beside it (Acc. Place) until those (Adv. Gen. Ref.) who are on the burial detail (θάπτω, PAPtc.NMP, Descriptive, Substantival; קָבַר, Piel Delocutive Ptc.MP, Substantival) bury (θάπτω, AASubj.3P, Culminative, Result; קָבַר, Qal Fientive Perf.3P, Completed Action) it (Acc. Dir. Obj.) in the valley (Acc. Place) of Hamon-Gog (Gen. Spec.; the burial place of Gog).

BGT **Ezekiel 39:15** καὶ πᾶς ὁ διαπορευόμενος τὴν γῆν καὶ ἰδὼν ὅσους ἀνθρώπου οἰκοδομήσει παρ' αὐτὸ σημεῖον ἕως ὅτου θάψωσιν αὐτὸ οἱ θάπτοντες εἰς τὸ γαι τὸ πολυάνδριον τοῦ Γωγ

וְעָבְרוּ הָעֲבָרִים בָּאָרֶץ וְרָאָה עֵצָם אֲדָם <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:15**  
וּבָנָה אֶצְלוֹ צִיּוֹן עַד קְבָרֶיהָ אֶתֹּם הַמִּקְבָּרִים  
אֶל־גֵּיא הַמִּוֶּן גִּוֶּג:

VUL **Ezekiel 39:15** et circumibunt peragrantes terram cumque viderint os hominis statuent iuxta illud titulum donec sepeliant illud pollinctores in valle Multitudinis Gog

LWB **Ezek. 39:16** In addition, the name of the [burial] city will be Hamonah [the dead multitude]. Indeed, the land will be swept clean.

KJV **Ezekiel 39:16** And also the name of the city *shall be* Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

## TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

Not only does the valley have a name, but apparently the burial ground itself will also have a name. The name of the valley is Hamon-Gog, which means the multitude of Gog. The name of the city or burial site is Hamon-ah, which means the dead multitude. The cleanup efforts will take so much time and so many resources that a base camp close to the burial site will be built. Ezekiel adds an affirmative statement of certitude, which means the land will be scoured, swept clean and purified (Predictive Future tense) of all dead remains.

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

The sextons shall follow the supervisors, transport the bones to the appointed site, and bury them in the Valley of the Hamon-Gog. (D. Block) A memorial of the disaster will be left in the name of a city which will remind of the vast multitudes who were involved in the invasion. (C. Feinberg) A city in this region will be called Hamonah from this event. (Keil & Delitzsch) The cleansing

operation will be so extensive that a town will be established in the valley at the gravesites to aid those who are cleansing the land. The name of the town is Hamonah, which is a form of the word “hordes.” (M. Hitchcock) It could become the tourist attraction of the world. No doubt a great World Peace Memorial and Museum will be built to the honor of the Lord’s deliverance, not only of Israel, but of the whole world. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:16** In addition (adjunctive), the name (Subj. Nom.) of the city (Adv. Gen. Ref.; burial city) will be (ellipsis) Hamonah (Pred. Nom.; the dead multitude). Indeed (affirmative), the land (Subj. Nom.) will be swept clean (καθαρίζω, FPI3S, Predictive; טָהַר, Piel Privative Waw Perf.3P, Certitude, scoured, purified).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:16** καὶ γὰρ τὸ ὄνομα τῆς πόλεως Πολυάνδριον καὶ καθαρισθήσεται ἡ γῆ

וְגַם שֵׁם-עִיר הַמּוֹנָה וְטָהְרוּ הָאָרֶץ׃ ס <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:16**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:16** nomen autem civitatis Amona et mundabunt terram

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:17** Furthermore, to you, son of man [Ezekiel], the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] says this: Speak to every winged fowl [bird of prey] and every wild beast [predatory animal] of the countryside: Gather yourselves together and come on! Assemble yourselves all around [on every side] to My sacrificial feast which I have slaughtered and prepared as a great sacrificial offering for you upon the mountains of Israel. Indeed, you will devour meat and you will drink blood.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:17** 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.

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Lord addresses Ezekiel again and tells him exactly what to communicate next (Epistolary Aorist tense). But this time, Ezekiel is commanded (Imperative mood) to speak not to people, but to the birds of prey and predatory animals in the countryside. Ezekiel calls them to gather together for the feast of flesh that God has slaughtered and prepared for them. Come on down! He calls them to assemble on all sides of the valley of Hamon-Gog, the location of the sacrificial offering (Latin: victims) prepared for them. Usually men are called to a sacrifice of bird and animal flesh, but this time the Lord calls birds and animals to a sacrifice of human flesh. And the perfect of Certitude makes it quite clear that these wild birds and animals will eat flesh and drink blood until they are satiated.

## **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The devouring and blood-sated sword is replaced by birds and beasts of prey. The gruesome metaphor signifies the satisfying coup de grace for the army that had earlier posed such a threat to “the mountains of Israel.” (L. Allen) The picture of the Israelites getting firewood and valuables off the dead enemy army is here paralleled by the army’s flesh providing food for many animals. (D. Stuart) It is a matter of delight and pleasure unto God to destroy the enemies of His Church and people. (G. Barlow) The feast of the animals becomes the sacrificial feast to which Yahweh Himself invites. (W. Zimmerli) There is meat enough for all of them, and they are all welcome. (M. Henry)

