

Ezekiel 38-39—The Gog Magog battle - Part 2

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. ²⁷ 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 2: Ezekiel 39:8-29—Israel cleans up after the battle

Last time we saw how God was going to use a confederacy of nations led by Gog, a title for the Russian leader who will organise and launch a massive surprise attack on Israel involving Russia, Turkey, countries from northern and Eastern Africa, and of course Iran. Israel will be invaded from all four points of the compass, by probably the biggest attacking force ever united together in one place.



Photo credit: Chuck Missler

Remember 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 opposed to outright hatred).

This week we learn about what Israel will have to do to clean up after the battle. There will be so many dead enemy soldiers that it will take Israel seven months to bury all the bodies. Also, because of the sheer number of weapons that are left behind, Israel will have enough energy to last for 7 years. Truly, this will be an absolutely massive force that will be wiped out almost instantly by; a massive earthquake, flooding rain, giant hailstones, fire, brimstone, as well as the various armies turning on each other. Next time we will also see how this battle in Ezekiel 38-39 is a different battle to that described in Revelation 20:7-10, which also mentions Gog and Magog.

A summary of what we have covered so far in Ezekiel 38:1-39:8

- Gog, the ruler from the land of Magog (Russia), will come against Israel with an absolutely massive, very fast and mobile, and well equipped army, made up of a confederation of nations including; Russia, Iran, Turkey, and countries from north and east Africa—Ezekiel 38:1-6
- The attack will happen in the latter days (end times), when Israel is gathered back into their land, are at peace with those around them, and are enjoying God's blessing of material prosperity—Ezekiel 38:8, 12-13
- Gog, the leader, will be motivated by an evil plan, but also drawn by God, to attack Israel—Ezekiel 38:10
- God will allow the invading armies to proceed all the way into the land of Israel, but not into the cities, where He will then destroy them using: an earthquake, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone, as well as causing them to begin to kill each other (Israel will not have to fight this battle)—Ezekiel 38:18-23
- Other nations will watch from the sidelines as Gog attacks Israel, but will do nothing to try and help; instead they will see how they can benefit—Ezekiel 38:12-13
- God's purpose for this battle is to cause His name to be known among the nations and also the people of Israel—Ezekiel 38:16

Ezekiel 39:1-29 NKJV

“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.

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.” ’

²⁵ “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—²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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.”

Gog defeated: Israel cleans up after the battle—39:9-20

Ezekiel 39:9-10 NKJV—*Israel plunders Gog’s defeated army*

“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.

v ⁹ **Those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons:** Ezekiel describes seven different kinds of weapons, all familiar to those living right up to the present time; remember that there was no way he could describe modern weapons using the vocabulary of the day. Importantly, Israel won’t be needing these weapons; why would they, after God had so adequately defended them?

Psalm 20:7-8 NKJV

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. ⁸ They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright.

v 9-10 **They will make fires with them for seven years. They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons:** This indicates two things; firstly the sheer quantity of the weapons of war left behind, and secondly, what kind of weapons they might be. How could they power the nation for seven years from just fossil fuels (diesel etc)? It could be that nuclear weapons will be a part of the arsenal, but God won't have let them fire or use them—*“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”* (Ezekiel 39:2-4a). Whatever the case, nuclear or otherwise, the unused fuel from the captured **weapons** would be enough to power the nation for **seven years**.

v 10 **They will plunder those who plundered them:** This is how God works; He returns the evil that His enemies plan for His people upon their own heads: It's the law of recompense (or payback). This principle is similar to what Jesus said, *“For you will be treated as you treat others...”* (Matthew 7:2). But it also works the other way—*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”* (Matthew 5:7 NKJV), and, *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* (Matthew 6:14-15 NKJV).

