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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

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**“GOD VS GOG”**

**Ezekiel 39:1-29**

***Ezekiel 39:1 "Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I [am] against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:"***

***Ezekiel 39:2 "And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:"***

***Ezekiel 39:3 "And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand."***

***Ezekiel 39:4 "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that [is] with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and [to] the beasts of the field to be devoured."***

***Ezekiel 39:5 "Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken [it], saith the Lord GOD."***

God’s judgment against Gog continues in chapter 39. It describes the epic battle of Good vs Evil. After God has driven Gog’s armies into the land of Israel from the remotest parts of the north, God will weaken these forces and they will fall in battle on the mountains of Israel, becoming food for the birds and wild animals. This re-emphasizes the fact that God is against Gog. The reason for God being against them is because they did not believe in God and had totally rejected Him. This is a possible explanation of the details of the effect of God's attack upon them. It seems this vast army of Russia all die, except for one out of every six. This is speaking of the hopelessness of them fighting back against God. Who do they shoot? In despair, they just drop their bows and arrows. This speaks of them dying in such vast numbers, that there is no way, until this is over, to bury them. Their bodies will be eaten of the vultures of the air. Even the beasts passing by will eat their carcasses. There will be no one left to stop them.

***Ezekiel 39:6 "And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I [am] the LORD."***

***Ezekiel 39:7 "So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not [let them] pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I [am] the LORD, the Holy One in Israel."***

***Ezekiel 39:8 "Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this [is] the day whereof I have spoken."***

Many scholars believe Magog is Russia and the "isles that dwell carelessly" is speaking of the United States. We certainly are dwelling carelessly. This is speaking of a war and bombs, probably. Even though these are doing the fighting, the judgment is from God. God is just using them to bring the judgment. There will be no question that God is God. God will also punish Magog, the homeland of Gog, and all the people who sent their armies to attack Israel. Israel’s people themselves will come to regard God’s name as holy, and the nations will know that he is the Holy One in Israel. Terrible calamities return people to God. Perhaps, that is why they happen.

***Hebrews 12:6-7***

***6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

***7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?***

God's name is to be honored in all the world. The name that God is called by, tells us of the character of God. Sometimes, He is called Truth, because that is what He is. Sometimes, He is called Abba, an endearing name for the Father. His name, sometimes, shows His eternity, such as Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He, alone, is God Almighty; all the world will know. We read that the name of Jesus brings worship. This time will come, because God has spoken this.

***Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;"***

***Philippians 2:11 "And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***

***Ezekiel 39:9 "And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:"***

***Ezekiel 39:10 "So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down [any] out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD."***

The slaughter of this battle will be so great that its description almost defies the imagination. Many commentators have a hard time seeing a literal burning of the weapons, which would suggest they are like ancient wooden weapons that could be easily burned. But this is what the text says, and 39: 10 is even clearer, stating that during this period of seven years Israel would not need any other source of firewood. This speaks of using these weapons for burning, in the place of wood from the forest, to heat the homes. Whatever of value they had, will go to Israel. They were the victors, even though they did not fight the war. God fought for them. This speaks of the tremendous amounts of weapons that will be in the battle here. They were of no use. How can a person fight God? These seven years could be speaking spiritually. The number seven means spiritually complete. It could, also, be a literal number. The cleanup from such a devastation, would be a tremendous task.

***Ezekiel 39:11 "And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the [noses] of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call [it] The valley of Hamon-gog."***

After 4 days, a dead body begins to smell badly. This is speaking of a smell so bad, that the people on ships, passing in the Mediterranean Sea, will cover their noses, to keep from smelling the terrible odor. The odor will cause the Israelis to give them a place for graves, in their land. I believe this burial place to be in the valley of Megiddo. Wherever it was, it was a terrible scene.

***Ezekiel 39:12 "And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land."***

***Ezekiel 39:13 "Yea, all the people of the land shall bury [them]; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD."***

There were so many dead, they would be continually burying them. It speaks highly of Israel, that they buried them, instead of just piling them up, and burning them, as some countries would do. Israel has respect for bodies. The burial time for Gog’s troops also suggests the extent of the slaughter seven months of burials in order to cleanse the land as the surrounding nations hear of the great victory God gave Israel and see his glory on display. This would be a monumental task, even for all the people, to bury them. They would all feel the necessity to bury them, to stop the horrible odor.

***Ezekiel 39:14 "And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search."***

***Ezekiel 39:15 "And the passengers [that] pass through the land, when [any] seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog."***

***Ezekiel 39:16 "And also the name of the city [shall be] Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land."***

The importance in Israel of burying every bone so as not to defile the land with unburied corpses will lead to a full-time cadre of men searching for remains for seven months, during which they will find so many that the gravediggers will live in their own city until the job is done. It seems as if, even the whole population burying them for seven months, was not enough. They, now, hire people to go around, and find the ones they missed, and bury them. "Hamon-Gog" means the multitude of Gog. Everyone who found a bone from a dead body, put a flag up by it, so that the professional buriers will find it, and bury it. "Hamonah" means multitude. This city shall rise out of the rubble of the grave place of Gog. The multitude speaks of the multitude of dead.