**Ezek. 39:17** Furthermore (continuative), to you (Ind. Nom.), son (Voc. Address) of man (Adv. Gen. Ref.; Ezekiel), the Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה) says (λέγω, AAImp.2S, Epistolary, Command; אָמַר, Qal Fientive Perf.3MS, Prophetic) this (Acc. Dir. Obj.): Speak (λέγω, AAImp.2S, Constative, Command; אָמַר, Qal Fientive Imp.MS, Command) to every (Nom. Measure) winged (Dat. Spec.) fowl (Dat. Ind. Obj.; bird of prey) and (connective) every (Acc. Measure) wild beast (Acc. Dir. Obj.; predatory animal) of the countryside (Gen. Place): Gather yourselves together (συνάγω, AMImp.2P, Constative, Command; קָבִץ, Niphal Reflexive Imp.MP, Command) and (continuative) come on (ἔρχομαι, PMImp.2P, Dramatic, Command, Deponent; בֹּא, Qal Fientive Imp.MP, Command)! Assemble yourselves (συνάγω, AMImp.2P, Constative, Command; קָבִץ, Niphal Reflexive Imp.MP, Command) all (Gen. Measure) around (Adv. Place; on every side) to My (Poss. Gen.) sacrificial feast (Adv. Acc.) which (Acc. Gen. Ref.) I have slaughtered and prepared (θύω, Perf.AI1S, Dramatic; זָבַח, Qal Fientive, Ptc.MS, Attributive) as a great (Acc. Measure) sacrificial offering (Acc. Dir. Obj.) for you (Dat. Adv.) upon the mountains (Acc. Place) of Israel (Gen. Spec.). Indeed (emphatic), you will devour (ἐσθίω, FMI2P, Predictive; אָכַל, Qal Waw Perf.2MP, Certitude) meat (Acc. Dir. Obj.; flesh) and (continuative) you will drink (πίνω, FMI2P, Predictive; שָׁתָה, Qal Waw Perf.2MP, Certitude) blood (Acc. Dir. Obj.).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:17** καὶ σύ υἱὲ ἀνθρώπου εἰπόν τάδε λέγει κύριος εἰπὸν παντὶ ὀρνέῳ πετεινῷ καὶ πρὸς πάντα τὰ θηρία τοῦ πεδίου συνάχθητε καὶ ἔρχεσθε συνάχθητε ἀπὸ πάντων τῶν περικύκλω ἐπὶ τὴν θυσίαν μου ἣν τέθυκα ὑμῖν θυσίαν μεγάλην ἐπὶ τὰ ὄρη Ἰσραὴλ καὶ φάγεσθε κρέα καὶ πίεσθε αἷμα

<sup>9</sup> וְאַתָּה בֶן-אָדָם כֹּה-אָמַר | אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה אָמַר | <sup>WTT</sup> Ezekiel 39:17  
לְצֹפֹר כָּל-כָּנָף וּלְכָל | חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה הַקְּבִצְוּ וּבָאוּ הָאֳסָפוּ

מִסְכִּיב עַל-זִבְחֵי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי זֹבֵחַ לָכֶם זֶבַח גְּדֹל עַל הָרִי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶכְלֶתֶם בָּשָׂר וְשָׁתִיתֶם דָּם:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:17** tu ergo fili hominis haec dicit Dominus Deus dic omni volucris et universis avibus cunctisque bestiis agri convenite properate concurrite undique ad victimam meam quam ego immolo vobis victimam grandem super montes Israhel ut comedatis carnes et bibatis sanguinem

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:18** You will eat the flesh [sacrificial meat] of mighty warriors [Russian troops and Islamic jihadists] and drink the blood of the ruling officials of the earth [Russian and Islamic politicians]: rams and young bulls and male goats and all the fattened cattle of Bashan [various ranks of soldiers, jihadists and politicians].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:18** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Ezekiel elaborates on the feast that is going to be prepared for the birds of prey and the predatory animals of the countryside. They will eat the human, sacrificial flesh (Predictive Future tense) of the Russian troops and Islamic jihadists. They will also drink the blood of the Russian and Islamic politicians. The traditional Middle Eastern feast included rams, young bulls, male goats and fattened cattle. The Hebrew further describes the origin of these animals as originating from the ancient Jordanian territory, Bashan, which today includes part of Syria. The Targum Jarchi and Kimchi interprets these animals as kings, princes, dukes, rulers, and governors. John, in the Revelation, calls them kings, captains, and mighty men.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The invitation describes the menu – the flesh of heroic figures and the blood of the princes of the earth are to be devoured like fare normally served at a table: rams, lambs, male goats, bulls and fatlings. (D. Block) The animals mentioned are figurative of the different ranks of the slain men. In this verse the actual or literal passes over into the figurative with the reference to princes, then rams. Bashan was famous for its fine pastures and well-fed cattle. (C. Feinberg) These names of animals, which were generally employed in the sacrifices, are to be understood as signifying different orders of men, chiefs, generals, soldiers, as the Chaldee also observes. (Grotius, Keil & Delitzsch) Here the army is described in terms of sacrificial animals. (F. Bruce) By these various animal victims used in sacrifices are meant various ranks of men, princes, generals, and soldiers. (R. Jamieson)

**Ezek. 39:18** You will eat (ἐσθίω, FMI2P, Predictive; אָכַל, Qal Fientive Imperf.2MP, Simple Futurity) the flesh (Acc. Dir. Obj.; sacrificial meat) of mighty warriors (Adv. Gen. Ref.; Russian troops and Islamic jihadists) and (continuative) drink (πίνω, FMI2P, Predictive; שָׁתָה, Qal Fientive Imperf.2MP, Simple Futurity)

the blood (Acc. Dir. Obj.) of the ruling officials (Adv. Gen. Ref.; Russian and Islamic politicians) of the earth (Gen. Place): rams (Acc. Spec.) and (connective) young bulls (Acc. Spec.) and (connective) male goats (Acc. Spec.) and (connective) all (Nom. Measure) the fattened (στεατόομαι, Perf.PPtc.NMP, Intensive, Attributive, Deponent) cattle (Nom. Spec.) of Bashan (Gen. Place; Jordanian territory).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:18** κρέα γιγάντων φάγεσθε καὶ αἷμα ἀρχόντων τῆς γῆς πίεσθε κριοὺς καὶ μόσχους καὶ τράγους καὶ οἱ μόσχοι ἐστεατωμένοι πάντες

בֶּשֶׂר גִּבּוֹרִים תֹּאכְלוּ וְדַם־נְשִׂאֵי הָאָרֶץ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:18**  
תִּשְׁתּוּ אֵילִים כְּרִים וְעֵתוּדִים פְּרִים מְרִאֵי בֶשֶׂן כָּלָם:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:18** carnes fortium comedetis et sanguinem principum terrae bibetis arietum agnorum et hircorum taurorumque altitium et pinguium omnium

