

# Ezekiel 38-39—Comparing The Two Gog-Magog Battles

## 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.

## Outline:

1. **Timeline of future prophesied events** ([click here for link for chart](#))
2. **A brief summary of the book of Ezekiel**
3. **Understanding the differences between the two Gog-Magog battles in Scripture (Ezekiel 38-39 vs Revelation 20:7-10)**
4. **What will the Millennial Kingdom be like?**

## 1. Timeline of future prophesied events

To be able to understand where all the events described in Ezekiel chapters 40-48 fit into God's prophetic timeline, we'll begin by looking at a timeline and see when the main events happen. Here is the order of the main prophetic events yet to happen starting from the present day:

1. The church is raptured or caught up to meet Jesus in the air, and then go on to heaven with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53)
2. The first Gog-Magog battle, Russia and friends attack Israel—Ezekiel 38-39 (timing is approximate, it will happen sometime around the beginning of the Tribulation).
3. The seven year tribulation begins with the signing of the seven year peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27, Revelation 6-18).
4. The Second Coming of Christ—Jesus comes back from Heaven to the earth (Revelation 19:11-21)
5. The Millennial Reign of Christ—Jesus rules the world from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-6)
6. The second Gog-Magog battle—when satan is released, he gathers up all the unbelievers and attacks Jerusalem (Revelation 20:7-10)
7. The great white throne judgement (Revelation 20:11-15)
8. The New Heavens and the New Earth—eternity (Revelation 21-22)

The remaining chapters of Ezekiel, chapters 40-48, describe the Millennial temple, the temple that Jesus will build and rule from during His 1,000 year Millennial reign on the earth described in Revelation 20:1-6 and in many Old Testament passages. We will also learn a lot about what it will be like for us New Testament believers, as well as the children of Israel, as we all rule and reign together with Him during those 1,000 years which follow Christ's Second Coming. It will be a truly glorious time. What we will cover this week will set us up to better understand these remaining chapters as we study them in the coming weeks and finish off the book of Ezekiel.

We will go through the timeline provided and understand the main time periods and events so we will know what the future hold for us.

## **2. A brief summary of the book of Ezekiel**

We have been going through the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a prophet of God who lived from about 610 BC to 550 BC. Here is a quick summary of the book of Ezekiel.

**Chapters 1-35:** God used Ezekiel to warn the people of Israel who lived in the land of Judah (southern Israel) that, if they did not repent of their evil way of life, then they would be defeated by the Babylonians and forcibly removed from their land to live in far away Babylon for 70 years. The Babylonians were the world power at the time (~610 BC - 540 BC). The Jews refused to listen to the warnings given by God's prophets, and therefore, they were taken from their land to live in exile in Babylon for 70 years.

**Chapters 36-37:** God gives Ezekiel a parable about a whole valley of dry bones coming to life and becoming a great nation. The explanation of the parable is that in the last days, the people of Israel will come back to their land and they will become a nation again. This would happen in two stages; first the physical restoration of the nation (when they return to the *land* of Israel), and then the spiritual restoration of the nation (when they return to the *God* of Israel).

We learned that our generation has been blessed to witness the returning of the people of Israel to their own land (which started in about 1897), and in 1948 they became their own nation again—this is the promised physical restoration or return of the people of Israel to their own land after nearly 2,000 years of living in exile, after being scattered and persecuted all over the world. *What this means is that we are living in the final days/years before Jesus returns and rules the earth.*

Their spiritual restoration, when the people of Israel will repent and turn back to God, will only happen when Jesus comes back at His Second Coming to rule the earth for 1,000 years (the Millennial Reign). This is why the people of Israel, in general, still do not believe that Jesus is their Messiah, their Saviour. For the Jews, they are still waiting for their Messiah to come for the first time. Of course, we know that He's already come, but the Jewish nation rejected Him when they asked for Him to be crucified, and are still rejecting Him. But when Jesus comes back for the second time, then they will receive Him as their Messiah or Saviour.

**Chapters 38-39:** God describes a massive surprise attack on the nation of Israel by Russia, Iran, Turkey, and some other African nations. God says it will happen in the last days or *latter years*. God will allow them to invade Israel and they will be on the mountains of Israel. Then God will do something even more amazing than what He did when He judged Egypt with the 10 plagues at the Exodus. This absolutely massive force 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. Everyone on earth will know that God is real, and that He has once again miraculously delivered His people Israel from what seemed like certain destruction. This has not happened yet, but will most likely happen just before the seven year Tribulation starts.

**Chapters 40-48:** These chapters describe the 1,000 years after Jesus comes back to the earth at the end of the seven year Tribulation. In particular they describe the new Millennial temple from which Jesus will reign, how the land of Israel will be divided up amongst the 12 tribes of Israel, how the nations will come to worship Jesus at various times each year for some of the feasts at the temple, and some of the amazing physical and environmental changes that will take place during this time.

