Ezekiel 39

Gog Destroyed: His Face No Longer Hidden

OBSERVATION · INTERPRETATION · APPLICATION

"These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

Acts 17:11

CHAPTER THEME

The enemy that came to plunder becomes firewood, graves and food for the birds, and God's holy name is made known. Then God explains everything — Israel went into exile because of their own sin, not because He was weak. And the last word is mercy: no one left behind, His face no longer hidden, His Spirit poured out.

Ed Smith · Started 20 October 2026

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00 The Text

EZEKIEL 39 (KJV), MARKED

▲ Gold God — His character & actions | Green Command / instruction | ⇄ Sky Key repeated word
⚠ Rose Sin / warning | ★ Violet Promise / blessing | ◷ Amber Time / place / contrast

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:

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:

3 And ▲ I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

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.

5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: ▲ for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

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.

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.

8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken.

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:

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.

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 Hamongog.

12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, Green that they may cleanse the land.

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.

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.

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 Hamongog.

16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

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.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

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;

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.

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;

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.

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.

Marked in the text

- **v1** Behold, I am against thee, O Gog
- **v3** I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand
- **v4** Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel
- **v5** for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD
- **v6** they shall know that I am the LORD
- **v7** So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel
- **v7** holy name *(every occurrence)*
- **v7** I will not let them pollute my holy name any more
- **v7** the Holy One in Israel
- **v9** burn them with fire seven years
- **v10** they shall spoil those that spoiled them
- **v11** The valley of Hamongog
- **v12** that they may cleanse the land
- **v17** gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice
- **v21** I will set my glory among the heathen
- **v22** shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward
- **v23** went into captivity for their iniquity

- **v23** ⚠ because they trespassed against me
- **v23** ⚠ therefore hid I my face from them
- **v25** ★ Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob
- **v25** ★ have mercy upon the whole house of Israel
- **v25** ▲ will be jealous for my holy name
- **v26** ⚠ After that they have borne their shame
- **v29** ★ Neither will I hide my face any more from them
- **v29** ★ I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel

Marks are drawn on the KJV text. Quotations in the notes are from the NASB95, so their wording may differ from the KJV above.

01 Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

KEY VERSE · EZEKIEL 39:7 (KJV)

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.

Setting

Chapter 39 continues the oracle against Gog from chapter 38 without a new date or heading. Taylor, in Guzik: "The overthrow of Gog and his forces is here retold in different language and in fuller detail." Chapter 38 showed the invasion and God's fury; chapter 39 shows the aftermath — the weapons, the graves, the feast for the birds — and ends by looking back on the exile and forward to Israel's full restoration. It closes the section of restoration prophecies (chs 33–39) before the temple vision (chs 40–48).

Structure

- vv1–8 — **Gog defeated:** "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal" (v1). God will "take you up from the remotest parts of the north" (v2), then "strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand" (v3). "You will fall on the mountains of Israel" (v4), given "as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field" (v4). "I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety" (v6). "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" (v7). "Behold, it is coming and it shall be done ... That is the day of which I have spoken" (v8).
- vv9–10 — **the weapons burned:** Israel burns the weapons — "for seven years they will make fires of them" (v9) — and needs no wood from the forests. "They will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them" (v10).
- vv11–16 — **the burial:** a burial ground in "the valley of those who pass by east of the sea," and "they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog" (v11). "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land" (v12). It brings Israel renown "on the day that I glorify Myself" (v13). Search teams "constantly pass through the land" (v14); anyone who sees a bone "will set up a marker by it" (v15). "And even the name of the city will be Hamonah" (v16).

- vv17–20 — **the feast for the birds:** "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice" — "a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood" (v17). "You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth" (v18). "You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers" (v20).
- vv21–24 — **why the exile happened:** "I will set My glory among the nations" (v21). "The house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward" (v22). The nations will know "the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them" (v23). "According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them" (v24).
- vv25–29 — **mercy and the Spirit:** "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name" (v25). "They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery" (v26). "I will leave none of them there any longer" (v28). "I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel" (v29).

