

## Ezekiel 38-39—The Gog Magog battle - Part 1

### Memory Verse

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

### Part 1: Ezekiel 38:1-39:8—Russia Her Allies Attack Israel In The Latter Days

We now shift gears so to speak and learn of an amazingly detailed and dramatic event that many believe will happen around the time of the Rapture (or just before the start of the Tribulation). Like God revealed Himself as the God above all other gods when He defeated the gods of the Egyptians at the time of the exodus, so God will do so again in the latter days; He will show Himself in a dramatic and miraculous way that will show the world that the God of Israel is the Only True God (John 17:3). However, this will only be the beginning of the signs or judgments that God will use to reveal Himself to the world.

“Feinberg wrote in summary of Ezekiel 38 and 39: “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.”” (David Guzik)

In summary, Ezekiel 38-39 describes the occasion in which God directly and supernaturally intervenes to thwart the ill-fated invasion of Israel by Magog and its allies (Persia, Cush, Phut, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Meshech, and Tubal).

Before we read the passage, let’s identify who the main people groups are and where they settled (some are difficult to determine precisely as the original people groups don’t correspond exactly with the modern locations of nations):

**Gog** — The chief prince (prince of rosh) of the land of Magog and the overall leader of this confederacy of nations.

**Magog** — Russia (linked to the Scythians—Chuck Missler)

**Meshech** — Turkey

**Tubal** — Turkey

**Persia** — Iran

**Ethiopia** (Literally *Cush*) — People or nations from the area of Egypt and Sudan

**Libya** (Literally *Put* or *Phut*) — People or nations from North Africa (this includes the Mahgrev—Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania (Chuck Missler)

**Gomer** — Turkey, Germany?

**Togarmah** — Turkey

**Sheba, Dedan** — Arab people (Saudi Arabia?)

**Tarshish** — Spain or Sardinia (Feinberg)

Notice that none of these countries are traditional enemies of Israel. Typically the enemies of Israel were its Arab neighbours, but they have all been defeated. Now, in the last days, Israel faces a new threat, from new enemies, and with a new motivation—money or financial gain. As you can see from the maps below, this surprise attack will come at Israel from all sides, from all points of the compass, so to speak.



Credit: Chuck Missler



Credit: <https://www.vectorworldmap.com/vectormaps/vector-world-map-v2.2.jpg>

## **Ezekiel 38:1-39:29 NKJV**

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup> Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.

<sup>7</sup> “Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. <sup>8</sup> After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. <sup>9</sup> You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”

<sup>10</sup> ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: <sup>11</sup> You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’—<sup>12</sup> to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup> Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’ ” ’

<sup>14</sup> “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? <sup>15</sup> Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. <sup>16</sup> You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” <sup>17</sup> Thus says the Lord God: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?

### **Judgment on Gog**

<sup>18</sup> “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord God, “that My fury will show in My face. <sup>19</sup> For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, <sup>20</sup> so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’ <sup>21</sup> I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. <sup>22</sup> And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. <sup>23</sup> Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.” ’

### **Gog’s Armies Destroyed**

39 “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; 2 and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. 3 Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. 4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,” says the Lord God. 6 “And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord. 7 So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. 8 Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,” says the Lord God. “This is the day of which I have spoken.

9 “Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. 10 They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord God.

#### **The Burial of Gog**

11 “It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travellers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. 12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. 13 Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified,” says the Lord God. 14 “They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. 15 The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man’s bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. 16 The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land.” ’

17 “And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, ‘Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field:

“Assemble yourselves and come; gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you, a great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams and lambs, of goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you. 20 You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war,” says the Lord God.

21 “I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. 22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward. 23 The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. 24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.” ’

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name—<sup>26</sup> after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. <sup>27</sup> When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, <sup>28</sup> then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. <sup>29</sup> And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,’ says the Lord God.”

### Russian and her allies attack Israel (38:1-17)

**Ezekiel 38:1-3 NKJV—God is against Israel’s enemies to the north**

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

Keep in mind here the context and the timing. In between Israel’s physical regathering and her spiritual regeneration, there is a battle which God uses to begin to reveal Himself to His people and the world. This battle can’t happen until Israel is in the land *and* is also living in safety—which hasn’t happened up to this point. However, it also must happen, I believe, some time just before the beginning of the seven year Tribulation when the antichrist sets up his kingdom and at the same time God judges the world with a series of plagues as described in Revelation 6-19. With regards to the church, it will happen around the time of the Rapture, which also happens sometime just before the beginning of the seven year Tribulation. We, the church, may or may not be here when these events happen as these events focus the world’s eyes on Israel.

v 2 **Set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog:** Gog is the ruler of the land of **Magog**, which most commentators agree corresponds to modern day Russia. One textual evidence of this is in Ezekiel 38:15, “*Then you will come from your place out of the far north*”. This *far north* is with respect to Israel, with Russia obviously being the best match geographically. However, there is also evidence based on ancient people groups, with there being good evidence that the Russians are descendants of the Scythians, who eventually settled in what is now Russia.