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:19** And you will eat fat [the best part of a sacrificial offering] to the point of indulgent satisfaction and you will drink blood to the point of drunkenness from My sacrificial feast which I have slaughtered and prepared for you.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:19** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Ezekiel continues to tell the birds of prey and the predatory animals that they will eat (Predictive Future tense) fat to the point of indulgent satisfaction (Latin: saturation). Fat was considered to be the best part of a sacrificial offering, often reserved for God as the “top choice” portion of the animal. They will also drink human blood to the point of drunkenness from the sacrificial feast which the Lord Himself will slaughter and prepare for them. Being eaten by beasts is about as insulting as possible for a soldier, and even worse for an Islamic jihadist. The Lord is really “rubbing” it in.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

In place of a human worshipper slaughtering animals in the presence of Yahweh, Yahweh slaughters humans for the sake of animals, who gather from all over the world for this gigantic celebration on the mountains of Israel. (D. Block) In the law of Moses the fat and blood of animals, considered the most holy portions, were offered to God and were not allowed the worshippers. (C. Feinberg) A more gruesome sight is hard to imagine, but again, this is not the stuff of fiction. Ezekiel is giving us an intelligence report of the future, a future that is steadily approaching. (J. Rosenberg)

**Ezek. 39:19** And (continuative) you will eat (FMI2P, Predictive;



אֵל, Qal Waw Perf.2MP, Prophetic) fat (Acc. Dir. Obj.; the best part of a sacrificial offering) to the point of indulgent satisfaction (Acc. Degree) and (continuative) you will drink (πίνω, FMI2P, Predictive; שתה, Qal Waw Perf.2MP, Prophetic) blood (Acc. Dir. Obj.) to the point of drunkenness (Acc. Degree) from My (Poss. Gen.) sacrificial feast (Abl. Source) which (Adv. Gen. Ref.) I have slaughtered and prepared (θύω, AAI1S, Culminative; זבח, Qal Fientive Perf.1S, Certitude) for you (Dat. Adv.).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:19** καὶ φάγεσθε στέαρ εἰς πλησμονὴν καὶ πίεσθε αἷμα εἰς μέθην ἀπὸ τῆς θυσίας μου ἧς ἔθυσα ὑμῖν

וְאָכַלְתֶּם-חֵלֶב לְשִׁבְעָה וְשָׁתִיתֶם דָּם לְשִׁכְרוֹן <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:19**  
מִזִּבְחִי אֲשֶׁר-זִבַּחְתִּי לָכֶם:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:19** et comedetis adipem in saturitate et bibetis sanguinem in ebrietate de victima quam ego immolabo vobis

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:20** And so you will be filled [gorged] at My table with horses and charioteers and mighty riders and with all kinds of fighting men [warriors], declares the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:20** 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.

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Ezekiel emphasizes once again that the birds and beasts will be filled (Latin: saturated), even gorged (Predictive Future tense), at the Lord's sacrificial table. They will eat horses and charioteers and the mighty riders of both. They will also devour all manner of trained fighting men. The Lord (Adonai) God (Yahweh) declares this will happen, so it obviously will occur as planned.

## **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The battlefield has been transformed into a huge sacrificial table ... Instead of serving clean, edible food, the divine host offers His guests human flesh, thereby violating the most serious taboo of all: the desecration of human life. (D. Block) It is the Lord who will hold the feast. It is a vivid figure to bring out the idea of vast carnage, deserved judgment and irrevocable doom. (C. Feinberg) Scores of bodies will be devoured by carnivorous birds and beasts that will be drawn to the battlefields like moths to a flame. (J. Rosenberg) The flesh of valiant men, generals, captains, officers of all sorts, and common soldiers are in mind here. (J. Gill)

**Ezek. 39:20** And so (adjunctive, conclusive) you will be filled (ἐμπλήμῃ, FPI2P, Predictive, satisfied; שָׂבַע, Qal Waw Perf.2MP, Prophetic) at My (Poss. Gen.) table (Gen. Place) with horses (Acc. Dir. Obj.) and (connective) charioteers (Acc. Dir. Obj.) and (connective) mighty (Compl. Acc.) riders (Acc. Dir. Obj.; horsemen) and (connective) with all kinds of (Acc. Measure; manner, types, categories) fighting (Compl. Acc.; warrior) men (Acc. Dir. Obj.), declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) the Lord (Subj. Nom., יְהוָה) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:20** καὶ ἐμπλησθήσεσθε ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης μου ἵππων καὶ ἀναβάτην γίγαντα καὶ πάντα ἄνδρα πολεμιστὴν λέγει κύριος

<sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:20** וְשָׁבַעְתֶּם עַל-שִׁלְחָנִי סוּס וּרְכָב גִּבּוֹר וְכָל-אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה נֶאֱמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:20** et saturabimini super mensam meam de equo et de equite forti et de universis viris bellatoribus ait Dominus Deus

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:21** Moreover, I will set my glory before you [Jews in Israel] and all the Gentiles will see My perfect justice which I have executed [both blessing and judgment upon Israel when due] and My hand [hostile power] which I have brought upon them.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:21** 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.

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The topic changes a bit as Ezekiel shifts his prophesy from the destruction of Gog to the Lord's exercise of His power against Israel according to the standards of divine justice. God will place His majesty and power (Predictive Future tense) before the Jews in Israel. The Gentiles will see His perfect justice in action, historically as well as currently. The Lord treats His chosen people, Israel, according to perfect justice. He blesses them when blessing is due, disciplines them when discipline is due, and judges them when judgment is due. He executes His judgment with absolute accuracy, righteousness and precision (Culminative Aorist tense). In this futuristic case, He will do so again (Jacob's Trouble), but will follow it up soon afterward with His millennial reign on earth.