***Ezekiel 39:17 "And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, [even] a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood."***

***Ezekiel 39:18 "Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan."***

***Ezekiel 39:19 "And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you."***

***Ezekiel 39:20 "Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD."***

God will also announce a “feast” to the creatures of Israel to fatten themselves on the corpses of Gog’s troops, which is a reversal of God’s usual sacrificial feast in which people eat the flesh of animals. This time, God will prepare the meal. This is speaking of the same battle, as the one above. This is just re- emphasizing the magnitude of the destruction. This is speaking of all vultures that eat flesh. It is, also, speaking of wild beasts that eat flesh. When they fall in battle, it will make no difference whether they were generals or a privates. The vultures know no rank. The rams, lambs, goats, and bullocks are speaking symbolically of the different soldiers. Again, this is speaking of this as a very large killing ground. It seems, there is no limit, to how full the vultures will be. This is like a sacrifice to God. This is saying that even their horses, are killed along with them. We must remind ourselves; this is not Satan doing this. The Lord GOD does this. He is a just God. He has judged them, and now, this is their punishment for their years of sin.

***Ezekiel 39:21 "And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them."***

***Ezekiel 39:22 "So the house of Israel shall know that I [am] the LORD their God from that day and forward."***

***Ezekiel 39:23 "And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword."***

***Ezekiel 39:24 "According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them."***

The one really important thing to see in these verses, is the effect this judgment from God has on the rest of the heathen, and also, on Israel. This battle will leave a lasting impression upon Israel. They had seen God operate in their behalf before, but never to this magnitude. LORD, here is Jehovah. God is expressing that judgment truly began at the house of God. Israel was not allowed to go on worshipping false gods. God did not overlook her transgression. He let many of Israel die by the sword, because of their sins. It was not God's inability to protect Israel. It was God's judgment on Israel. When Gog and his companions came against Israel, God showed His might. He had not forgotten about Russia and her companions. God was giving them time to repent. God hid His face from Israel, when they were involved in false worship. He hid His face from Gog, and their companions, when they rejected Him, as their God. Two results of this stunning defeat of Gog will be that the nations will see God’s glory manifested, as noted above, and Israel will turn back to God after experiencing his judgment.

***Ezekiel 39:25 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;"***

***Ezekiel 39:26 "After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made [them] afraid."***

When Jacob is mentioned, it is speaking of the 12 tribes of Israel. This is a time, when the tribes are reunited, and Israel is forgiven of God, and accepted back as His wife. Israel was brought back, when she repented of her idolatries, and returned to the One True God. They were punished for their unfaithfulness to God. They are not afraid, because they are back in good standing with God. God will take care of them, as He did in this great battle. If this battle occurs during the tribulation, it will help prepare for Israel’s restoration in Christ’s millennial kingdom when God will restore the fortunes of Jacob by bringing his people back to their land where they will live securely with no one to frighten them.

***Ezekiel 39:27 "When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;"***

***Ezekiel 39:28 "Then shall they know that I [am] the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there."***

***Ezekiel 39:29 "Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."***

Just before this terrible war, God had brought them back from all the nations where they had been scattered. We know that in Germany, alone, about one sixth of the Jews were killed in World War 2. They were brutally rounded up and killed unnecessarily. In Russia, many have been killed, as well. Because of the secrecy, no one knows for sure how many have been killed. God will curse those who curse Israel. He will bless those who bless Israel. God scattered them for the sins in their lives. He brings them back because He is a merciful God. He has forgiven them. Not one Israelite will be left behind when Jesus Christ returns and institutes the new covenant of salvation and restoration with his people. This speaks of the Lord destroying them before they get to the cities.

***Jeremiah 31:34 "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who is this prophecy directed to?
2. God turns them back, and leaves but a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part of them.
3. What is verse 3 speaking of?
4. Where will their dead bodies fall?
5. God gives their dead bodies to what?
6. God sends a fire on what two places?

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ return people to God.
8. The name of God reveals to us His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. How long will it take the people of Israel to burn the weapons of the fallen soldiers?

10. What will they use the weapons for?

11. How bad will the smell of the dead bodies be?

12. What will be the name of their burying place?

13. How long will the house of Israel be burying their enemies?

14. After this period of time, what do they do to get rid of any remaining bodies?

15. What does "Hamon-Gog" mean?

16. "Hamonah" means what?

17. What does God call these dead bodies in verse 17?

18. What preference was shown to officers?

19. What effect does this great tragedy have on the rest of the world?

20. Judgment truly began at the house of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

21. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those who curse Israel.

22. God scattered them, because of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their lives.

23. God brings them back, because He is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.