“Magog, a descendant of Japheth (Genesis 10:2) in the table of nations, is identified by Josephus (Antiquities I, 123 [vi. 1]) as the land of the Scythians, a mountainous region around the Black and Caspian seas. This position is generally accepted.” (Alexander)

v 2 **The prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal:** Most commentators believe **the prince of Rosh** is best translated as it is in the KJV as **chief prince**. It is difficult to identify **Rosh** with any particular country or people group.

“The phrase **prince of Rosh** has also been translated as *chief prince*, with the idea that the word **rosh** describes the greatness of the prince, not a place where the prince rules (**Rosh**). Translators and interpreters do not agree if it should be **prince of Rosh** or *chief prince*.” (David Guzik)

**Meshech and Tubal** are people groups that settled in the area of modern day Turkey.

**Ezekiel 38:4-6 NKJV—God will cause Russia and her allies to attack Israel**

**I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup> Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.**

v 4 **I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out:** As Proverbs 12:1 says, “*The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*” However, despite God’s sovereignty over the nations, He will never go against the freewill of any man; this is the mystery or apparent contradiction of the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. One thing is for certain though, God’s reasons for the invasion are different than Gog and his allies: God is doing it for His own glory, while Gog and his allies are doing it because they are greedy for material gain (see vs. 11-12). Today, Israel has many natural resources to offer, including oil and gas, making them a prime target for cash strapped nations.

v 4 **With all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:** People of Ezekiel’s era would have understood this to represent a well equipped, well prepared, and very fast moving and mobile army.

“Here the prophet saw the final manifestation of antagonism to Jehovah and His people. He saw it gathering itself in terrific force, the mightiest alliance that had ever acted against Israel.” (Morgan)

“These verses create the impression that Gog is an imperial power with vast military resources.” (Block)

“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. (And how else could an ancient writer have described warfare? He knew nothing of planes and guns.) It is our concern only to understand what the commonsense interpretation of the passage indicates.” (Feinberg)

v 5 **Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them:** As we saw from the map above, Israel will be attacked from all directions: Gog from the far north; Persia from the west; Ethiopia to the south; and Libya to the east.

v 6 **Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north:** “Most regard **Gomer** as a people from Cappadocia, in modern Turkey. The **house of Togarmah** is often regarded as the Armenian people to the north of Israel.” (David Guzik)

v 4-6 **With all your army ... all of them ... and all its troops ... and all its troops—many people are with you:** There is no holding back here—every resource is committed, every reservist called up—this is an “all in” battle, with nothing held in back. Their plan is to outgun and outnumber Israel and so make it an easy victory.

**Ezekiel 38:7-9 NKJV—Israel is invaded by Gog (Russia) and his allies**

**Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. <sup>8</sup> After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. <sup>9</sup> You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”**

v 7 **Prepare yourself and be ready:** Any major battle requires much preparation and organisation, especially if it involves secretly co-ordinating the armies, navies, and airforces of multiple countries.

v 8 **After many days ... In the latter years you will come into the land of those ... gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel ... they were brought out of the nations:** This is obviously referring to the last days or latter days, the times that we are currently living in; it's only in modern times that Israel has been gathered from the nations (referring to the second regathering of the nation as we have covered previously).

v 8 **Now all of them dwell safely:** This has been one of the confusing aspects of this prophecy. It's hard to imagine Israel dwelling safely until after the agreement with the antichrist. However, there are many possible scenarios, a current one being that Iran will attack with her proxy armies (Hezbollah in Lebanon, various militias from Syria and Iraq, Hamas from Gaza, and the Houthies in Yemen), but be defeated. This would leave Israel with no immediate threat on her borders, and would be a time of relative safety. How it will actually work out though is anyone's guess.

v 9 **You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you:** This speaks of the immense scale and destructive power of this well planned attack. This will have to be the biggest surprise attack in history. Humanly speaking, there would be no hope for tiny Israel—but this is precisely how God is orchestrating these events—it will be clear to the whole world that this was a miraculous victory. All Israel will have to do is bury the dead, which will take seven months because there will be so many corpses.

