

# Ezekiel 39

## The Judgment of Gog and the Revelation of God's Priestly Nation

Viewed From the Vantage Point of  
the Day of the Lord

# 2 Goals

- To analyze Ezekiel 39 through the lens of the Day of the Lord
- To highlight the Day of the Lord as a key for rightly dividing the eschatological Scriptures and for keeping people oriented when blown by the gales of strange doctrines

# A. God's Retribution on Gog

Ezek. 39:1-5

- Divine driving to judgment: Gog's ordained fall on mountains of Israel
- Divine disarmament
- Divinely appointed feast for birds, beasts (Isa. 18:6, 1 Sam. 17:46-47, Rev.19:17-18) → **“for it is I who have spoken...”**

## **B. The Revelation of the Knowledge of God - Ezek. 39:6-7**

**“...I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety...”**

- The Scriptures acknowledge a temporary man-made safety and a final permanent peace when Messiah returns.
- *Some assume that the peace that Israel experiences is the result of Divine pleasure rather than Divine permission, as a fulfillment of the restoration prophecies.*

## **B. The Revelation of the Knowledge of God (cont' d): Ezek. 39:6-7**

**“...and they will know that I am the Lord.”**

→ oft-repeated refrain – 64 times in Ezekiel, applied to individual nations, Israel, and the nations in general

→ an ultimate revelation – they now know what they have never known

→ the nations will know the Lord as

- **the Holy One**
- **in Israel (the knowledge of God is mediated from this place)**

# Full Stop: The Day of the Lord

## Ezekiel 39:8

- The day of which all the prophets spoke
- Had historical fulfillments...
- ...yet always pointed to a future ultimate day
- **Question: How do we distinguish the ultimate day from the partial fulfillments?**

# Full Stop: The DOL Results

- **At the end of Jacob's trouble, a cluster of momentous events occur at the Day of the Lord.**
  - **1. Messiah returns to Israel** (Luke 1:67-76, Isa. 35:1-7, 52:6-10)
  - **2. He turns ungodliness from Jacob, granting deep and thoroughgoing repentance.** (Rom. 11:26-27, Zech. 12:10-14)
  - **3. He pours out His Spirit on the whole house of Israel,** (Joel 2:28-29, Isa. 32:15-16, 44:1-4, Acts 2:5-21), **granting them the gift of faith, and the nation is born in a day** (Isa. 66:7-9, John 3:3-7)
  - **4. Now experiencing the righteousness which is by faith alone, the nation lies down in permanent peace and safety** (Rom. 5:1, Isa. 32:16-18, Ezek. 34:28)
  - **5. The nations are severely judged and humbled.** (Isa. 29:5-8, Jer. 51:49, Joel 3:19-21)

# A Word About Presuppositions

We all have presuppositions (premises, assumptions, faith commitments) of which we may be more or less aware. If we can discern the assumptions that people make when they speak or write, we then possess a vital clue as to **why** they hold their view.

Whether I am conscious of it or not, typically, a presupposition makes my viewpoint selective – another significant reason why I need the help of others to avoid self-deception.



# Examples of Presuppositions

- “God will protect Israel.”
- “They’ ve suffered enough!”
- “How could Yahweh announce in one breath that Gog is his agent, and in the next vent his wrath on Gog with such fury?”

# Full Stop: What Are God's Eschatological Goals?

- To bring everlasting righteousness into Israel through the revelation of Messiah
- The establishment of permanent peace and safety for Israel, which is predicated on the achievement of the first goal

# Why is this relevant?

The results of the Day of the Lord at the end of Jacob's Trouble are an **interpretive key** for testing the various Winds of eschatological doctrine that are blowing.

Also, we are conditioned to think that present choices shape the future. Though true in a limited sense, in the biblical view of time, **God's future is always impinging on and shaping the present.** It is God's eschatological goals that are determining and shaping humanity's present.

# 3 Examples Viewed Through the Lens of the Results of the Day of the Lord and God's Goals

1. Is the time of Jacob's trouble past?
2. Peace – True or False?
3. Who is Gog?

# 1. Jacob's Trouble: Past or Future?

Some view the Nazi Holocaust as the time of Jacob's Trouble. The prophets of Israel envisioned a time of unparalleled catastrophe for Israel just prior to the coming of Messiah, which has been the expectation of Jewish believers in the Scriptures. But Messiah never came.

# 1. Jacob's Trouble: Past or Future?

In view of the biblical events that attend the Day of the Lord, is it reasonable that the Holocaust period could have been the final time of great tribulation?

- Has Messiah returned to Israel?
- Has ungodliness been removed from Jacob after a national repentance?
- Has the Spirit been poured out on Israel, bringing them the gift of faith?
- Now experiencing the righteousness by faith alone, is the nation enjoying permanent peace and safety in the Land?
- Have the nations been judged and humbled for their treatment of Jacob and their presumption of occupying the Land?

## 2. Peace – True or False?

The scriptures depict 2 peaces that will come to Israel – one false peace brokered by the Antichrist and the millennial peace inaugurated by the Messianic reign.

However, a prevalent perspective among premillennialists who are not dispensationalists is that the invasion of Gog and Magog precedes the invasion of the Antichrist, and that in the first invasion, Israel successfully defeats the enemies, thereby creating the conditions that later lead to the false peace brokered by the Antichrist.

But according to Ezekiel, Israel is dwelling at peace in unwallled villages prior to Gog's invasion. **Therefore, in this perspective, Israel will experience 2 temporary peaces, two before the return of the Lord and one when He comes. This becomes necessary once you assume that Gog and Antichrist are 2 different people. But temporary peace is not God's peace.**

**What is the criterion  
for  
the establishment of  
Israel's permanent  
peace?**



# Israel first in possession of everlasting righteousness

According to the Scriptures, until the nation possesses the everlasting righteousness, their tenure and peace in the land **can only be temporary**. Therefore, the Israel that was established in 1948 must fail. It is NOT the restored nation of post-Day of the Lord prophetic description.

# Who is Gog?

In the Scriptures, he is mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39, and in Revelation 19, the first mention referring to the Beast of the last days before the Messianic Age, and the second referring to Satan and his forces at the end of the Millennium.

# **If Gog is not the Antichrist, then...**

Despite the fact that Gog and the nations are severely judged and radically humbled when the Lord returns, and they then know the Lord, this tremendous revelation is cast aside within 3 ½ years when they join the Antichrist to attack Israel???

# If Gog is not the Antichrist, then...

- The 7 years of burning weaponry and 7 months of burying bones will overlap the attack of the Antichrist and the nations, as well as the return of the Lord (unless Gog is destroyed at the very beginning or very end of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week). **This means Jews will be burying bones and burning weapons while fleeing from the Antichrist.**

# The Revelation of the New Nation:

## A. Burning the Weapons (Ezek. 39:9-10 )

- Weapons are used as fuel for Israel
- Scholars, reasoning from where we are today with modern weaponry, may make the weapons described as representative of modern weaponry
- The fact that Israel would use the weapons in place of wood (not natural gas, electricity or solar power) suggests that the primitive weaponry are made of wood and suggests primitive conditions, ie. a loss of modern energy infrastructure
- **Israel is to spread the shalom of God through the earth. She begins by repurposing weaponry, an early example to the nations (Isa. 2:4).**

# **The Revelation of the New Nation:s**

## **Burying the Dead (Ezek. 39:11-16)**

### **Gog' s burial ground in the land**

- Only two valleys large enough to host such vast armies – the Jordan River valley or the plains of Megiddo/Jezreel Valley
- must go with Megiddo (Rev. 16:16)
- People who distinguish between Gog and Antichrist must find a different valley

# The Revelation of the New Nation:

## B. Burying the Dead (Ezek. 39:11-16)

- God makes a burial ground for Gog in a valley used by those “who pass by east of the sea”
- controversial – Mediterranean or Dead Sea
- blocks passersby – hard to circumvent
- while many people have let the Holocaust pass with scant consideration, this blockage is a monumental testimony of the judgement of God that cannot be bypassed

# **The Revelation of the New Nation:**

## **B. Burying the Dead (Ezek. 39:11-16)**

- it is to the renown of the nation**
- complete – 7 months**
- involves the whole nation**
- men are set apart (sanctified) to ferret out any bones and mark them for removal**



# Why?

**Israel is now taking the first steps in her priestly calling, the first of which is to cleanse the land because the Holy One is in her midst. The nations are watching the corporate priest in action for the first time, moving from an unprecedented repentance with zeal to cleanse the land. (2 Cor. 7:11)**

# God's Supper

## Ezekiel 39:17-20

### ➤ God's supper for the beasts and birds

→ harmonization of scripture – letting Scripture interpret Scripture – note common imagery

- Regarding Israel's enemies (Ezek. 39:4, Rev. 19:17-21, 1 Sam. 17:45-47, Isa. 18:6)
- Regarding Israel (Deut. 28:26, Ps. 79:2, Jer. 15:3, 34:20)

→ again, Israel will be considering the Lord's mercies that she is not consumed.

# Grace

In handling the bones of God and his army, Israel might remember their own recent despair as dry bones, completely cut off.

Similarly, Israel had in the past experienced the judgments of God by means of the birds of the air and the beasts of the field, just as the nations at this time were experiencing.

Andrew Murray said that it is not sin that humbles a man's heart, but grace. Israel will truly understand that in all of the past calamities and judgments, God has dealt with her less than her sins deserved (Ezra 9:13), that truly, it is the Lord's mercies that she is not consumed.

# The Open Vindication of God in Space-Time History

- God sets His glory among the nations – they see His judgments, His hand
- Israel knows the Lord from that day forward
- The nations receive a subsidiary knowledge, a knowledge through Israel and her history → the beginning of God's education process for the nations during the Millennial period – in Israel, they will learn the difference between the clean and the unclean, between sin and transgression in the light of the Holy One in Israel

# The Open Vindication of God in Space-Time History

It strains credulity that the nations could see the glory of God displayed through Gog as some separate invader of Israel, receive an education in the judgments of God upon them and His ways with Israel in history, and a few years later, go up with the Antichrist to invade Israel.

# The Restoration of Israel: Ezekiel 39:25-29

- God's restoration of Israel, as He promised through all the prophets → granting mercy undeserved, out of jealousy for His name
- translations obscure the historic rebellion of the nation by interpreting v. 26 to merely refer to a forgetfulness for past sins that they enjoy once (when) they are living securely in the land, enjoying the Messianic peace. Alternatively, the phrase, "when they live in the land" can legitimately be translated in the past tense "when they **lived** in the land". This difference of emphasis speaks to Israel's consistent rebellion during the times when they had lived in relative peace in the land.

# The Restoration of Israel: Ezekiel 39:25-29

- “They have acted corruptly toward Him; they are not His children because of their defect, but are a perverse and crooked generation.” Deut. 32:5, Ezek. 20:8, 13, 28
- “As I live,” declares the Lord God, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you.”
- God is determined to bless Israel, despite themselves. Balaam said, “Let my end be like his.” Israel will know **permanent** peace in the land **because of the gift of Divine righteousness.** They will be regathered, every one, filled with the Spirit, and the face of God will forever be turned toward them.

# Challenge

1. Find the Scriptures for the results of the Day of the Lord.
2. Ask the Lord whether He sees you at rest in your life. The Scripture says “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Righteousness and peace are inextricably linked for us as well as for Israel. The gospel is rest for the weary (Isa. 27:12).