

Ezekiel 36-39

4 things are about to happen very soon, perhaps even almost simultaneously... and those are the next four things we will study. The great Apostasy, that is the falling away in the Church, the Rapture, the great battle of Ezekiel 38-39, the war of Gog/Magog and the rise of the Antichrist.

Here in Ezekiel, God first gives the promise of the special sign of the beginning of the end times... the same sign Jesus said to look for as the beginning of the end times... the restoration of Israel to the land He had given them... never again to be removed...

Then He gives a vision of a great but short and decisive war at the beginning of the Tribulation period... the war of Gog/Magog...

God begins by telling Ezekiel to **prophecy to the mountains** of Israel... Mountains are an often recurring theme in God's Word to us... in Isaiah... let us go up to the **mountain** of the LORD... **Faith** to move mountains... Jesus up to the **mount of transfiguration**... the law given on Mount **Sinai**... Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount **Moriah**... Jesus returns to the Mount of **Olives**...

Ezekiel 36...

‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD! ² Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because the enemy has said of you, ‘Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,’” ³ therefore prophesy, and

say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because they made *you* desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people” — ⁴ therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around— ⁵ therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I have spoken in **My burning jealousy** against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy *and* spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country.”’

⁶ “Therefore prophesy concerning the **land** of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations.”’ ⁷ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “**I have raised My hand in an oath** that surely the nations that *are* around you shall bear their own shame. ⁸ But you, O mountains of Israel, you **shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit** to My people Israel, for they are about to come. ⁹ For indeed I *am* for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. ¹⁰ I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

Jesus said in Mark 13... *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: [29](#)So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. [30](#)Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. [31](#)Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

This is **the sign** of the end times...

Here God is saying that not only will He, in the last days, the end times... our time... restore the people of Israel, His chosen people, but He will **also restore the land of Israel, His chosen Real Estate.**

He is promising that He will bring the Jews back to the land of Israel which was stolen by the nations around them and from which they were exiled... by God...

¹⁷ “Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds... ¹⁸ Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols *with which* they had defiled it. ¹⁹ So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. ²⁰ When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they, those Gentile nations, profaned My holy name—when they said of them, ‘These *are* the people of the LORD, *and* yet they have gone out of His land.’ ²¹ But **I had concern for My holy name**, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

Then He says that He will do this, **not for the sake of Israel**, but for the sake of... remember what we learned last week?... What is God's primary purpose in everything?... **the Glory of God!** vs 21-24

²¹ But I had **concern for My holy name**, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

²² “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify **My great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD... when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, **gather you out** of all countries, and **bring you back into your own land**.

Now!... this is important... Israel stands on its own as God's possession... but they are also a **picture of you and me**... and God's love for us... he saved us not because we deserved it but because, just like Israel... **He chose us**... and just like Israel, He promises to **keep us secure** in His eternal Salvation and to bring us **safely home to our own land**... Heaven... either at death or in the Rapture... Israel's final salvation never depended on them and their faithfulness, they've always been unfaithful... but on God's faithfulness and promise... the same is true for you... and me.

Then God skips ahead to the actual resuscitation of a dead nation... something which has never happened before or since... only with Israel... God's elect nation... and, again... a picture of us... He tells us that **we were dead**... like bleached dry bones... dead in sin before He called us and drew us to Himself...

Read **chap 37 1-14 21-22a 26-28**

Israel was cast to the four winds for nearly 2000 years. Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD and took them captive throughout the known world where they remained... for nearly 2000 years...

the first verses of that chapter give the picture of Israel coming back to life after being dead for nearly 2000 years...

when did that happen? dry dead bones 19th Century-1930's Europe thru WW2

Can you see that picture of a valley full of dead dry bones...
...remember the pictures from the **concentration camps** in Poland and Germany... Dachau, Auschwitz, Buchenwald... that was it... the piles of bodies.. the trenches filled with emaciated bodies... that is like what Ezekiel saw. Then... as the life is coming back to the bones... three years after the war until 1948 when Israel declares her independent statehood... supported by world public opinion... because of what happened to them in the war... even Russia voted to accept it...

God knew when **He caused them** to be removed from the land, exactly how **He would begin** the process of bringing them back into the land.

How is it that we can understand how God used Rome to remove them from the land, in 70 AD... but we cannot wrap our minds around the fact that God used Hitler and Germany to bring about His plans and purposes to bring them back?