**Ezekiel 38:10-13 NKJV—Gog's evil plan...**

**‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: <sup>11</sup> You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’—<sup>12</sup> to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup> Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’ ” ’**

v 10 **You will make an evil plan:** Although this battle is a part of God's prophetic plan for the ages, from a human perspective, it is also man's idea. God is not forcing these nations to go and destroy Israel against their will.

v 11 **I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely:** The first evil thought Gog had against Israel was to attack them after they had returned to the land, and at a time of peace when they were not expecting a military conflict.

v 12 **To take plunder and to take booty:** Here is the human motivation for the conquest—greed. All in all, Gog considered this to be a relatively easy battle with great financial rewards.

v 12 **In the midst of the land:** “An interesting phrase is employed to define the place where God’s people will be dwelling. It is called the middle (literally, the navel) of the earth, as explained in Ezekiel 5:5. The land of Israel is in the centre of the earth as far as God’s purposes for the world are concerned (compare Deuteronomy 32:8).” (Feinberg)

v 13 **Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish:** There is no loyalty in the world towards Israel. No-one will come to her defence. Instead, they will seek to share in the spoils of this one-sided war.

“The young lions of Tarshish are taken to mean either strong leaders and princes or greedy rulers of these commercial communities.” (Feinberg)

**Ezekiel 38:14-17 NKJV— God’s sovereignty and God’s glory**

“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? <sup>15</sup> Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. <sup>16</sup> You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” <sup>17</sup> Thus says the Lord God: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?”

v 15 **You will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you:** At the appointed time, Gog and those allied with him would come against Israel.

v 15 **All of them riding on horses, a great company:** “Ezekiel described the attack with the only images of swift military attack that made sense to Ezekiel, the people of his day, and most of human history. They would come **like a cloud**, a massive and unstoppable storm.” (David Guzik)

v 16 **It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land:** Another clear sign that this prophecy is for the very last days of human history. It should cause us to wake up and look up as we observe more and more of the pieces of this prophetic puzzle falling into place; truly, living in the last days before Jesus comes back is an amazing time to be alive!

v 16 **So that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes:** Man has his plans, but God has His own plans. Joseph said to his treacherous brothers, “*But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive*” (Genesis 50:20). Similarly, Paul wrote, “*And we know that all things work together for good to*



*those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose*" (Romans 8:28). Similarly, Gog has his own evil motivation or reason for attacking Israel (economic gain), but God has a good reason for causing this to happen; **I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me**—God's purpose is that mankind would glorify God, recognise His power and faithful care for Israel, and therefore seek Him.

v 17 **Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?**: When this happens, exactly as predicted here in the book of Ezekiel, everyone will know that this was God's doing, and that God is ultimately in control, not man (even though he thinks he is!).

### **How God will defeat Gog 38:18-23**

#### **Ezekiel 38:18-20 NKJV— 1. Earthquake**

**"And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,"** says the Lord God, **"that My fury will show in My face. <sup>19</sup> For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, <sup>20</sup> so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.'**

v 18 **When Gog comes against the land of Israel ... My fury will show in My face:** "The reaction to the audacity and effrontery of the invasion of Gog and his forces was stated in bold terms and a vivid anthropomorphism (see Psalm 18:8). The picture is of the breath which an angered man inhales and exhales through his nose. God's patience would be exhausted with the repeated attempts of Israel's enemies to annihilate her." (Feinberg)

v 19 **Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel:** This very severe earthquake will be limited to the mountains of Israel. Interestingly, it seems that only the attacking armies will be hurt. Also notice that God allows the invading armies to get so close to victory that they are actually in the land of Israel, covering the land like a swarm of locusts; it seems that it's only at the very last moment that God intervenes and destroys them—up to this point they probably think that victory is only hours away.

v 20 **All men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence:** This earthquake would be so specific in location, so severe, and so destructive that all people would know that it was from God.

#### **Ezekiel 38:21 NKJV—2. God causes the invading armies to fight each other**

**I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,"** says the Lord God. **"Every man's sword will be against his brother.**

God had done this multiple times in past battles where Israel was hopelessly outnumbered. A famous example is when king Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah were hopelessly outnumbered by three attacking armies. God caused the three armies to kill each other so that not even a single man escaped. The result? All the surrounding nations feared God *"when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel"* (see 2 Chronicles 20:1-30).

**Ezekiel 38:22 NKJV—3. Plague, great hailstones, flooding rain, fire and brimstone**  
And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

If the super destructive earthquake wasn't enough, it's like God pulls out every weapon in His arsenal; what hope will Russia and her all allies have when they come face to face with the wrath of the Almighty God.