## **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

The twofold purpose of this judgment is that the nations might acknowledge God's glory and that Israel might know God's grace. (C. Ryrie) With the proliferation of televisions and satellite dishes around the globe, we are now living in the first age in history when this prophesy could truly be fulfilled ... When God's judgment falls, it will be the most televised, most reported story ever, giving

every nation on earth the opportunity to see the God of Israel display His glory. (J. Rosenberg) God will use this terrible slaughter to show forth His power and to show rebellious people that He alone is God and that beside Him there is no other! (M. Hitchcock) All other nations will stand in awe at God's punishment of Gog. (F. Gaebelein)

**Ezek. 39:21** Moreover (transitional), I will place (δίδωμι, FAI1S, Predictive; נתן, Qal Waw Perf.1S, Prophetic, set) My (Poss. Gen.) glory (Acc. Dir. Obj.; majesty, power) before (upon) you (Dat. Adv.; Jews in Israel) and (continuative) all (Nom. Measure) the Gentiles (Subj. Nom.; non-Jews) will see (ὁράω, FMI3P, Predictive; ראה, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) My (Poss. Gen.) perfect justice (Acc. Dir. Obj.; for the Jews: blessing when blessing is due, discipline when discipline is due, judgment when judgment is due) which (Acc. Gen. Ref.) I have executed (ποιέω, AAI1S, Culminative; עשה, Qal Fientive Perf.1S, Certitude) and (continuative) My (Gen. Poss.) hand (Acc. Dir. Obj.; anthropomorphism: hostile power) which (Acc. Gen. Ref.) I have brought (ἐπάγω, AAI1S, Dramatic; שׂים, Qal Fientive Perf.1S, Certitude) upon them (Acc. Disadv.).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:21** καὶ δώσω τὴν δόξαν μου ἐν ὑμῖν καὶ ὁψονταὶ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη τὴν κρίσιν μου ἣν ἐποίησα καὶ τὴν χεῖρά μου ἣν ἐπήγαγον ἐπ' αὐτούς

וְנָתַתִּי אֶת־כְּבוֹדִי בַּגּוֹיִם וְרָאוּ כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם  
אֶת־מִשְׁפָּטִי אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי וְאֶת־יָדִי אֲשֶׁר־שַׁמְתִּי בָהֶם: <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:21**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:21** et ponam gloriam meam in gentibus et videbunt omnes gentes iudicium meum quod fecerim et manum meam quam posuerim super eos

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:22** Then [as end-time events unfold] the nation of Israel will recognize that I am the Lord [Yahweh] their God [Elohim] from that day and beyond [forward].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:22** So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* the LORD their God from that day and forward.

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

As end time events unfold and the Lord executes judgment upon the enemies of Israel, the nation Israel will finally recognize (Predictive Future tense) that the Lord (Yahweh) is their God (Elohim). From that day forward, there will no longer be any doubt. It's too bad that it will require the most horrific events in history to unfold before Israel recognizes her Messiah, but that is the way the Lord designed future events in eternity past.

## **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

When they reflect on the manner in which Yahweh has dealt with them, they will recognize another dimension of His justice; He has handled His people in accordance with what they have deserved. (D. Block) The terrible judgment upon Gog will have this twofold effect as a revelation of the glory of God. First, Israel will know that the Lord is, and will always continue to be, its God. Second, the heathen will know that He gave Israel into their power, and thrust it out of its own land, not from weakness, but to punish it for its faithless apostasy. (Keil & Delitzsch) The invasion will serve as a wake-up call to the people of Israel to rouse them from their spiritual lethargy and turn them back to God. Thus the invasion must take place before their ultimate spiritual restoration. (C. Dyer) This supernatural intervention by God will be a sign not only to the Gentiles but to the Jews as well. God will use this event to bring about the repentance of many of the Jewish people. (M. Hitchcock) After this the Jews will no more apostatize, but will for ever remain the people of God and Christ. (J. Gill)

**Ezek. 39:22** Then (consecutive) the nation (Subj. Nom.) of Israel (Gen. Spec.) will recognize (γινώσκω, FMI3P, Predictive; יָרַע, Qal Waw Perf.3P, understand, know) that (introductory) I (Subj. Nom.) am (εἰμί, PAI1S, Descriptive) the Lord (Pred. Nom., יְהוָה) their (Gen. Rel.) God (Nom. Appos., אֱלֹהִים) from that (Gen. Spec.) day (Gen. Time) and (continuative) beyond (Temporal Adv.; further, forward).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:22** καὶ γινώσκονται οἶκος Ἰσραὴλ ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι κύριος ὁ θεὸς αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης καὶ ἐπέκεινα

וַיִּדְעוּ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:22**  
מִן־הַיּוֹם הַהוּא וְהָלְאָה:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:22** et scient domus Israhel quia ego Dominus Deus eorum a die illa et deinceps

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:23** In addition, all the Gentiles will understand that the nation of Israel was exiled [led into captivity] because of their sin, because they rejected Me [Jesus Christ as their Messiah]. As a consequence, I hid My presence from them and turned them over into the hands of their enemies. Then they all fell by the two-edged sword [died as prisoners-of-war].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:23** 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.

## **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to the nation Israel finally discovering that Jesus Christ is her Messiah, albeit late in history, the Gentiles will finally understand (Predictive Future tense) that Israel was exiled and

led into captivity hundreds of years ago (Dramatic Aorist tense) because of their sin (Latin: iniquity). Were they exiled from their homeland for sin in general? No, they were exiled because they rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah (Culminative Aorist tense). As a consequence, the Lord hid His face (Obligative Imperfect) from them and turned them over to their enemies (Culminative Aorist tense) as prisoners-of-war. Historically, this is exactly what happened. The Jews were taken captive by their enemies and were eventually scattered all over the world with no homeland. Many of them died as POW's (Culminative Aorist tense) as pictured by the two-edged sword.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Ezekiel's constant message is repeated, that destruction and deportation were nothing less than divine punishment of a guilty people: terms for the people's sin ... But it was to be the prelude to a divinely occasioned turn of events – return from exile – that would find motivation in both His affectionate love and in His zealous desire to clear His profaned name. (L. Allen) Some perished by the sword, and others were carried into captivity; and all were punished for their iniquity, trespass, and perfidy. (J. Gill) Israel's captivity and Gog's destruction alike reveal the holiness of God and His unfailing grace towards His people. (G. Beasley-Murray)

