

EZEKIEL 38-39

Message 6

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Reading: Revelation 19:13-21

INTRO: We are looking at the Ezekiel 38-39 war. If the majority of premillennialists are right, this battle is right on our doorstep. If I am right, this will take place towards the end of the tribulation. Let me mention one other thing. When the Lord Jesus comes down to earth, from that point on He stays on earth right through the time of the millennium.

Now to get the context of the events of Ezekiel 38-39, I am going through the tribulation, covering a few points to show how things progress up until this battle takes place in my view. Let me show you where we are **(See PP Details Go up to slide 6)**. We saw that the rapture takes place before the tribulation. Then the antichrist is revealed and then the tribulation begins. I suggested that Psalm 83 might be fulfilled early in the tribulation and the two witnesses come and then the 144,000 evangelize the world. I believe this is what Matthew 24:14 means when it says that the Gospel must be preached to the whole world and then the end will come.

We have come to the mid-point of the tribulation. Here it is said that the antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and I have mentioned that I do not find this in Scripture. I believe he keeps it until Jesus returns. But because most see that the antichrist breaks his covenant and there is no longer peace, therefore they believe Ezekiel 38-39 cannot happen after the middle of the tribulation. Ezekiel 38-39 says that Israel dwells securely when Russia comes to take plunder Israel.

Furthermore, many see that all Jews are instructed to flee Israel at this point because the antichrist breaks his covenant with them. I do not find that. It is believing Jews that are instructed to flee. I believe the unbelieving Jews will accept the antichrist as God and they are no threat to Satan or the antichrist. Jesus said He had come in His Father's name and the Jews rejected Him, if another comes in his own name; him they will receive. That refers to the antichrist.

One more introductory point. Many hold that believers will be persecuted in the first half of the tribulation. I do not find that and would be happy for the information if someone has it.

But what I do find is that after the middle of the tribulation multiplied millions of believers will die. In the last message we were just beginning to look at that. I am adding this point though it is not related to the war of Ezekiel. The last half of the tribulation can be called the great tribulation. I am showing the persecution of Christians here to see how drastic the persecution will be in this time.

7. The persecution of Christians Cont'd

Remember that the antichrist makes war against the two witnesses and he is able to kill them. Then he makes war against Christians. So all over the world Christians now are martyred. All of this begins with the mark of the beast, the 666. Christians can no longer buy or sell. Any Christian who takes this number forfeits salvation. I have been told that John MacArthur teaches that Christians who take this number are still saved. I expect he holds this view because a Christian, in the Calvinistic view, cannot forfeit salvation.

In the last message we had just begun to look at the persecution of believers, which gets into full swing in the middle of the tribulation. I gave you the chronology of the book of Revelation. Only chapters 6-19 seem to be all mixed up. But let me now show you the chronology of those chapters, in my interpretation, as it relates to the persecution of Christians. I mentioned that these chapters go through the tribulation 6 times and the 7th and 8th time it goes twice through the last half.

(See PP Revelation 7 Trips, # 2.)

As I see it, 6:1-8 goes through the first half. Then 6:9-11 says:

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Here we see martyrdom. The blood of martyrs flows like water beginning as soon as the two witnesses are killed.

Revelation 6:12-17 tells you how the tribulation ends. Then 7:1-8 gives you the first half on the second time through. Here we have the 144,000. Then 7:9-17, says this:

(See pp Revelation 7 Trips, # 3.)

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

16 *"They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;*

17 *"for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

Who are these arrayed in white robes? Those who have come out of great tribulation! In 8:1-9:21 we then have the last half of the tribulation. Revelation 10 is an interesting insert that deals with 7 thunders but we are not told what they mean. On the third trip through, the first half is dealt with in 11:1-6. In 11:7-12 we again have the persecution of the saints.

(See pp Revelation 7 Trips, # 4.)

