

Ezekiel – Attack of Gog

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Daniel 2:44 is perhaps **the seminal scripture on the establishment of the Kingdom**. The Attack of Gog comes after the establishment of the Kingdom, when **New Israel is well established** (Ez38:8a). Gog is unaware, but he is being used by God as **an object lesson** (Ez38:16b). The object lesson is not only **for the nations**, but also **for New Israel** (Ez39:7).

The Mainstream of Civilization: Nebuchadnezzar's vision defines the "**mainstream of civilization**" from the time of Daniel until the inception of the Kingdom of God (Dn2:37,38b-40,44). The **peoples and tribal groups associated with Gog** were on the "**periphery**" of the "mainstream of civilization" (Ez38:1-6). At the time of Ezekiel, the "mainstream of civilization" was the **fertile crescent**. Nebuchadnezzar's image outlined the westward progression of the "mainstream of civilization", through Greece to the **Roman Empire**; from there to Europe; today, **Western Civilization**, as defined by the Judeo-Christian ethic. In Western Civilization most people have some knowledge of Jesus Christ. The majority of the human race in Asia and Africa has little or no knowledge of Jesus Christ – **the nations on the periphery**.

A Very Complicated Literary Structure: Chapters 38 and 39 are a very complicated composition. **God addresses Ezekiel** using well know nations, peoples, and locations **in Ezekiel's contemporary setting**. But, God makes it clear to Ezekiel that **the prophecy is for the end-time**, so the nations, peoples, and locations of his time have to be symbolic. The individual, "Gog", does NOT exist in the ancient world; he will exist in the end-time, though the name may be symbolic. God talks to Ezekiel in terms of Ezekiel's contemporary situation, but the actual events will only occur at the end-time.

Identifying Features of the Attack of Gog: The object of the attack is New Israel (Ez38:18a). New Israel will have been established long enough to acquire wealth (Ez38:11bα,12bβ,12aα). God is in control: God summons Gog and the hordes (Ez38:16bα). God's purpose is an object lesson for the nations and for Israel (Ez39:7aα,7b).

The Summons to Gog: Gog may NOT realize it, but his actions are at the behest of God, **"be ready and keep ready"**, **"after many days you will be mustered"**, (Ez38:7-9).

Gog Thinks He is in Control: God demonstrates his control by documenting Gog's motivation, **"thoughts will come into your mind"**. His motivation is greed, **"to seize spoil and carry off plunder"**, (Ez38:10-13).

God Reveals His Purpose: The attack of Gog is an object lesson for all the nations (Ez38:14-16). Gog and the hordes which he commands are identified as coming from **"the uttermost parts of the north"**.

A Great Earthquake: God challenges Gog by reference to former prophecies, **"are you he of whom I spoke"**, (Ez38:17-20). There will be **"a great earthquake"** felt by **"all the people who are on the face of the earth"**.

God's Objective: Gog is a straw man set up to be destroyed by God, **"I will show my greatness and my holiness"**, **"in the eyes of many nations"**, **"then they will know that I am the LORD"**, (Ez38:21-23).

Destruction of Gog: God announces his judgement of Gog and his hordes, **"you shall fall on the mountains of Israel"**, **"you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you"** (Ez39:1-6).

God Restates His Purpose: God makes sure, in no uncertain terms, that Israel and the nations will know that God will accomplish his Plan, **"my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel"**, (Ez39:7-8). The object lesson's being for Israel may suggest this is the second generation of New Israel (see Jsh24:31, Jdg2:10-13, Jr2:2b-7).

Gog's Supply Train: A vast army requires enormous supplies in terms of food, weapons, and other materials. The details of this have to be taken as purely symbolic, since no modern army has **"wooden weapons"** (Ez39:9-10)

Gog's Final Resting Place: **"I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel"**. **"Hamon-gog"** means **"multitude of Gog"**; **"Hamonah"** means **"multitude"** (Ez39:11-16). **"Hamonah"** may be a symbolic for **"Jerusalem"** (Ez5:7, 7:11-13, 23:42).

Parallel to the Battle of Armageddon: **"Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts"**, **"You shall eat the flesh of the mighty"**, Compare Ez39:17-20 with Rv19:17-18. The "feasting" occurs over the seven months.

Implications of the Attack of Gog: We will either be unable to get the Gospel into the nations on the periphery before the attack; or, there will be little or no acceptance of the Gospel by the nations on the periphery. In any case, there will be lot of cleanup to do after the attack (Ez38:19b-20)!