**Ezek. 39:23** In addition (continuative), all (Nom. Measure) the Gentiles (Subj. Nom.) will understand (γινώσκω, FMI3P, Predictive; וְיָדְעוּ, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Prophetic) that (introductory) the nation (Subj. Nom.) of Israel (Gen. Spec.) was exiled (αἰχμαλωτεύω, API3S, Dramatic, led into captivity; וְנִלָּח, Qal Fientive Perf.3P, Historical) because of their (Poss. Gen.) sin (Causal Acc.), because they rejected (ἀθετέω, AAI3P, Culminative; וַיִּשְׁמְדוּ, Qal Perf.3P, Certitude) Me (Acc. Disadv.; Jesus Christ as their Messiah). As a consequence (causal), I hid (ἀποστρέφω, AAI1S, Culminative; וַיִּסְתֵּר, Hiphil Waw Imperf.1S, Obligative) My (Poss. Gen.) presence (Acc. Dir. Obj.; face) from them (Abl. Separation) and (continuative) turned them (Acc. Dir. Obj.) over (παραδίδωμι, AAI1S, Culminative; וַיִּתֵּן, Qal Waw Imperf.1MS, Obligative) into the hands (Acc. Place) of their (Gen. Rel.) enemies (Gen. Opposition; oppressors). Then (consecutive) they all (Subj. Nom.) fell (πίπτω, AAI3S, Culminative; וַיִּפְּלוּ, Qal Waw Imperf.3MP, Frequentative, collapsed and died) by the two-edged sword (Instr. Means; died as POW's).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:23** καὶ γνώσονται πάντα τὰ ἔθνη ὅτι διὰ τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν ἡχμαλωτεύθησαν οἶκος Ἰσραὴλ ἀνθ' ὧν ἠθέτησαν εἰς ἐμέ καὶ ἀπέστρεψα τὸ πρόσωπόν μου ἀπ' αὐτῶν καὶ παρέδωκα αὐτοὺς εἰς χεῖρας τῶν ἐχθρῶν αὐτῶν καὶ ἔπεσαν πάντες μαχαίρᾳ

וַיִּדְעוּ הַגּוֹיִם כִּי בַעֲוֹנָם גָּלוּ בֵּית־יִשְׂרָאֵל <sup>WTT</sup> Ezekiel 39:23  
עַל אֲשֶׁר מָעַלּוּ־בִי וְאַסְתֵּר פָּנַי מֵהֶם וְאַתָּנָם בְּיַד צָרֵיהֶם  
וַיִּפְּלוּ בַחֲרֵב כָּלָם:

<sup>VUL</sup> Ezekiel 39:23 et scient gentes quoniam in iniquitate sua capta sit domus Israhel eo quod reliquerint me et absconderim faciem meam ab eis et tradiderim eos in manu hostium et ceciderint in gladio universi

<sup>LWB</sup> Ezek. 39:24 I have given to them [Israel] according to their state of cultic uncleanness [impurity] and according to their rebellious iniquity [perfect justice in action]. Indeed, I have hidden My presence from them.

<sup>KJV</sup> Ezekiel 39:24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

### TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord has given the nation Israel exactly what she deserves. Historically, the Jews rejected their Messiah, Jesus Christ. It has been a hard, downtrodden existence for them ever since. The Lord has manufactured for them (Culminative Aorist tense) a life according to their impurity and rebellious iniquity. Not only did they reject their Saviour, but they made an about-face and went in the opposite direction of God's blessing. It's bad enough to be a Gentile and reject God, but to be His chosen people and reject God, brings an extra dose of divine discipline and judgment. On the one hand, the Lord has hidden His face from Israel for centuries; but on the other hand, He has been watching over them and protecting them for the last century. The imperfect tense points to His abandonment as being less than complete – He has never completely abandoned them. Rather, He has executed justice on them for their forefather's grave mistake of rejection and rebellion. How the Lord handles Israel is a personal affair. As a person and as a nation, you do not want to get between God and His people, Israel.

### RELEVANT OPINIONS

While God hides His face, His hand is employed in promoting the interests of His people. (G. Barlow) The defections signify their rebellions against the King Messiah, their defections from Him, their contempt of Him and rejection of His yoke, and non-submission to His ordinances. According to the desert of such crimes, the Lord dealt with them. (J. Gill) When God gives up His people for a prey, it is to correct them and reform them, not to gratify His enemies. (M. Henry)

Ezek. 39:24 **I have given** (ποιέω, AAI1S, Culminative, produced, manufactured, yielded, returned; עָשָׂה, Qal Fientive Perf.1S, Certitude) **to them** (Dat. Disadv.) **according to their** (Poss. Gen.) **state of cultic uncleanness** (Adv. Acc.; immorality, impurity) **and** (connective) **according to their** (Poss. Gen.) **rebellious iniquity** (Adv. Acc.). **Indeed** (emphatic), **I have hidden** (ἀποστρέφω, AAI1S,

Dramatic; סתר, Hiphil Waw Imperf.1S, Obligative) My (Poss. Gen.) presence (Acc. Dir. Obj; face) from them (Abl. Separation).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:24** κατὰ τὰς ἀκαθαρσίας αὐτῶν καὶ κατὰ τὰ ἀνομήματα αὐτῶν ἐποίησα αὐτοῖς καὶ ἀπέστρεψα τὸ πρόσωπόν μου ἀπ' αὐτῶν

כְּטִמְאַתָּם וּכְפִשְׁעֵיהֶם עָשִׂיתִי אֲתָם וְאֶסְתֵּר  
פָּנִי מֵהֶם: ס <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:24**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:24** iuxta inmunditiam eorum et scelus feci eis et abscondi faciem meam ab illis

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:25** Therefore, the Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] declares this: Now I will revoke the captivity [and dispersion] of Jacob and will show mercy upon the nation of Israel. Furthermore, I will arouse a zealous response for My holy name.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:25** 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;

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Lord God [Adonai Yahweh] declares (Static Present tense) that He will revoke (Predictive Future tense) the captivity of Jacob. The temporal “now” means that as the end-times arrive, the Lord will end the dispersion and captivity of the Jews. The Lord will show mercy (Prophetic Perfect) upon the nation of Israel after centuries of showing them divine discipline. As we have already seen, He will end their dispersion by bringing them back into their native land.