In this passage we have the death of the two witnesses. This begins the greatest time of persecution Christians will ever see. On the fourth time through we have the first half in 12:1-5. In verse 6 we come to the middle of the tribulation and the persecution of the saints in 6-11. I won't read the rest of these passages. You might just jot them down.

(See pp Revelation 7 Trips, # 5.)

In this passage we have the flight of the Jews in Jerusalem who were warned to flee. When the two witnesses are killed and the antichrist sets himself up as god, things take a very drastic turn for Christians. In 12:13-17 we have the last half of the tribulation.

In 13:1-4 we go through the first half of the tribulation in verses 1-4 and in verses 5-7 we have the persecution of the saints.

(See pp Revelation 7 Trips, # 6.)

In this passage we see the worldwide campaign against Christians. They have become the hunted with no place to hide. In 13:8-10 we have the last half.

Then in 13:11-18 we have the first half of the sixth time through the tribulation. In 14:1-5 we once more have the persecution of the saints.

(See pp Revelation 7 Trips, # 7.)

In these verses we have a picture of the 144,000 in glory after they were martyred. In 14:6-16:21 we have the last half of the tribulation.

On the seventh time through there is nothing given for the first half of the tribulation. It begins in the middle of the tribulation with the persecution of the saints in 15:1-8.

(See pp Revelation 7 Trips, # 8.)

In this passage we have the martyred saints pictured in heaven standing on the sea of glass. (Laver?) And they sing the song of Moses. What a picture this is! I added that, not because it is related to our subject, but so we understand the great persecution that will take place in the last half of the tribulation.

8. The king of south

Before we go to the next point on our time-line let me show you where we are **(PP Details of Trib #1-6)**. After the middle of the tribulation, the next major event important to our topic is found in Daniel 11. Turn to Daniel 11. This is a difficult prophecy. Verses 1-35 speak prophetically of Antiochus Epiphanes who is a picture of the antichrist. This prophecy was fulfilled in 167 BC when he defiled the Jewish temple, offered a pig on the altar; and set up an image of the god, Zeus, in the temple.

In 164 BC the Maccabees retook the temple. One can read about these in the OT apocryphal books of the Maccabees. In those books is a lot of historical information of events that happened between Malachi and Matthew, the 400 silent years and Daniel 11 prophecies of those events.

Then in Daniel 11:36-39 he gives a clear picture of the antichrist, who is to come and is foreshadowed

by Antiochus Epiphanies. We now have a picture of the antichrist in verses 36-39:

36 *"Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.*

37 *"He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.*

38 *"But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.*

39 *"Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.*

Verses 40-45 record events that have never yet taken place. After much study I would place them just before the Ezekiel war. Pentecost says, "It is difficult to determine the activities of the nations involved in this chapter" end quote (355). Probably at this point we could say it is not possible to place them. It will become clearer in the future.

I won't take time to explain the difficulties of verse 40 and just give you my understanding of it.

This verse says:

40 *"At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.*

We have mentioned here the king of the South, the king of the North, and whoever the "he" is in the last part of the sentence. There is some agreement

that this "he" is the antichrist and I think according to the context that is correct. I believe the king of the South refers to Egypt and the king of the north is Gog.

If that is correct the king of the South shall attack the antichrist. Here we have evidence of growing resistance against the antichrist in the last half of the tribulation. But note that it does not say the king of the North attacks him. It says, "...and the king of the North shall come against him." I believe that is what is about to happen. The king of the South attacks the antichrist and while the antichrist enters Egypt to defeat it, the king of the North, Gog begins to come down to Israel.

(I would place it here PP Details of the Tribulation #7)

You will remember that in Ezekiel 38 God said He would put hooks in Gog's jaw and lead him to Israel. I recommend that it may be the antichrist's preoccupation with his war against Egypt, the king of the South, that is the hook in Gog's jaw to bring him to want to plunder Israel. At this time Israel is a land of unwalled villages, a land at rest because of antichrist's peace covenant. And the antichrist is not present in Israel, and it is a prime time to plunder Israel.

Ezekiel 38:10-12 describes it like this:

10 "Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme

11 and say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,'

12 to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth.