This is not an excuse to get revenge on others—that's God's prerogative. The Bible says, *“For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord”* (Hebrews 10:30 NKJV), and *“Never pay back evil with more evil”* (Romans 12:17 NLT). Instead, this shows that God's justice is fair.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 AMP

[It is a fair decision] since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with distress and affliction those who distress and afflict you, 7 And to [recompense] you who are so distressed and afflicted [by granting you] relief and rest along with us [your fellow sufferers] when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire.

“The plunderers will be plundered and the robbers will be robbed. What the enemy will intend for Israel (Ezekiel 38:12) will be visited upon them, another vivid example of the law of recompense in kind.” (Feinberg)

Ezekiel 39:11-16 NKJV—Israel buries Gog's defeated army for seven months

“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.” ’

v 11, 16 **In that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel:** The purpose of this is twofold. Firstly, it shows that God treats all people, even His enemies, with respect. Secondly, getting rid of all the unburied bones/bodies was necessary because otherwise the land would remain unclean or defiled (in Jewish culture, it is taboo to touch a grave or a dead person or animal—**Thus they shall cleanse the land**).

v 11 **Valley of Hamon Gog:** **Hamon Gog** literally means, “the multitude of Gog”. For the rest of human history this massive graveyard would remind everybody of God’s great victory over this massive confederation of armies led by Gog—**and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified**.

v 11, 14 **It will obstruct travellers ... indeed all the people of the land will be burying ... at the end of seven months:** There would be so many dead bodies to bury that it would take the whole nation working together seven months to bury them. Also, the whole valley of Hamon Gog would be used to bury them, making it closed to travellers. The sheer scale of this operation seems to put the number of enemy soldiers killed in this battle in the millions.

v 14-15 **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:** Chuck Missler points out that this reads like a modern handbook for how to deal with bodies contaminated with radiation. Whether or not the bodies are somehow contaminated (by either radiation, chemicals, or pestilence—disease), these verses describe a very thorough and methodical procedure that is strictly followed by personal who are specially trained—**men regularly employed**.

v 16 **The name of the city will also be Hamonah:** “It’s likely that the city called Hamonah (‘horde,’ referring to the ‘horde’ of soldiers slain) will be established as a headquarters for this mopping-up operation.” (Wiersbe)

Ezekiel 39:17-20 NKJV—God invites the birds and beasts to His sacrificial meal

“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.

v 17-20 **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 ... You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war:** Here is a gruesome picture of what will become of the invading armies—they will become pet food. When an animal was offered to God at the temple, it would be killed and its blood shed. Here, God is painting a picture; the sacrifice would be the invading army.

“The sacrificial feast mentioned in verse 19 is referred to as ‘My table’ because 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.” (Feinberg)

The nations will know that Yahweh is the Only True God (39:21-29)

Ezekiel 39:21-24 NKJV—God is honoured among the nations and Israel

“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.” ’

v 21 **I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgement:** Everything that God does is designed to cause us to look to Him and worship Him. There should be no doubt in our minds as to who really rules this world. Yes, satan is the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31), and the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), however, he can only do what God allows him to do, and what God allows him to do is always (eventually) turned around so it works for our good (see Romans 8:28-29 and Genesis 50:19). You would think that satan would get totally frustrated and give up trying to hurt us, seeing that everything he does to hurt people gets turned around to be for their ultimate good. For example, persecution causes the church to grow.

v 22 **The house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward:** Romans 11:26 says that “*all Israel will be saved*”. This battle is most likely the beginning of the process of refining that God will use to turn the hearts of His people back to Himself during the seven year Tribulation.