That was the **true kickoff to the end times**.. the last days...
God has everything now on an **exact timetable**. He is setting the stage for the last 7 years before Jesus Christ returns physically to Earth in Jerusalem at the battle of Armageddon... and that final 7 years will be set off by the Rapture and the signing by Israel of a 7 year peace deal with the Antichrist.

So, today... **the first part has been completed**... They're returning and have become a nation back in the land, but God has not yet put His Spirit into them... they do not yet know Him... He continues to blind them until He removes the blindness at just the right moment, for His Glory... when Jesus Christ returns at the end of the tribulation at the battle of Armageddon.

Last week someone asked, 'If the Rapture happens before the 7 year tribulation... who will be here to lead people to Christ?'

The answer... the same person who is drawing Jews and Muslims to Him self... the same person who drew you to Himself.. God, by His Holy Spirit. The same today, yesterday and forever...

I am the lord God Who changest NOT.

Now, we come to chaps 38-39... this great battle in which God destroys Israel's enemies but this is not the Battle of Armageddon.

Read Ezekiel 38:1-8, 13, 18-19, 21-23

First let's identify who these are...

Gog is the ruler, the government... Magog , Rosh, Tubal is Russia... historians have always known the identities of these nations...

Magog, Meshech and Tubal were brothers, sons of Japheth, the son on Noah from whom most of us are descended... the great wall of China was called the Ramparts of Magog, to keep out Magog. Rosh became Russia... Meshech became Moscow... Tubal became Tobolsk, the area east of Moscow...

When God said Gog, the prince of Rosh... He could just as well have said, Vladimir Putin, Prince of the Modern Russian Fed.

Persia is Iran... Ethiopia and Libya represent the Muslim Northern African Nations...

Gomer is another son of Japheth who settled in the Rhine and Danube valleys in SE Europe... there are many Muslims there today as the result of the conquests of the Muslim Byzantine and Ottoman Empires Togarmah was a son of Gomer who settled in the area of modern Turkey... The Kurds even today call themselves the house of Togarmah... Beth Togarmah...

This is a confederation of Muslim nations led by Russia... They will come down from the North, through Syria... they are in Syria now along with fighters from nearly every Muslim nation already...

They are steaming now, today through the Black sea, through the straits of Bosphorus and into the Mediterranean Sea to Syria, NOW!

This thing could happen any day... at God's command....

God will destroy them **upon the mountains of Israel...**

He will destroy 5/6 of these armies... leaving nothing to resist the Antichrist coming to power immediately on the heels of this war.

An interesting point is that 1007 years after this, at the end of Jesus' thousand year reign on the Earth, during which we will rule and reign with Him, Satan, who has been bound in the bottomless pit for that thousand years will be released for a moment. He will send demons out to gather the armies of those who have not submitted to the kingship of Jesus Christ to come toward Jerusalem one last time to oppose Christ... Gog and Magog are mentioned prominently in that scene. We'll get to all that later.

This is **not the Battle of Armageddon**, which happens 7 years later at Christ's return at the end of the Tribulation... many prominent nations are absent here and Zechariah tells us that all the nations will be involved in that greatest of all battles, Armageddon... when Jesus Christ will destroy all His enemies before setting up His 1000 year Millennial Kingdom at the end of the Tribulation...

The Battle of Armageddon occurs in the **valley of Megiddo**--west

This happens in the east... they are buried on the Eastern side of the Dead sea... near Dibon, Jordan... on the mountains and the valley where they fall... after the birds and beasts finish eating them...remember the real, total land of Israel, which God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob actually runs from the Med clear across Syria and Jordan to the river Euphrates in Iraq... it is a large place... and when Jesus returns He will give it all back to them.

Read Ezekiel 39, 1-13, 21-29

Another reason why we know this is not the Battle of Armageddon

They take seven years to burn the weapons as fuel during the 7 year Tribulation... that will not be necessary when Jesus Christ rules after the 7 year Tribulation...

In vs 28 He says that they shall know that He is their God... they will know that God saved and protected them... but they will not yet recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah... That will not come for seven more years.

Again... Right now... for us today... four major events are about to happen very soon, almost simultaneously... the first is happening all around us now... that is the great falling away in the Church... **the Great Apostasy**... the other 3 are... **This great Battle** with the destruction of Russia and most Muslim nations... the appearance of the **Antichrist**... not necessarily His coming to real power yet, but at least his coming out... and the **Rapture**.

We will study the **Rapture, Antichrist** and the **Apostasy** later.

What we can take away most today is that all of this is set up now... All of this could begin at any day... and what does that mean for us...

2 Pet 3: ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ^[c] ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.

Rom 13: ¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.