"I slew others, Sennacherib's army, by pestilence, probably this was the angel's sword; others, as Ammon, Moab, Mount Seir, with blood by their own swords; the Amorites with hailstones, Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, the old world with an overflowing flood. Each single [judgement] was dreadful, but all meet in the destruction of Gog to make it most terrible." (Poole)

**Ezekiel 39:23 NKJV—God brings glory to Himself though His judgements on Gog**  
Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord." ' "

v 23 **I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself:** It will be like what happened in the days of king Jehoshaphat; "*And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel*" (2 Chronicles 20:29).

**Ezekiel 39:1-8—More detail is given concerning the attack and defeat described in Ezekiel 38**

Like Genesis chapter 2 zeroes in and expands on specific and important events only briefly mentioned in the chronological creation account in Genesis chapter 1, Ezekiel 39:1-8 adds more detail to the battle described in Ezekiel 38, though not necessarily in consecutive order. This form of writing where important aspects of the events are later summarised, emphasised and/or expanded upon is common in Hebrew literature.

**Ezekiel 39:1-2 NKJV—God causes Gog to attack Israel**

"And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; <sup>2</sup> and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

Here we see emphasised that God is the One who is really in control of this battle. Gog, the ruler of Magog from the far north, will be an enemy of God and Israel, but God will use Gog for His own glory and honour. God lifts up the humble but destroys the proud.

**Ezekiel 39:3-5 NKJV—God describes how and where He will defeat Gog**

Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. <sup>4</sup> You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. <sup>5</sup> You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord God.

v 3 **Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand:** An archer holds the bow with the left hand and draws the arrow with the right hand. Weapons are only useful if you are holding them or are able to use them. Gog and his allies will have no defence against God—their effort to destroy Israel would fail, and their weapons would be useless against God's weapons (earthquake, pestilence, great hail, flooding rain, fire and brimstone).

v 4 **You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel:** As mentioned previously, God allows this massive and well equipped invading army to actually enter the land of Israel, but only so that they could die there. Once again, God turns around a hopeless situation and brings glory to Himself. This will cause a largely agnostic Israel to start to look to God.

v 4 **I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field:** Humanly speaking, this army seems undefeatable and invincible, indeed, too big to fail—but God intervenes and this massive, proud, and well equipped army becomes nothing more than food for the wild animals and birds.

**Ezekiel 39:6 NKJV—The attacking nations will not be spared destruction**  
**And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.**

As these nations were bent on destroying Israel, so God will destroy their own countries.

**Ezekiel 39:7-8 NKJV—The purpose of the battle, to make God's name known**  
**So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. <sup>8</sup> Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord God. "This is the day of which I have spoken.**

v 7 **So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore:** Today, despite God blessing Israel materially and militarily, Israel is very worldly and much like the nations around them—they are not holy or set apart to God at all. This means that they are profaning His holy name. Christians do likewise when we are not set apart to God, but instead live like the world. God's desire for Israel is the same as for the Church, that we seek Him and bring Him honour by loving and obeying Him, demonstrating respect for His holy name.

v 7 **Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord:** The nations also would come to know that the God of Israel is the Only True God.

v 8 **Surely it is coming, and it shall be done:** This is the purpose of prophecy, to demonstrate that God is outside of time, knows everything, and controls everything. This proves that He is therefore the Only True God.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT

Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like Me. <sup>10</sup> Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

**A summary of what we have covered so far in Ezekiel 38:1-39:8** (from David Guzik's commentary)

- *A leader from the north (Gog), who was not an ancient enemy of Israel, will lead a confederation of nations against Israel (Ezekiel 38:1–6).*
- *He will be motivated by his own evil plans and pulled by God (Ezekiel 38:10).*
- *It will happen in the latter days, distant from Ezekiel's time (Ezekiel 38:8).*
- *The allied nations will come from every point on the compass, including Persia (modern Iran), and peoples from the lands of modern Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, and perhaps Armenia and Germany (Ezekiel 38:1–6).*
- *Gog and his allies will come as a massive, swift, and well-equipped army (Ezekiel 38:4–6).*
- *Gog will come against Israel when they gathered back to their land (Ezekiel 38:8, 12).*
- *Gog will come against Israel when they enjoy considerable safety (Ezekiel 38:8).*
- *Gog will come against Israel when they are prosperous (Ezekiel 38:12–13).*
- *Other nations will watch and wonder how they might benefit themselves from Gog's conquest of Israel (Ezekiel 38:12–13).*
- *Yahweh will defend Israel and defeat Gog, and thereby glorify Himself among the nations (Ezekiel 38:16).*

Next time in part 2, we will see the aftermath of the battle and also compare Ezekiel's Gog Magog battle with a different battle described in Revelation 20 which is also references Gog and Magog.