Thousands of Jews have already been freed from captivity, especially in Russia, and have returned to the land of their ancestors. All this occurred in the last hundred years of history. It has started. Furthermore, the Lord God of Israel will arouse a zealous response from His people (Piel Causative Perfect) for His holy name. How can the Jews not glorify the name of the Lord after He brings them back from captivity and returns them to their homeland? The existence of the nation Israel is no accident. The return of formerly captive Jews to Israel was planned by God in eternity past and is happening according to His divine plan.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Israel has gotten what it deserved for sinning against God while it was under His blessing and protection, but now will return from exile to God’s glory. (D. Stuart) Since all the Jews will return to the land at the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth, this battle must take place before the final gathering at Jesus’ return. (C. Dyer) He was jealous for His name not to be profaned as when the nations construed Him to be as other gods. (F. Gaebelin) It is time for Him to stand up for His own glory, which suffers in their sufferings. (M. Henry) I will restore from calamity to prosperity the people of Jacob. (R. Jamieson) The defeat of Gog will also hasten God’s plans to restore the other Israelites from other nations. Verses 25-29 look ahead to the end of the Tribulation when God will



restore the nation from her final dispersion. (C. Dyer)

**Ezek. 39:25** Therefore (inferential), the Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה) declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static; אָמַר, Qal Fientive Perf.3MS, Certitude) this (Acc. Dir. Obj.): Now (temporal) I will revoke (ἀποστρέψω, FAI1S, Predictive; שׁוּב, Hiphil Imperf.1S, Simple Futurity, repudiate) the captivity (Adv. Acc.; dispersion) of Jacob (Gen. Adv.) and (continuative) will show mercy (ἐλέω, FAI1S, Predictive; שׁוּב, Piel Waw Perf.1S, Prophetic) upon the nation (Acc. Dir. Obj.; house) of Israel (Gen. Spec.). Furthermore (continuative), I will arouse a zealous response (ζηλώω, FAI1S, Predictive; קָנָא, Piel Causative Waw Perf., Certitude) for My (Poss. Gen.) holy (Compl. Acc.) name (Acc. Dir. Obj.).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:25** διὰ τοῦτο τάδε λέγει κύριος κύριος νῦν ἀποστρέψω τὴν αἰχμαλωσίαν Ἰακωβ καὶ ἐλεήσω τὸν οἶκον Ἰσραὴλ καὶ ζηλώσω διὰ τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ἅγιόν μου

אֶת־[שְׁבִית] יַעֲקֹב וְרַחֲמֹתַי כָּל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקִנְיָתִי  
לְשֵׁם קְדֹשִׁי <sup>WTT</sup> Ezekiel 39:25  
לָכֵן כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה עֲתָה אֲשִׁיב

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:25** propterea haec dicit Dominus Deus nunc reducam captivitatem Iacob et miserebor omnis domus Israhel et adsumam zelum pro nomine sancto meo

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:26** Now [as the end times begin] they have borne their shame and all their wrongdoing which they have committed out of unfaithfulness against Me when they [historically] dwelled safely upon their land. Now [as the end times begin] no one will be afraid,

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:26** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

As the end times begin, the nation of Israel has carried for centuries (Predictive Future tense) their shame and all their wrongdoing. They committed disgraceful and dishonorable acts out of a state of unfaithfulness (Culminative Aorist tense) against the Lord when they were dwelling safely in their own land. How ironic! The only reason they were living safely in Israel was because God had been blessing them beyond their imagination. Did they appreciate the blessings they possessed? No, they sinned against the very God who was blessing them. But all that is past history. After centuries of dispersion and captivity, the Lord has brought them back into the land

for the final spanking. What do I mean by final spanking? The terrible period in history, the tribulation or Jacob's Trouble, is about to begin. Israel will be tested one more time. But until the seven-year tribulation begins, they will continue to dwell safely (Constative Aorist tense) in the land and no one will be afraid of being carried away as POW's again (Hiphil Delocutive).

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

Mercy is not a summons to blind forgetfulness. (W. Zimmerli) They will feel shame when the Lord grants them lasting peace in their own land. (Keil & Delitzsch) Israel will be restored after she bears the judgment for her iniquity and rebellion, at which time she will dwell securely with no one to cause her to tremble. (R. Alexander) 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. (C. Feinberg)

**Ezek. 39:26** **Now** (temporal) **they have borne** (λαμβάνω, FMI3P, Predictive, carried; נָשָׂא, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Certitude) **their** (Poss. Gen.) **shame** (Acc. Dir. Obj.; dishonor, disgrace) **and** (connective) **all** (Acc. Measure) **their** (Poss. Gen.) **wrongdoing** (Acc. Dir. Obj.; unrighteousness, unfaithfulness) **which** (Acc. Gen. Ref.) **they have committed out of unfaithfulness** (ἀδικέω, AAI3P, Culminative; מַעַל, Qal Fientive Perf.3P, Completed Action) **against Me** (Dat. Opposition) **when they dwelled** (κατοικίζω, APInf., Constative, Temporal; יָשָׁב, Qal Fientive Inf.3MP, Temporal) **safely** (Abl. Manner) **upon their** (Poss. Gen.) **land** (Gen. Place). **Now** (temporal) **no** (neg. adv.) **one** (Subj. Nom.) **will be** (εἰμί, FMI3S, Predictive) **afraid** (ἐκφοβέω, PAPtc.NMS, Descriptive, Attributive; חָרַד, Hiphil Ptc.S, Delocutive),