Verse 41 in Daniel 11 then says:

41 "He (the antichrist) shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.

If the Psalm 83 war takes place before or early in the tribulation, then it appears that some of those countries have also risen up against the antichrist and they escape him.

Verse 42:

42 "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

43 "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.

It says the antichrist stretches out his hand against various countries and it does not indicate who those are. What is clear is that he overcomes Egypt. What is not clear is what is meant by the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow on his heels means. I will make a suggestion later.

Now look at verses 44-45:

44 "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.

45 "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

Let me just say that much happens between verses 44-45 and we will see this later. So we ask, what is this news from the east and the north that troubles the antichrist? We'll look at that now.

9. The Kings of the East

First, with regard to the news from the East, let me make this proposition. Turn to Revelation 16. I think the news from the East that troubles the antichrist is that which is prophesied in Revelation 16:13-21. It says:

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Let me show you on a chart where I believe this happens. **(See pp Revelation 7 trips #8)**

When the antichrist is in Egypt taking care of the opposition rising there, news comes from the East. China and possibly the Koreas or North Korea, Japan and other eastern nations have begun to try to take over. This will last for some time because 1/3 of mankind will die in this campaign.

When this begins, the antichrist, who has been fighting in Egypt, hears this news. This news from the East that troubles him is that China is on the move and it is a major threat to his rule over the world. They have not consulted him. So this news is very troubling.

10. Gog and Magog rise up

Then there is more bad news and this is from the north. I propose that by the time the antichrist is mopping up his battle against the king of the South the Ezekiel war has begun. **(PP Details of Trib # 9)**

So Daniel 11:44-45 said:

44 "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.

45 "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

For these reasons the antichrist heads back to Israel. But by now Gog and his allies are in Jerusalem battling for the city. So the antichrist sets up his royal pavilion between the seas and the Holy Mountain, or Jerusalem. So, China is conquering people by the millions. As I see it, it is during the time of the sixth trumpet and sixth bowl in Revelation that the kings of the East, make war. Let me show you that. **(PP Seven Trips #3&8)** One third of remaining mankind is destroyed by them. Who are these kings? Without doubt China is involved and it could be Japan and the Koreas. Whom do they destroy? Could it be India, Pakistan and some of those other neighboring countries between them and Israel?

So here is the scene. Russia and its allied nations are plundering Jerusalem, China and the kings of the East are taking over many countries and killing millions. The antichrist has hurried back and is now situated between the seas and Jerusalem. And while Gog is battling Jerusalem, something else takes place and it will change everything. We go to Revelation 9:12-21. It says:

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

So let me give the picture this far and let me add that I am suggesting that something like this may happen. I am not saying this is what will happen. Here is the picture. Egypt rises up against the antichrist and he gathers his army and goes to fight against Egypt. At about this time, the kings of the East begin to take over a huge part of mankind. I am recommending they go against India and Pakistan and the surrounding countries. Gog of Ezekiel 38-39 has intended to go elsewhere but here is his opportunity to go to Israel to take a spoil and he does. He enters Israel and begins to plunder it and then he arrives at Jerusalem to take it. It is a land of unwalled villages because the antichrist maintains peace there. And now the antichrist is busy in Egypt and the opportunity is too big to miss. So, an evil thought enters and he will now try to plunder Israel.

The antichrist is warring in Egypt and he defeats them but he hears news about the kings of the East and news from the north, Gog, and instead of heading to Jerusalem which Russia is attacking at

this time he sets up his royal tents between the seas and Jerusalem.

By the time Russia and its allies are in Israel, China and the kings of the East are on the march and have killed many millions. **(See pp Revelation 7 trips #8)** I'll read this passage (Rev. 9:13-21):
(Later?)

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Here is the scene of the last half of the tribulation so far **(PP Details of the Trib 7-9)**

11. The Feast of Trumpets

We come now to the most important event of this time. Finally the Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled. While Russia is battling against Jerusalem and China is destroying millions a most momentous event takes place. One of the most amazing things happens! Revelation 1:7 describes it like this:

7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Luke 17:24 says:

24 "For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day."

