

Ezekiel 37-39

# ISRAEL'S RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION

# The Context

- Ezekiel 36 – Israel's Restoration Promised
- Ezekiel 37 – Israel's Restoration Pictured
- Ezekiel 38-39 – Israel's Preservation
- Ezekiel 40-48 – Israel's Future Glory

# Restoration Pictured

- Ezekiel is brought to a large valley of extremely dry bones – a picture of Israel's desolation and sense of hopelessness – Ezekiel 37:1-3
- God tells Ezekiel to preach to these bones, and when he does the bones become a large army – Ezekiel 37:4-11
- God then tells Ezekiel that in the future God will bring Israel back to the land and restore them to a place of blessing – Ezekiel 37:12-14

# Restoration Pictured

- God then gives another prophecy to Ezekiel indicating that in the future restoration both Judah and Israel will be restored and become one nation with one king – Ezekiel 37:15-20
- God will accomplish this by bringing Israel back to the land from the nations into which they were scattered – Ezekiel 37:21-22
- God will also cleanse them at this time, give them a new King, and set his own sanctuary there in their midst – Ezekiel 37:23-28

# Israel's Preservation

- Ezekiel 38-39 pictures a future time when a great army invades Israel and is destroyed by God – Ezekiel 38:1-39:20
- This great battle, won completely by God, is then followed by Israel's restoration to a place of blessing that will never end – Ezekiel 39:21-29

# The Time

- There is a tremendous amount of speculation as to when these events take place.
- The End of the Millennium
  - Matches the Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38:2-3 with the Gog and Magog of Revelation 20:8
  - Problems are:
    - Burning the instruments of war for seven years would extend into the Eternal State – 39:9-10
    - Burying the dead for seven months would extend into the Eternal State as well – 39:11-16

# The Time

- The End of the Tribulation
  - This battle would coincide with the Battle of Armageddon
  - Parallels are
    - Both battles are very extensive
    - In both battles the animals and birds are called to devour the flesh of the dead – Ezekiel 39:4 cf. Revelation 19:17-18
    - After both battles God restores Israel and establishes the Kingdom – Ezekiel 39:27-29 cf. Revelation 20:1-8

# The Time

- The End of the Tribulation
  - Problems are:
    - Israel is said to be in a state of peace when the invasion in Ezekiel takes place (Ezekiel 38:11) whereas in Revelation Israel is being hunted down to be destroyed by the Antichrist at the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 12:13-17)
    - Also, the peaceful conditions of Ezekiel 38:11 are not at all consistent with what we know about the last 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation



# The Time

- Before The Tribulation
  - Problems are:
    - Again, Israel is said to be in a state of peace when the invasion in Ezekiel takes place (Ezekiel 38:11) whereas right now Israel is surrounded on every side by enemies bent on her destruction.
    - This view would also mean the event of the battle in Ezekiel 38:1-39:20 followed by the event of Israel's restoration and glory in Ezekiel 39:21-29 are missing the entire Tribulation Period.

# The Time

- The Middle of the Tribulation
  - This appears to be the best understanding for many reasons:
    - It fits with the concept of Israel being at peace since Antichrist has signed a seven year treaty guaranteeing Israel's safety and security
    - It fits with what we know about the extreme difference between the first 3-1/2 of the Tribulation (peace and security) and the last 3-1/2 years (war, judgment, and global chaos).

# The Time

- The Middle of the Tribulation
  - It fits with the events outlined in Daniel 7:23-27 and Daniel 11:40-45
  - It fits in very well with the first four seals in Revelation 6
    - White Horse – peace
    - Red Horse – war
    - Black Horse – death
    - Pale Horse - pestilence

# The Participants

- Gog (prince or supreme one), the leader of Magog – Ezekiel 38:2
  - Magog – Genesis 10:2 – came to be the Sythians, a people dwelling around the area of the Black and Caspian seas
- Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal – Ezekiel 38:3
  - Should be translated “chief prince of Meshech and Tubal”
  - This refers to descendants of Japheth (Genesis 10:2) who inhabited the area of Asia Minor.

# The Participants

- Persian, Ethiopia, and Libya – Ezekiel 38:5
  - Persian is modern day Iran
  - Ethiopia is the area south and east of Egypt which includes the modern day nations of Ethiopia and the Sudan
  - Libya is the modern day nation of Libya
- Gomer and Togarmah
  - Gomer was a son of Japheth and Togarmah was a son of Gomer – Genesis 10:2-3
  - Their descendants occupy the area of modern day Turkey

# The Participants

- Sheba, Dedan, Merchants of Tarshish
  - Sheba and Dedan are the the modern day nations of Yemen and Saudi Arabia
  - Tarshish refers to the seafaring peoples of the area of Spain and some Bible commentators suggest that the reference to them here is a reference to the Kingdom of the Antichrist
- Note that these nations do not participate in the battle rather they are rebuking the invading nations instead.

# The Plan

- From the perspective of Gog and Magog
  - To Take a Spoil – Ezekiel 11:10-13
  - To destroy Israel as all of the invading nations are Islamic and desire the complete and total annihilation of Israel.
- From the perspective of God
  - He will drag them down – Ezekiel 38:4; 16
  - God will destroy them to exalt his name – Ezekiel 38:16-17; 23

# The Result

- God totally wipes out the invaders by means of supernatural judgments as well as causing the army to fight itself – Ezekiel 38:18-22; 39:3-8
- The spoils of war will be burned for seven years – Ezekiel 39:9-10
- The dead will take seven months to bury – Ezekiel 39:11-16
- Birds and beasts of the field will devour the dead – Ezekiel 39:17-20



# The Result

- God's name is exalted – Ezekiel 38:23; 39:7; 21
- Israel recognizes God's deliverance – Ezekiel 39:22-24
- God will then restore scattered Israel to the land – Ezekiel 39:25-28
- God will pour out his Spirit on redeemed Israel – Ezekiel 39:29

Questions?