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:26** καὶ λήψονται τὴν ἀτιμίαν ἑαυτῶν καὶ τὴν ἀδικίαν ἣν ἡδίκησαν ἐν τῷ κατοικισθῆναι αὐτοὺς ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν αὐτῶν ἐπ' εἰρήνης καὶ οὐκ ἔσται ὁ ἐκφοβῶν

וְנָשָׂא אֶת־כָּל־מַתָּם וְאֶת־כָּל־מַעַלָם אֲשֶׁר מַעַלְו־בִּי בַשָּׁבֹתָם עַל־אֲדָמָתָם לְבָטָח וְאֵין מַחְרִיד׃ <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:26**

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:26** et portabunt confusionem suam et omnem praevaricationem quam praevaricati sunt in me cum habitaverint in terra sua confidenter neminem formidantes

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:27** Since I have returned them into it [Israel] from the nations and have regathered them out from hostile enemy lands and have become sanctified in them in the presence of many nations.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:27** 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;

## TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The last phrase of verse 26 belongs at the beginning of this verse. The Jews no longer need to be afraid since He has returned them (Culminative Aorist tense) to their homeland (Israel) from the nations. He has also regathered them (Causative Perfect) out from hostile enemy lands. And to top things off, He will be honored and sanctified in them (Predictive Future tense) in the presence of many nations. Think about this for a minute. Your ancestors have lived outside their homeland for two thousand years. Suddenly as the end times approach, their distant relatives living in the 20th century are returned one-by-one to the homeland. They are gathered from the nations in which they lived all over the world, most of them hostile territories, and now they have a country they can call home. And the God who has brought them back to their native land will be praised and honored by them and in them, in front of all their enemies. How could you possibly wake up in the morning after all this and be afraid in the world?

## RELEVANT OPINIONS

He will receive the honor He is due when this seemingly impossible event actually occurs and the restored people will be in right relationship with Him through the work of His Spirit. (D. Stuart) Israel is promised that in spite of all her failures, she will ultimately be returned to the land, live in safety and blessing there, and never be scattered again. (L. Chafer) Chapter 39, the conclusion of this great prophecy which began with the dry bones vision and culminated in the Russo-Israeli war, has a happy ending for the Jews. (Z. Levitt)

**Ezek. 39:27** Since I have returned (ἀποστρέφω, AAInf., Culminative, Causal; שׁוּב, Polel Causative Inf.1S, Circumstantial) them (Acc. Dir. Obj.) into it (Loc. Place; Israel) from the nations (Abl. Separation) and (continuative) have regathered (συνάγω, AAInf., Culminative, Circumstantial; קָבַץ, Piel Waw Perf.1S, Causative) them (Acc. Dir. Obj.) out from (Acc. Rel.) hostile enemy (אֹיֵב, Qal Stative Ptc.3MP, Descriptive) lands (Abl. Separation) and (continuative) have become sanctified (ἀγιάζω, FPI1S, Predictive; קָדַשׁ, Niphal Waw Perf.1S, Passive, consecrated) in them (Loc. Sph.) in the presence of (Prep. Gen.) many (Acc. Measure) nations (Gen.; Gentiles).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:27** ἐν τῷ ἀποστρέψαι με αὐτοὺς ἐκ τῶν ἐθνῶν καὶ συναγαγεῖν με αὐτοὺς ἐκ τῶν χωρῶν τῶν ἐθνῶν καὶ ἀγιασθήσονται ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐνώπιον τῶν ἐθνῶν

בְּשׁוּבִי אֹתָם מִן־הָעַמִּים וְקִבַּצְתִּי אֹתָם <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:27**  
מֵאֲרָצוֹת אֹיְבֵיהֶם וְנִקְדָּשְׁתִּי בָּם לְעֵינֵי הַגּוֹיִם רַבִּים:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:27** et reduxero eos de populis et congregavero de terris inimicorum suorum et sanctificatus fuero in eis in oculis gentium plurimarum

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:28** Then they [Jews in Israel] will realize that I am the Lord [Yahweh] their God [Elohim], Who led them into exile [captivity] among the Gentile nations. However, I will regather them into the land [of Israel] and will not leave them there [among the Gentile nations] ever again.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:28** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Jewish people in Israel will realize at this time (Predictive Future tense) that He is the Lord their God (Yahweh Elohim). He is their God who led them into exile and slavery (Dramatic Aorist tense) among the Gentile nations centuries ago. However, things are going to change. The Lord is going to gather the Jews together again (Prophetic Perfect) into the land of Israel. Of course, that process started nearly 100 years ago - whether you believe the Zionist movement is a human endeavor or a divine endeavor is beside the point. Jews have returned to their homeland after centuries of having no homeland. If you think that is an accident, then you understand nothing about biblical prophesy and even less about the sovereignty of God in the affairs of human history. Yahweh Elohim, the Lord God, has regathered His people into the historic land of Israel, and He will never disperse them (Factitive Imperfect) among the Gentile nations again.

### **RELEVANT OPINIONS**

Ezekiel transforms what had been for him a stereotypical threat of judgment (“I will pour out My wrath”) into a glorious gospel message (“I will pour out My Spirit”). This act provides Israel the guarantee of new life, peace, and prosperity. It serves as the definitive event by which Yahweh claims and seals the newly gathered nation as His own. (D. Block) The complete return of Israel will occur after the defeat of Gog and his confederates. 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. (C. Feinberg) The promises in the Palestinian covenant concerning the possession of the land are fulfilled by Israel in the millennial age. (J. Pentecost)