### 3. Understanding the differences between the two Gog-Magog battles/wars in Scripture

In the previous two messages we covered the Gog-Magog battle described in much detail in Ezekiel 38-39. What causes confusion among many is that there is another battle in Revelation 20:7-10 which also references Gog and Magog. What we will do now is briefly compare and contrast these two battles so that you will know when and why they will happen and how they are different. First, because it's short and simple, we'll read the Gog-Magog battle described in Revelation 20:7-10 that happens at the end of the 1,000 year rule and reign of Christ. Then, we'll summarise what we've already learned about the first Gog-Magog battle which happens before the 1,000 year rule and reign of Christ on earth. Finally, we'll compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the two battles so you may have a good understanding of them and can explain to other people why they must refer to two separate events.

#### Revelation 20:7-10 NKJV—satan released and the final battle

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

#### A summary of Ezekiel 38-39

- A. Gog, the ruler from the land of Magog which is to the far north of Israel (Modern day Russia), will come against Israel with an absolutely massive, very fast, very mobile, and well equipped army, made up of a confederation of nations including; Russia, Iran, Turkey, and countries from north and east Africa—see Ezekiel 38:1-6. See the diagrams below to see how Israel will be attacked from all sides.



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- B. 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—see Ezekiel 38:8, 12-13
- C. Gog, the leader, will be motivated by an evil plan (greed, financial gain), but also drawn by God, to attack Israel—see Ezekiel 38:10-12
- D. God will allow the invading armies to proceed all the way onto the mountains of Israel (but not into the cities), where He will then quickly 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*)—see Ezekiel 38:18-23
- E. 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—see Ezekiel 38:12-13
- F. God's purpose for this battle is to cause His name to be known among the nations and also the people of Israel—see Ezekiel 38:16, 23 and 39:22
- G. There will be a massive clean up that will take seven months to complete because there will be so many dead bodies to bury—see Ezekiel 39:11-16
- H. There will be so many weapons left behind that the people of Israel will have enough energy to last for 7 years (This places this first Gog-Magog battle at least 7 years before the Second coming of Christ (around the start of the seven year Tribulation), because once Christ comes back there will be no need for these kind of materials — see Ezekiel 39:9-11
- I. Israel will know that God is the LORD their God from that day forward (This battle happens after Israel has come back to the land of Israel, but before they have come back to the God of Israel, which places it sometime before the Second coming, which is before the 1,000 year Millennial reign)—see Ezekiel 39:21-29.

### **Looking at the similarities and differences between the two battles**

As we go through, notice that these two wars described in Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 19:7-10 are very different, and therefore cannot be the same battle.

	<b>Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog war</b>	<b>Revelation 20:7-10 Gog-Magog war</b>
When will it happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Only after Israel has become a nation again and has returned to the land of Israel</b> (<i>In the <u>latter years</u> you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and <u>gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel</u>, which had long been desolate; <u>they were brought out of the nations</u>, and now all of them dwell safely—Ezekiel 38:8)</i></li> <li>- <b>Before the Second Coming:</b> At the time of this battle Israel has not yet repented (<i>So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward—Ezekiel 39:22</i>). Once Jesus comes back at His Second Coming, they will already know that He is their LORD and will already have accepted Jesus as their Messiah; <u>therefore it must be before the second coming of Christ which happens before the 1,000 years.</u></li> <li>- <b>It will occur at least seven years before Jesus' Second Coming:</b> They will be using the weapons for fuel for 7 years (<i>Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, ... they will make fires with them for seven years —Ezekiel 39:9</i>). It seems hard to imagine that the Jews would need to use the weapons as a source of energy, or even that the weapons would still exist, after Jesus returns at His Second Coming and begins His Millennial reign (1,000 years). Rather, the seven years of burning the weapons seems to correspond to the seven year Tribulation; the people in Israel will have their energy needs supplied for the entire seven years of the Tribulation from the weapons left behind by the invading armies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>At the end of the 1,000 years:</b> (<i>Now when the thousand years have expired—Revelation 20:7</i>). This makes it very clear that this battle happens at the end of Jesus' 1,000 year reign on the earth, right before the next event which is the Great White Throne Judgement described in the next verses (see Revelation 20:11-14)</li> </ul>
Who is the leader?	<p><b>A leader (Gog) from Russia (Magog), a man who also has authority in Turkey (Meshech and Tubal)</b>  <i>(Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal—Ezekiel 38:2)</i></p>	<p><b>The leader is clearly <u>satan</u> himself:</b> (<i>Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations—Revelation 20:7-8</i>)</p>

	<b>Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog war</b>	<b>Revelation 20:7-10 Gog-Magog war</b>
Who Is Attacking ?	<p><b>Only selected nations will attack Israel:</b> Russia, Iran, Turkey, and countries from northern and eastern Africa—see Ezekiel 38:1-6 and the sermon notes from part 1.</p>	<p><b>Anyone in the whole world who is not a believer:</b> (...and will go out to deceive <u>the nations which are in the four corners of the earth</u>, Gog and Magog—Revelation 20:8) Satan goes and deceives <i>all</i> the nations, not just some selected countries. <i>The four corners of the earth</i> is just a way of saying “the entire earth, or <u>all</u> the nations on the earth”</p> <p><b><u>Why mention Gog and Magog?</u></b> Simply put, just like the original leader of Russia (<i>Gog of the land of Magog</i>) hated God and God’s people so much that he wanted to destroy them, so does satan and all those whom he deceives. <u>This is just a way of saying that they both had the same evil thoughts and evil plan</u>— ‘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... Ezekiel 38:10-12</p>
What/who is being attacked	<p><b>Israel in general:</b> <i>You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages... —Ezekiel 38:11)</i></p>	<p><b>Jerusalem (the beloved city) and the saints:</b> <i>...and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city—Revelation 20:9.</i></p>