Repeated words

declares the Lord GOD (vv5, 8, 10, 13, 20, 29); know that I am the LORD (vv6, 7, 22, 28); holy name (vv7, 25); nations (vv7, 21, 23, 27, 28); seven (vv9, 12, 14); bury / burying / buried (vv11, 12, 13, 14, 15); cleanse (vv12, 14, 16); sacrifice (vv17, 19); hid / hide My face (vv23, 24, 29).

Contrasts

Gog's bow and arrows (v3) ⟷ weapons used as firewood (v9). Plunderers (38:12) ⟷ plundered (v10). Gog came for spoil ⟷ Gog gets a grave (v11). A feast of sacrifice — but the nations are the sacrifice (v17). Israel exiled for treachery (v23) ⟷ restored by mercy (v25). "I hid My face from them" (vv23–24) ⟷ "I will not hide My face from them any longer" (v29). His name profaned ⟷ "I will be jealous for My holy name" (v25).

Chapter theme (my words)

The enemy that came to plunder becomes firewood, graves and food for the birds, and God's holy name is made known. Then God explains everything — Israel went into exile because of their own sin, not because He was weak. And the last word is mercy: no one left behind, His face no longer hidden, His Spirit poured out.

02 Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

KEY VERSE · EZEKIEL 39:25 (KJV)

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;

Gog disarmed (vv1–8)

God repeats the sentence against Gog and adds detail. He leads Gog out and then knocks the weapons from his hands. Clarke, in Guzik: "The bow is held by the left hand; the arrow is pulled and discharged by the right." Feinberg, in Guzik: "They fail, as always, to take God into account." Unburied bodies were a mark of disgrace. Fire also falls on Magog and on the distant "coastlands" — Guzik says these are far-off regions, not a specific modern nation, and rejects speculation about the United States. The goal is God's name: Block, in Guzik: "The Gog debacle will demonstrate once and for all the holiness of Yahweh." "It is coming and it shall be done" (v8) speaks of the future as already certain.

Seven years of firewood (vv9–10)

The amount of abandoned equipment is so vast it fuels Israel for seven years. Guzik reads this as a picture of the size of the defeat. Feinberg, in Guzik: "The plunderers will be plundered and the robbers will be robbed." Wiersbe, in Guzik: "These are not the weapons of a modern army, but Ezekiel used language the people could understand." Vawter and Hoppe, in Guzik: "It will be the final battle, whose conclusion will make armaments obsolete." Readers differ on how literally to take the details. Those who expect a literal future invasion take the numbers as real; others read the seven years and seven months as symbols of completeness — a total, final victory. Either way, Israel lifts no sword.

Seven months of burial (vv11–16)

Corpses defile the land (Num 19:11–16; Deut 21:23), so the land must be cleansed. The scale is enormous. Vawter and Hoppe, in Guzik: "Their work will take seven months, so immense were Gog's forces." Guzik describes an organized work — full-time crews, search teams and markers over bones. "Hamon-gog" means "the multitude of Gog," and Wiersbe, in Guzik, connects "Hamonah" to "horde" and suggests it may be a headquarters for the cleanup. The location is given only as "the valley of those who pass by east of the sea," and Guzik offers no further identification.

God's sacrificial feast (vv17–20)

The image is turned upside down: usually people eat from a sacrifice offered to God; here God invites the birds and beasts, and the proud armies are the sacrifice. The leaders and warriors are slaughtered "as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls" (v18). Wright, in Guzik: "But every Israelite had watched the blood flowing at the sacrifices." John uses this image for the aftermath of Christ's return in Revelation 19:17–21, and he names Gog and Magog again after the thousand years (Rev 20:7–9). Guzik suggests John may be borrowing Ezekiel's imagery as examples for those events rather than declaring them the direct fulfillment. Premillennial readers see one or more literal future battles;

amillennial readers see Ezekiel 38–39 and Revelation 19–20 describing the same final defeat of evil at Christ's return.

Why the exile happened (vv21–24)

The battle is a lesson for both Israel and the nations. Israel will know the LORD "from that day onward" (v22). The nations will understand that Babylon's victory in 586 BC did not mean Israel's God had lost. Poole, in Guzik: "they shall see it was not impotence in Israel's God, but iniquity in Israel's people." God "hid His face" — withdrew His protection — because they "acted treacherously" against Him (Deut 31:17–18).

