

Assurance of Final Victory Ezekiel 38-39.

Christmas is coming

Luke 1:⁷⁴ *that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,*

Luke 1:⁵¹ *He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;*

Three Issues in Context

Ezekiel 38:⁸ *After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, **the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel**, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and **now dwell securely, all of them.***

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.** [36:33-35]*

1. The LORD's Holy Name

Ezekiel 36:²⁰ *But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land.'*
²¹ *But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came.*²² *"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.*

2. What must happen before the end?

3. Can God's people be secure in a world of opposition to the LORD?

The Story of Gog

Ezekiel 38:⁸ **After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them.**

¹⁶ *You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. **In the latter days** I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.*

Who is Gog?

38:⁹ *You will advance, coming on like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you.*

Ezekiel 38:¹⁰ *“Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme¹¹ 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.¹³ Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all its leaders will say to you, ‘Have you come to seize spoil? Have you assembled your hosts to carry off plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to seize great spoil?’*

Who is in control?

38:³ *and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.⁴ And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords.*

39:² *And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel.*

38:¹⁶ *You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.*

Ezekiel 38:¹⁷ *“Thus says the Lord GOD: Are you he of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who in those days prophesied for years that I would bring you against them?*

The outcome

God’s people

39:¹² *For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.*

All the LORD’s doing

Ezekiel 38:²³ *So I will show my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.*

Ezekiel 39:⁷ *“And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.⁸ Behold, it is coming and it will be brought about, declares the Lord GOD. That is the day of which I have spoken.*

What will God, who is rightly concerned for His reputation, His name, do in the face of persistent unbelief and misrepresentation? [Romans 9:22/ Ezekiel 39:27]

What has to happen before the end? [Revelation 19:17-21, 20:7-10]

Can God's people be secure in a world of opposition to the LORD?

*Romans 8:*³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸ *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,*³⁹ *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Revelation 14:*¹² *Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.*