	<b>Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog war</b>	<b>Revelation 20:7-10 Gog-Magog war</b>
The purpose of the battle	<p><b>The motive of Gog</b>, the leader of Russia, is to attack Israel for financial gain. <i>‘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; ... <sup>12</sup> to take plunder and to take booty, ... and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods... —Ezekiel 38:10-12</i></p> <p><b>God’s purpose is twofold:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To cause the whole world to know that He is God</b>—<i>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—Ezekiel 38:23</i></li> <li><b>To cause Israel to know that He is God</b>—<i>So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward—Ezekiel 39:22</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>Satan’s purpose</b> has always been to destroy God’s people, defeat God, and rule planet earth himself.</p> <p><b>God’s purpose in allowing this final rebellion</b> is to show the utter depravity of the human heart. After a thousand years living in a perfect environment, many will still choose to rebel against God. Why? <u><i>The problem is not our environment; the problem is us</i></u>—the sinful nature we are born with which hates God and refuses to submit to God (see Romans 7:18 and 8:5-8).</p> <p>To repent means to give control of our lives over to God, to make God number one in our lives. This is a difficult choice. <u><i>It means I must give up my way for God’s way</i></u>, and many refuse to make it, because they love their sin and darkness more than the light—<i>And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil—John 3:19 NLT</i></p> <p>God always gives us a choice to accept or reject Him, and this will be the case during the Millennial reign as well.</p>
How did God defeat them?	God will quickly destroy them using: an <b>earthquake, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone, as well as causing them to begin to kill each other</b> (Israel will not have to fight this battle)—Ezekiel 38:18-23	God will quickly destroy them by sending <b>fire from Heaven</b> (God’s people will not have to fight this battle)
What happens after the war?	Israel spends seven months burying dead bodies, and uses the abandoned weapons for energy for seven years—see Ezekiel 39:9-16.	Heaven and earth are destroyed and the Great White Throne Judgement begins. <i>Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them—Revelation 20:11. Also see 2 Peter 3:11-13.</i>

## 4. What will the Millennial Kingdom be like?

The Bible has much to say about the Millennium. Here are some of the highlights.

Isaiah 2:1-4 NLT

This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup> In the last days [the Millennium], **the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth.** It will be raised above the other hills, **and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.**

<sup>3</sup> People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." **For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.**

<sup>4</sup> **The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes.** They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.**

Isaiah 11:4-10 NLT

**He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited.** The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. <sup>5</sup> He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.

<sup>6</sup> **In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;** the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, **and a little child will lead them all.**

<sup>7</sup> The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. <sup>8</sup> The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. <sup>9</sup> **Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,** for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord. <sup>10</sup> **In that day [the Millennium] the heir to David's throne [Jesus the Messiah] will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.**

"Let us rejoice that Scripture is so clear and so explicit upon this great doctrine of the future triumph of Christ over the whole world ... We believe that the Jews will be converted, and that they will be restored to their own land. We believe that Jerusalem will be the central metropolis of Christ's kingdom; we also believe that all the nations shall walk in the light of the glorious city which shall be built at Jerusalem. We expect that the glory which shall have its centre there, shall spread over the whole world, covering it as with a sea of holiness, happiness, and delight. For this we look with joyful expectation." (Spurgeon)

### Application: This life is training for the next

Luke 19:11-27 NLT

The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away.

<sup>12</sup> He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. <sup>13</sup> Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, '**Invest this for me while I am gone.**' <sup>14</sup> But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want him to be our king.'

<sup>15</sup> "**After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants** to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. <sup>16</sup> The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!'

<sup>17</sup> "**'Well done!' the king exclaimed. 'You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'**

<sup>18</sup> "The next servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.'

<sup>19</sup> "'Well done!' the king said. 'You will be governor over five cities.'



<sup>20</sup> “But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. <sup>21</sup> I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’

<sup>22</sup> “ ‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, <sup>23</sup> why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

<sup>24</sup> “Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’

<sup>25</sup> “ ‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’

<sup>26</sup> “ **‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.**

<sup>27</sup> And as for these enemies of mine who didn’t want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.’ ”

How I live **now** will determine how I live **then**. What I do in this life really does matter because it will determine what level of authority or responsibility God gives me in the Millennium. My faithfulness, love, and obedience to God in this life determines my level of enjoyment in the next. I am always giving up something; either I am giving up some earthly pleasure now to gain eternal reward, or I am giving up my eternal reward so I can enjoy some cheap and temporary earthly pleasure now.

2 John 8 NKJV

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.