Mercy and the Spirit (vv25–29)

"Now" turns from the far future back to the hope of Ezekiel's hearers and beyond. God restores out of mercy and zeal for His name, not their merit. Meyer, in Guzik: "We must never overlook the literal significance of this promise." NASB reads "They will forget their disgrace" (v26), while KJV reads "borne their shame" — the Hebrew can be read either way; both point to shame dealt with. Morgan, in Guzik: "repentance for past failure would be profound, even in the day of restoration." God will leave no exile behind (v28). And the final promise: no more hidden face, because "I will have poured out My Spirit" (v29; 36:27; 37:14). Guzik ties this to Israel's coming salvation (Rom 11:26) and notes, citing Taylor, that the tense speaks of something so certain it is described as done. Christians also see a first outpouring at Pentecost (Joel 2:28–29; Acts 2:16–18).

Word study (Hebrew)

- **bow — *qesheth* (H7198):** a bow for shooting arrows.
- **arrows — *chets* (H2671):** an arrow.
- **predatory bird — *ʿayit* (H5861):** a bird of prey.
- **coastlands — *ʾi* (H339):** coast, island, distant lands.
- **profaned — *chalal* (H2490):** to pollute, treat as common.
- **Holy One — *qadosh* (H6918):** holy, sacred, set apart.
- **weapons — *nesheq* (H5402):** arms, armor, weapons.
- **multitude (Hamon-gog) — *hamon* (H1995):** a crowd, multitude, tumult.
- **bury — *qabar* (H6912):** to bury.
- **cleanse — *taher* (H2891):** to be clean, purify.
- **sacrifice — *zebach* (H2077):** a slaughtered sacrifice.
- **glory — *kabod* (H3519):** weight, honor, glory.
- **hid — *sathar* (H5641):** to hide, conceal.
- **mercy — *racham* (H7355):** to have compassion, love deeply.
- **disgrace — *kelimmah* (H3639):** shame, reproach, disgrace.
- **poured out — *shaphak* (H8210):** to pour out, spill.

Cross-references

Num 19:11–16; Deut 21:23; Deut 31:17–18; Ps 46:8–10; Ps 76:3; Isa 2:4; Isa 54:7–8; Jer 30:10–11; Ezek 36:22–27; Ezek 37:14; Joel 2:28–29; Zech 12:10; Acts 2:16–18; Rom 11:25–27; Eph 1:13–14; Rev 19:17–21; Rev 20:7–

10.

03 Application

HOW DOES IT CHANGE ME?

KEY VERSE · EZEKIEL 39:29 (KJV)

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.

Command to obey — cleanse the land

(v12). Israel didn't just win; they spent seven months cleaning up, marking every bone until it was buried. Victory over an old enemy still leaves debris. In recovery, the men I walk with have to clear out the stash, the phone numbers, the old routes home. I have cleanup of my own to finish too. I'll keep at it until the land is clean.

Sin to confess — treachery against God

God says plainly why Israel went into exile: "for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me" (v23). I can't blame my hard seasons all on others or on God's weakness. Some of what I went through I brought on myself. I confess it without excuses.

Warning to heed — the God who hides His face

God withdrew His protection from people who kept walking away from Him (vv23–24). That's sobering. Sin has consequences — prison, broken homes, wasted years — and the men I serve know it. I won't treat God's patience as permission.

Promise to trust — "I will not hide My face from them any longer"

(v29). This is the promise for the man who thinks God has turned His back on him forever. God's last word is mercy: He restores, gathers, leaves no one behind (v28), and pours out His Spirit. For the man in a cell who believes he's too far gone, God's face is turned toward him in Jesus.

Example to follow — let God fight

Israel never lifted a weapon in this battle; they only picked up the pieces. When I'm tempted to fight every battle in my own strength, I'll remember who knocked the bow out of Gog's hand. My part is to trust and obey.

Worship

The Lord GOD makes His holy name known. He disarms the proud, turns weapons into firewood, and sets His glory among the nations. He disciplines with justice, restores with mercy, and pours out His Spirit. He is the Holy One in Israel.

Prayer

Holy One, thank You that You fight battles I could never win. Forgive my treachery and my excuses. Help me finish the cleanup in my own life, and help the men I walk with clear out every trace of the old enemy. Turn Your face toward us. Pour out Your Spirit on us, and make Your holy name known through our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.