One moment things are as they were up until then and the next moment this report echoes the world over: Jesus Christ is coming! Now if there is one date I am certain of it is this one. Remember, this is not the rapture, this is the second coming of Jesus Christ when He begins to rule on earth. I do not know the year, since the tribulation has not yet begun. But I know the day of the year. It is the Jewish New Year's day. It is Rosh Hashanah. It is the Feast of Trumpets.

(PP Details #10)

Luke 21:25-28 says this:

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

27 *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

28 *"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."*

The day they see Jesus Christ coming is the Feast of Trumpets.

Leviticus 23:23-25 says this:

23 *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

24 *"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.*

25 *'You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'*"

It is an error of many pretribulationists to see the Feast of Trumpets as picturing the rapture. Pastor Daryl has clarified that this is not correct. However, you may have forgotten, but on Pentecost I spoke of the last trumpet and this may sound at the rapture. There are three important trumpets in Scripture. There is the first trumpet blown by God at Mt. Sinai when He gave the law. Then there is the last trumpet which is blown by God and that is blown at the rapture. And then there is the great trumpet of Isaiah 27:13, and I think it is this trumpet that is blown on that final Feast of Trumpets when Jesus returns at the second coming.

All over the world the news spreads like wild fire! Like the previous four feasts the Feast of Trumpets is fulfilled on the exact day it was always kept! All these years this feast has been kept and now it has been fulfilled! And where does Jesus Christ go first when He comes to earth? He goes first to Bozrah where the Christian Jews are being kept safe by God. I suspect that the armies stationed there

to keep them penned up are defeated by Jesus Christ. Isaiah 63:1-6 speaks of this. It says:

1 Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? – "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.

6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth."

As soon as He is finished there he heads to Jerusalem. We go now to Zechariah 14. We'll read 1-5:

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

Here we see an earthquake take place and the Mount of Olives splits in two.

Ezekiel 38:19 says:

Eze 38:19 "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,

The book of Revelation records a great earthquake at the end of the tribulation. **(PP Revelation 7 trips 2, 4, 8)**

Possibly it is here that Ezekiel 39:4 begins to take place. It says:

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.

Gog comes down to Israel, not to destroy the Jews, but to take a spoil. He does not come to fight against Christ, which is what will happen at Armageddon. Gog comes down to take a spoil. If the Psalm 83 war takes place early in the tribulation and Israel takes the Muslim nations that immediately surround Israel, then Israel has become a large nation with much wealth. This may be the spoil Russia is after. If the Psalm 83 war is not a future war, then Israel possesses something else that Gog wants

Joel 3:9-15 says of this time:

9 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up.

10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.'

11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.

12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

13 Put in the **sickle**, (check sickle in Rev.) for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow—For their wickedness is great."

Note the word "sickle" in verse 13. Look at this word in Revelation. **(See Revelation 7 trips slide 7. Point out 3 mentions of the sickle)**

Now in Joel 3:2 God says He will gather the nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The valley of Jehoshaphat is the Kidron valley that runs between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. When you see the dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the picture is usually taken looking across this valley. It begins right there. And multitudes are in the valley of decision. I tend to think that world leaders will meet here to decide what to do and the decision will be to gather their armies at Megiddo and to seek to defeat the Lord Jesus and His army.

So where are we now? The Feast of Trumpets has now been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has come to earth. And still there are two more feasts to go and after that the millennium will be in progress.

CONCL: So to conclude this message let me show you where we are in our time-line. **(PP Details of the Trib 1-10)**

When Jesus returns to earth the Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled. From that point on Jesus stays on earth but numerous prophecies still need to be fulfilled before the millennium begins. Let me remind us once more, the great catching up, the rapture may happen at any time and by 2030 we could be in the

millennium. Never give up. Trust in the Lord, He is coming soon;
Maranatha!