

Chapters 38 and 39 are some of the most intriguing and difficult to understand in Ezekiel. Yet the basic idea is easy to discern—a mighty enemy of Israel, attempting to destroy God’s people, will instead be utterly destroyed by God!

Some have suggested that since Babylon is not mentioned in any of the other judgments against the nations detailed in Ezekiel, that Babylon and all she represents as the enemies and destroyers of God’s people, is the focus of the Gog of Magog prophecy.

Centuries later, in Revelation, a similar enemy arises against the church of Christ. Using the language of Ezekiel, this enemy is called “Gog and Magog” (Rev. 20:8). Again, whomever this enemy may be, they will not succeed, but shall be destroyed by the Lord! Thus, God reassures His faithful people, then and now, of His protection.

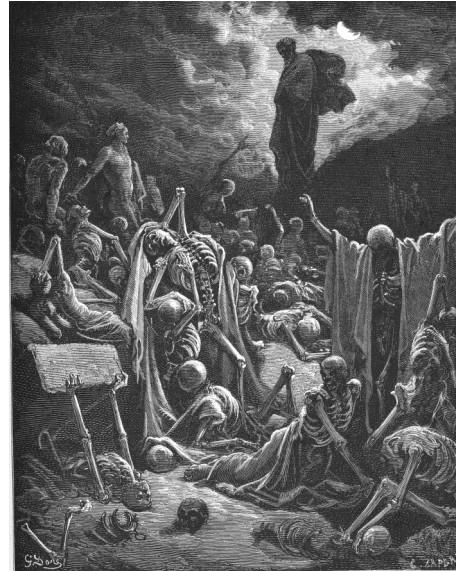
“and the name of the city from that day shall be:
THE LORD IS THERE”

After all the “lamentations, mourning and woe” (2:10), the Book of Ezekiel ends on a beautiful and comforting note (48:35). Several years after the graphic portrayal of God’s departure from the Temple and the city in chapters 8–11, Ezekiel receives a series of visions detailing the bright future of the nation (chapters 40–48).

Beginning in **chapter 40**, Ezekiel is treated to a series of visions revealing a new Temple, a new city, and a new nation that enjoys the protection and favor of God. Like much else in Ezekiel, there are some things hard to understand in this section. Again, however, the big picture is discernible. Israel will be restored in her relationship to God, in worship and in life, and God will dwell with His people.

Sound commentators refer the fulfillment of this section of Ezekiel to the Messianic age and “spiritual Israel” (Gal. 6:16)—the provision of the Lamb of God who takes away sin and the establishment of His church. Similar language appears in the closing chapters of Revelation, assuring us that enemies and tribulations cannot overthrow God’s plans for the faithful and their bright and happy future.

Ezekiel 37-48
“The Lord is There”



Reading Schedule

- Monday: 37-39
- