

Who is Israel?

Part 7

Ezekiel 38-39

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our am message we started to look at Ezekiel 38-39. It is in these two chapters that we find a future battle that is referred to as the Battle of Gog and Magog. There is much concerning this battle that we cannot be dogmatic about. The purpose of these two chapters is found in Ezekiel 36. In Ezekiel 36 we are told about the two regathering's of the Nation of Israel from the nations of the world. Then when we get to Ezekiel 37, we are given an explanation as to how it will happen. In Ezekiel 37 we are given two-word pictures to help us to understand that God will regather Israel and there will be no lost tribes. The two-word pictures are the Valley of Dry Bones and the Two Sticks. The Valley of Dry Bones helps us to see that in a miraculous way God will resurrect the Nation of Israel from the nations of the world into which they have been dispersed. The Two Sticks help us to see³ that every tribe will come back. There are no lost tribes God knows where all of His chosen people are. Then there is yet one more thing mentioned in Ezekiel 36.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴ *For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*

²⁵ *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*

²⁶ *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

²⁷ *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

²⁸ *And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

This speaks of when the nation will repent and will accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah and king. God will then pour His Spirit upon those who have come through the fire of the

Tribulation. How will this happen seeing that the nation is in rebellion and living in sin today? The answer is found in Ezekiel 38-39.

Notice Ezekiel 39:28-29

Here at the end of chapter 39 we see the purpose of the battle recorded in 38 and 39.

Let us keep in mind something which I reminded you about last week. Ezekiel's purpose is to show the reader how Israel will come to saving faith. It is not his purpose to give us every detail. Therefore, there are could be gaps in what is recorded in these two chapters.

Example: If the events recorded here are in the Tribulation Ezekiel never mentions the details of the Judgments. His goal is to show the destruction of the invaders and the salvation of Israel.

➤ **Invaders**

Last week we looked at the invaders.

POWER POINT MAP.

These are Islamic nations that will come against Israel. God will put hooks into the jaws of these nations to bring them to the battle. But they will also have a desire to come to plunder the Jews.

The war will be fought with ancient weapons.

Notice Ezekiel 38:4

➤ **The Invasion**

The invasion happens at a time when Israel is at rest and living in peace.

Notice Ezekiel 38:11, 14

This could very well be the time when Israel has signed the covenant with the Anti-Christ, and they are living under a false sense of security. With the rise of anti-Semitism it surely seems as though it would take something like the peace treaty to get them to where they would feel secure. It also seems as though their Iron Dome will not be activated at this time.

➤ **The Invader's Desire**

Notice Ezekiel 38:9-13

This now brings us to where we are today.

➤ **The Battle**

Notice Ezekiel 38:15-16

There will be a great multitude that will come against Israel. There are some who believe when this battle breaks out it does so at the opening of the second seal.

Revelation 6:1-4

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

² *And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

³ *And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.*

⁴ *And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

Notice Ezekiel 38:17

It is difficult to pinpoint a passage that speaks only of this battle. Possibly it is a reference to prophecies that speak of God's judgment on the enemies of Israel.

Notice Ezekiel 38:18-20

We see several things here. We see that God will bring an earthquake that will shake the entire world for all men will be shaken. We also see that God will unleash His wrath on Gog. Now let us notice what is recorded in Revelation.

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

¹³ *And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

There are many similarities here in Revelation 6. This could possibly be what Ezekiel is writing about.

Notice Ezekiel 38:21-23

The armies that come against Israel will turn upon themselves and they will kill each other. There will also be plagues, blood, fire, hailstones and brimstone.

Revelation 8:6-7

⁶ And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

⁷ The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

➤ The Victory

Notice Ezekiel 39:1-10

No nation will come to Israel's defense. It will be God only who will defeat their enemies, and the purpose is that God will be glorified and Israel will turn to the Lord.

Some people have struggled with the burning of the weapons for 7 years and they say that this battle must be at the start of the Tribulation. But I want to suggest that the burning could very easily happen in the Kingdom.

Notice Ezekiel 39:10 again.

Why do they need to burn wood? Maybe it is for the Temple sacrifices in the Kingdom.

Isaiah 56:5-7

⁵ *Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.*

⁶ *Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;*

⁷ *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*

Now let me show you something that Joel wrote.

Joel 1:15, 18-19

¹⁵ *Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

¹⁸ *How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.*

¹⁹ *O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.*

Could it be that the weapons are needed to keep the fire on the altar in the Kingdom because the trees have all burned up? Then after 7 years there would be wood again because the growing conditions will be as they were in the Garden before sin entered into the world.

Notice Ezekiel 39:11-12

It will take 7 months to bury the bodies of the dead.

Notice Ezekiel 39:17-20

The beats and the fowls will gorge themselves upon the dead of the nations.

Revelation 19:17-21

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Conclusion:

Notice Ezekiel 39:22, 27-29

The passage seems to indicate that when the battle is over Israel will turn to the Lord and it is then that He will pour out His Spirit upon them.

All of this seems to place the battle at the end of the Tribulation. The stage gets set in the beginning of the Tribulation and the entire battle is a process just like the gathering together.

The point to be made is that God has not cast off His people. He is building the church today and when the church is complete, He will once again work with the Jews to bring them to salvation.