The kingdom of David is a political kingdom that ultimately will be ruled over by Christ, just as David ruled it in history. This kingdom will be populated by the people of Israel when they come back and possess their Promised Land. It is linked in time to the second coming of Christ and the ending of Israel’s captivity in various countries around the world. (J. Walvoord) The Jews, having no dominion, settled country, or fixed property to detain them, may return at any time without difficulty. (R. Jamieson) God will leave not a single Israelite in the lands of the Gentiles after the regathering. There has never been any fulfillment of these prophecies in the regatherings after the captivities when most of the Israelites were left behind. (J. Walvoord) The Anglo-Saxons have never

been led captive into all nations and regathered again to their own land. This is only true of Israel, of the Jews today. They are one and the same. (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:28** Then (consecutive) they (Jews in Israel) will realize (γινώσκω, FMI3P, Predictive; יָדַעַ, Qal Waw Perf.3P, Prophetic) that (introductory) I (Subj. Nom.) am (εἰμί, PAI1S, Descriptive) the Lord (Pred. Nom., יְהוָה) their (Gen. Rel.) God (Nom. Appos., אֱלֹהֵיהֶם), who (Acc. Appos.) led them (Acc. Dir. Obj.) into exile (ἐπιφάινω, APInf., Dramatic, appear; גָּלָה, Hiphil Causative Inf.1S, captivity, slavery) among the Gentile nations (Loc. Place). However (adversative), I will regather (כָּנַס, Piel Waw Perf.1S, Prophetic) them (Acc. Dir. Obj.) into the land (Loc. Place; of Israel) and (continuative) will not (neg. adv.) leave (יָתַר, Hiphil Factitive Imperf.1S, Simple Futurity) them (ellipsis) there (Adv. Place; among the Gentile nations) ever (Adv. Time) again (Acc. Frequency).

**Ezekiel 39:28** καὶ γινώσκονται ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι κύριος ὁ θεὸς αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ ἐπιφανηναί με αὐτοῖς ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν

וַיִּדְעוּ כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם בְּהַגְלוֹתִי  
אֹתָם אֶל-הַגּוֹיִם וְכִנְסָתִים עַל-אֲדָמָתָם וְלֹא-אֹתִיר עוֹד  
מֵהֶם שֵׁם:

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:28** et scient quia ego Dominus Deus eorum eo quod transtulerim eos in nationes et congregavero eos super terram suam et non dereliquerim quemquam ex eis ibi

<sup>LWB</sup> **Ezek. 39:29** As a matter of fact, I will never again hide My presence from them. Instead, I will pour out My Spirit upon the nation of Israel, declares the Lord [Adonai] God [Yahweh].

<sup>KJV</sup> **Ezekiel 39:29** 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.

### **TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Lord gives His solemn word that He will never hide His presence (face) from Israel again (Predictive Future tense). Instead, He will pour out His Spirit (Culminative Aorist tense) upon the nation of Israel. The Holy Spirit during the Church Age dispensation indwells believers. And among other ministerial functions, the Spirit is the Restrainer of evil. When the rapture occurs, not only will the Spirit disappear from the earth as far as His indwelling ministry is concerned, but He will also depart from the earth as far as His restraining ministry is concerned. But this

passage plainly states that the Spirit will be “poured out” upon the nation Israel in the end times. This is post-Church Age language. This is tribulation and millennial language ... which means this verse does not occur until after the rapture, i.e., after the close of the Church Age dispensation. It is generally accepted to be a millennial reference. In any case, the Lord God (Adonai Yahweh) declares this to be a fact, so it will most definitely come true as planned. Please note that the LXX has the word “thumos” meaning “wrath” instead of “Spirit.” The Hebrew “ruach” for “Spirit” is the only option which fits the context and fulfills the contrast to His presence “being hidden from them” in times past.

### RELEVANT OPINIONS

The work of the Divine Spirit upon the soul prepares it for the everlasting vision of the open face of God. (G. Barlow) The physical return of Israel, the reestablishment of the Davidic kingdom, and the outpouring of the spirit of God upon the house of Israel combine to prepare Israel and the world for the glories of the kingdom to follow. (L. Chafer) Yahweh will pour out His Spirit upon Israel, as demonstrated in His supernatural protection of her in chapters 38 and 39. (R. Alexander) God will pour out His Spirit upon them, to prevent their departures from Him and return to folly again, and to keep them close to their duty. (M. Henry)

Attending these tokens of divine grace is unusual manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit in the millennial scene. Frequent mention of the power of the Spirit in the millennium is found in millennial passages (Isa. 32:15, Ezek. 39:29, Joel 2:28-29). While the power of the Spirit has been manifested in some saints in previous generations, it will be common and abundant in the millennial period. (J. Walvoord) Divine presence and enablement will be the experience of all who are in subjection to the authority of the King during the millennial state. (J. Pentecost) Whatever may take place, let us remember that God is sovereign in all things and His Word shall ultimately be fulfilled to the letter, for He is the “Faithful and True Witness.” (E. Josephson)

**Ezek. 39:29** As a matter of fact (emphatic), I will never (neg. particle) again (neg. adv.) hide (ἀποστρέψω, FAI1S, Predictive; סָתַר, Hiphil Factitive Imperf.1S, Simple Futurity, turn away) My (Poss. Gen.) presence (Acc. Dir. Obj; face) from them (Abl. Separation). Instead (Prep. Gen.), I will pour out (AAI1S, Culminative; שָׁפַךְ, Qal Fientive Perf.1S, Certitude) My (Poss. Gen.) Spirit (Acc. Dir. Obj.; רוּחַ not θυμός) upon the nation (Acc. Dir. Obj; house) of Israel (Gen. Spec.), declares (λέγω, PAI3S, Static) the Lord (Subj. Nom., אֲדֹנָי) God (Nom. Appos., יְהוָה).

<sup>BGT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:29** καὶ οὐκ ἀποστρέψω οὐκέτι τὸ πρόσωπόν μου ἀπ’ αὐτῶν ἀνθ’ οὗ ἐξέχεα τὸν θυμόν μου ἐπὶ τὸν οἶκον Ἰσραὴλ λέγει κύριος κύριος

וְלֹא־אֶסְתִּיר עוֹד פְּנֵי מַהֶם אֲשֶׁר שָׁפַכְתִּי <sup>WTT</sup> **Ezekiel 39:29**

אֶת־רוּחִי עַל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל נֹאֵם אֲדֹנִי יְהוָה: פ

<sup>VUL</sup> **Ezekiel 39:29** et non abscondam ultra faciem meam ab eis eo quod effuderim spiritum meum super omnem domum Israhel ait Dominus Deus

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