Remember that at the beginning of the seven year Tribulation, 144,000 Jews will respond to God’s call and will become extremely effective missionaries to the whole world (see Revelation 7)—God will not leave Himself without a witness (remember that the church will be raptured before the beginning of the Tribulation). It’s quite possible that this battle, in addition to the rapture, will be a major factor that opens the eyes of these 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, and causes them to put their trust in God. The rest of the one-third of the Jews who survive the Tribulation (see Zechariah 13:9), won’t turn to God until right at the end of the seven year Tribulation, when they cry out, “blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:39). The 144,000 are the firstfruits of a greater harvest of Jewish souls (see Revelation 14:4 and Leviticus 23:15-17—the firstfruits would be offered at the start of the harvest, a small offering given in thanks and faith for the greater harvest that would follow).

v 23-24 **The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity ... and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them:** Many today think that the God of Israel is weak because His people have suffered so much at the hands of their enemies. However, when God annihilates Gog’s confederate army, the world will know that God is by no means weak. They will then see that God directed Israel into captivity, and that all Israel’s suffering was of their own doing, fully deserved, and according to God’s will as previously written in the law—**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** (v 28).

Ezekiel 39:25-29 NKJV—God promise to pour out His Spirit on Israel

“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—²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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.”

v 25 **Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel:** As we have learned before, God bringing the people of Israel back into the land after the Babylonian exile was only a partial fulfilment of these promises. The full fulfilment—**the whole house of Israel**—will only be complete when Jesus returns at His second coming at the end of the seven year Tribulation.

v 25 **I will be jealous for My holy name:** Here again we see that God is acting for His own name’s sake—I **will be jealous for My holy name**—basically defending His reputation in the world. God isn’t bringing the Israelites back because they deserve it, but rather only because He promised it. The basis of God’s mercy is His inherent love for us, because of which He gave both Israel and the church great and precious promises that we can respectively hold on to at any time. Again, it’s only because of God’s inherent loving, forgiving, and faithful nature that God chooses to bless us.

Application: The correct motive for prayer and seeking God

Knowing this teaches us how to pray—we must always ask for God’s provision, forgiveness, mercy, and help on the basis of who God is, and not because we think that we are deserving. We must recognise that God only answers prayers from people who recognise their spiritual bankruptcy and understand that all God’s good gifts to them are completely undeserved, only given because God previously promised to give them to us.

Luke 18:9-14 NKJV

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and **prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me a sinner!**’ ¹⁴ **I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other;** for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”**

God’s favour towards us is always *for His name’s sake*—never according to our own merit or our own inherent worthiness (of which we have none). Remember that we come boldly to the throne of grace, not the throne of *merit* (see Hebrews 4:16).

Consider the following verses, many of which are prayers, and notice how the authors always came to God according to His grace and mercy, and never according to their own merit. They knew that God could not and would not break His unconditional promises.

1 Samuel 12:22 NKJV

For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.

1 Samuel 12:22 NLT

The Lord will not abandon his people, because that would dishonour his great name. For it has pleased the Lord to make you his very own people.

God made the people of Israel His own people simply because He wanted to, not because they were deserving—it was an unconditional promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore Samuel was confident that God would not forsake or abandon His people during this particular time of rebellion against God, because if God did forsake Israel, He would be breaking one of His unconditional promises, and that would bring dishonour to His name or reputation. Because by nature God can't lie and He is always faithful, anytime God makes an unconditional promise, He must keep it, *for His name's sake*, meaning *to maintain His reputation*. As we go through the following verses, notice that all the benefits and requests are made based on God's character and attributes—His faithful loving kindness—and never according to anything that they had done.

Psalms 23:3 NKJV

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Psalms 25:11 NKJV

For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

Psalms 31:3 NKJV

For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Psalms 79:9-10 NLT

Help us, O God of our salvation! Help us for the glory of your name. Save us and forgive our sins for the honour of your name [for Your name's sake]. ¹⁰ *Why should pagan nations be allowed to scoff, asking, "Where is their God?" Show us your vengeance against the nations, for they have spilled the blood of your servants.*

Psalms 106:8 NKJV

Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known.

Psalms 109:21-22 NLT

But deal well with me, O Sovereign Lord, for the sake of your own reputation [for Your name's sake]! Rescue me because you are so faithful and good. ²² For I am poor and needy, and my heart is full of pain.

Psalms 143:11 NKJV

Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Isaiah 48:11 NKJV

For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; for how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.

