

Ezekiel Part 47 (Ezekiel 39)

1. **38:4–9** These verses will provide answers for two questions.
2. (1) When will these events happen? (2) What was the main point of 38:1–39:29?
3. Ezekiel was not the first prophet to envision a future apocalyptic battle against the people of God.
4. Ezekiel 38–39 was concerned with immediate events as well as end-time events.
5. The occurring theme found in the previous chapters is that following the restoration and reformation of Israel they will “no longer” be victims of the nations but will live securely in their land “forever.” (34:25–29; 36:12–15, 30; 37:25–28)
6. When you realize that the land the Lord will bring Gog’s army against is Israel’s (vv. 8–9), there is considerable confusion for many.
7. The solution must be that a major purpose for the invasion will be to demonstrate just how secure Israel will be in their land.
8. Gog’s army would be well equipped, having a mounted calvary, shields, swords, and many soldiers who were called a “great horde.” (v. 4)
9. The army would be allied with Persia (Iran), Cush (Ethiopia), Put (Lybia), Gomer (North Central Asia Minor), and Togarmah (Southeastern part of Turkey).
10. These nations would be called to battle “after many days” and “in future years” against Israel. (38:8)
11. The phrases, “after many days” and “in future years,” are used nowhere else in Ezekiel and clearly mark this passage as a prophetic reference to end-time events.
12. The future is suggested again in the expression in v. 16, “in the last days.”
13. Ezekiel saw a future time when Israel will have been restored, regathered in the land, and will be dwelling in security. (v. 8; cf. 36:33–36)
14. The armies of Gog would advance like a “storm” and a “cloud” covering the land (v. 9). Gog at that time would come against the “mountains” of Israel (cf. 36:1).
15. **38:10–13** These verses disclose the plan of the invasion.
16. Verses 10–11 give further insight into the occasion for the battle. Verses 4, 16 show that the battle will take place according to the plan and purpose of God.

17. According to Rev 20:7–8, Gog was satanically inspired and hated both God and his people.
18. This is one of several cases in Scripture where several causes that seem to conflict are given for an event that is contrary to the revealed will of God.
19. Pharaoh's refusal to allow Israel to leave Egypt (cp. Exod 7:3 and 8:15) and the crucifixion of Jesus (cp. Matt 26:20–25; John 6:70–71; 10:18; 13:2; 14:27; and Acts 2:23) are two preeminent examples.
20. The viewpoint of Scripture is that neither human wickedness nor the powers of darkness can thwart God's purpose.
21. God's sovereign power and infinite wisdom enable Him to use even evil nations and kings to achieve His ends.
22. These chapters promise a day when God's people will no longer need walled villages to be secure.
23. And in order to demonstrate the greatness of His power and of His faithfulness and the powerlessness of evil to thwart His plans to bless His redeemed people, God will use Gog.
24. God will allow this attack in order to bring swift and decisive judgment against Gog (v. 16) so that He may once and for all correct the damage His people have done to His name and may proclaim the greatness of His holy character to all the world.
25. **38:14-23** Gog will seek to loot and plunder those who have resettled Israel in the "center of the land."
26. The description of the defeat in chapter 38 focuses on the army, but in 39:1–8, the focus is on the leader of the army, Gog of Magog.
27. It is God who brings Gog into the land and allows him to try to attack the people of Israel.