

Wednesday Night Discussion

Date: 5/1/24

Text/Topic(s): In Ezekiel 39:1-29, God continues to speak against Gog, stating that he will fall in battle in Israel. The chapter describes the aftermath of the battle, where Israel will plunder their enemies, and the land will be cleansed.

1. 1“As for you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, ‘This is what the Lord God says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 2I will turn you around, drive you on, and lead you up from the remotest parts of the north. I will bring you against the mountains of Israel.
2. 3Then I will knock your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. 4You, all your troops, and the peoples who are with you will fall on the mountains of Israel. I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and to the wild animals.
3. 5You will fall on the open field, for I have spoken. This is the declaration of the Lord God. 6“‘I will send fire against Magog and those who live securely on the coasts and islands. Then they will know that I am the Lord. 7So I will make my holy name known among my people Israel and will no longer allow it to be profaned. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.
4. 8Yes, it is coming, and it will happen. This is the declaration of the Lord God. This is the day I have spoken about. 9“‘Then the inhabitants of Israel’s cities will go out, kindle fires, and burn the weapons—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them to make fires.
5. 10They will not gather wood from the countryside or cut it down from the forests, for they will use the weapons to make fires. They will take the loot from those who looted them and plunder those who plundered them. This is the declaration of the Lord God.
6. 11“‘Now on that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel—the Travelers’ Valley east of the Sea. It will block those who travel through, for Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called Hordes of Gog Valley. 12The house of Israel will spend seven months burying them in order to cleanse the land. 13All the people of the land will bury them and their fame will spread on the day I display my glory. This is the declaration of the Lord God.
7. 14“‘They will appoint men on a full-time basis to pass through the land and bury the invaders who remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They will make their search at the end of the seven months. 15When they pass through the land and one of them sees a human bone, he will set up a marker next to it until the buriers have buried it in Hordes of Gog Valley.
8. 16There will even be a city named Hamonah there. So they will cleanse the land.’ 17“Son of man, this is what the Lord God says: Tell every kind of bird and all the wild animals, ‘Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my sacrificial feast that I am slaughtering for you, a great feast on the mountains of Israel; you will eat flesh and drink blood.
9. 18You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the earth’s princes: rams, lambs, male goats, and all the fattened bulls of Bashan. 19You will eat fat until you are satisfied and drink blood until you are drunk, at my sacrificial feast that I have prepared for you. 20At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, of mighty men and all the warriors. This is the declaration of the Lord God.’
10. 21“‘I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the judgment I have executed and the hand I have laid on them. 22From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God.
11. 23And the nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile on account of their iniquity, because they dealt unfaithfully with me. Therefore, I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, so that they all fell by the sword. 24I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and transgressions, and I hid my face from them.
12. 25“‘So this is what the Lord God says: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have compassion on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. 26They will feel remorse for their disgrace and all the unfaithfulness they committed against me, when they live securely in their land with no one to frighten them.
13. 27When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the countries of their enemies, I will demonstrate my holiness through them in the sight of many nations. 28They will know that I am the Lord their God when I regather them to their own land after having exiled them among the nations. I will leave none of them behind. 29I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel.” This is the declaration of the Lord God.

Let's Dive Deeper

One: Ezekiel 39 is a follow-up to the prophecy of Gog's invasion in Ezekiel 38. This chapter is a powerful picture of God's sovereignty and justice. Showing us that even when the odds seem stacked against us, God reminds us that He is in control and that His justice will prevail. This chapter also emphasizes God's grace and mercy, reminding us of His promise to cleanse and restore those who return to Him. The chapter begins (v. 1-8) with God speaking through Ezekiel directly to Gog, proclaiming his impending downfall. God declares that He will turn Gog around and lead him out, pulling him from the distant north and bringing him against the mountains of Israel. God assures that His holy name will be vindicated when He reveals His glory through the destruction of Gog's armies. In verses 9-16, Ezekiel describes the aftermath of Gog's defeat, where the Israelites burn the enemy's weapons, and bury the corpses in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. This massive burial will purify the land, marking the end of Gog's threat. In verses 17-29, we see the concluding section of this chapter which describes a symbolic feast for the birds and beasts where they will eat the flesh and drink the blood of the fallen warriors. God uses this metaphor to represent His justice. He promises the restoration of Israel, promising to pour out His Spirit on them. This section portrays a future time of peace and prosperity for Israel, signifying their renewed relationship with God.

7:30—7:45 Think Through the Main Scripture Individually

Personal Study: Take a few moments to reread the main scriptures and highlight or jot down what stands out to you.

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

Study Questions: Take a few moments to answer the following questions.

After comparing Ezekiel 38:19-22 and Revelation 16:16-21, what evidence do we have that this is the same war? _____

After comparing Ezekiel 38: 23; 39:21-29 and Revelation 19:11-16, what hope do we have as believers? _____

Contemplative questions: Take a few minutes to consider the following questions *thoughtfully* and *reflectively*.

What do you understand about the character of God from His dealings with Gog in this chapter? _____

How does the description of God's wrath against Gog in verses 1-8 demonstrate His sovereignty? _____

How does the cleansing of Israel's land by burying Gog's armies (verses 9-16) signify the process of purification? _____

How does the image of the great feast for birds and beasts (verses 17-20) represent God's justice? _____

How has this chapter encouraged me? _____

How has this chapter challenged me? _____

7:45—8:00 Tie up and Pray