Jeremiah 14:7 NKJV

O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, do it for Your name's sake [because you promised]; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against You.

Jeremiah 14:21 NKJV

Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake [for the sake of Your reputation]; do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us [please keep your promises to us].

Ezekiel 20:44 NKJV

Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel," says the Lord God.' ”

Ezekiel 20:44 NLT

You will know that I am the Lord, O people of Israel, when I have honoured My name by treating you mercifully [as I promised] in spite of your wickedness. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

We must get rid of these silly ideas that we are worthy of being loved by God, that we can earn God's love, that if we have a good day or do some good deeds that God will somehow love us more: This is law, not grace, and living this way will destroy our relationship with God! We must come to God understanding that He only relates to us according to His grace. By rejecting God's grace—by coming to Him based on our own imagined merit or worthiness—we have rejected God and our fellowship with Him is broken. We have not lost our salvation, but we definitely lose the intimacy of our relationship with God. It takes faith to come to God believing that He will bless us even though we don't deserve it—see Galatians 2:20

Galatians 5:4 NKJV

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law [self-effort, works, self-reliance]; you have fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:4 NLT

For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.

Israel recognises their sinfulness and demonstrates genuine repentance

v 26 **After they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness:** This is what genuine repentance looks like. It starts when we begin to understand just how much God loves us, our eyes are opened to just how unfaithful and vile we are before God, and we rightfully feel shame for our attitudes and actions that have grieved the God who loved us and continues to love us—this is godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:9-11).

“Israel's restoration would come in a spirit of repentance. They would see all that God did for them and it would humble them in light of His generous love. They would see and admit that it was their own sins that sent them into captivity and suffering.” (David Guzik)

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

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

v 28 **Left none of them captive any longer:** Here God promises that not a single person will be left in captivity—this means that there will be a complete or total restoration of the nation.

v 29 **I will not hide My face from them anymore:** God’s restoration of the nation of Israel would not only be complete, but it would be permanent.

“The completion of this work would be a true standing in God’s grace. With God’s Spirit **poured out** upon Israel, they would have relationship with God based on the work and merits of the Messiah, not their own work and merits.” (David Guzik)

“It was sin that caused God to hide his face, and now grace shall be given to keep them out of sin, and to engage them to constant obedience, that God may rejoice over them to do them good in this their latter end.” (Poole)

v 29 **I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel:** In the original Hebrew this literally reads, “**I poured out [past tense] My Spirit on the house of Israel:** This is another example of the prophetic perfect tense. We know that God hasn’t poured out His Spirit on the house of Israel yet—according to other Scriptures it won’t happen until Jesus’ Second Coming; however God loves to speak of future events in the past tense—the prophetic perfect tense—because if God says that something will happen, then it’s as good as done. Also, consider that from God’s eternal perspective, from where He sees all time from beginning to end, the event has actually already happened.

God’s relationship with the physical nation of Israel is permanent: Of this there is no doubt! He will bring them back into the land (physical restoration), and He will pour out His Spirit on them (spiritual restoration).

Conclusion: how close are we to the Gog-Magog war?

The conditions and alliances described in Ezekiel 38-39 are forming fast—consider that Russia, Iran, and Turkey were traditionally enemies, but are now working together more and more. America is pulling out of the Middle East, which leaves Israel unprotected and the other countries free to attack Israel. Israel has also become incredibly wealthy with new oil and gas reserves being discovered on a seemingly regular basis, as well as having a strong and growing economy. Here is an excerpt from Amir Tsarfati’s weekly newsletter which gives us some insight as to just how close we could be to this battle happening:

Russian Defense Minister Hosts Intelligence Chiefs

Moscow hosted quite a guest list Tuesday when the defense ministers and intelligence chiefs of Turkey, Iran, and Syria joined the Russian Defense Minister. The goal, according to Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, was to “bring peace and tranquility to the region as soon as possible.” Upon reading this guest list, everyone who has ever read the prophecies of Ezekiel sat up and said, “Yep.”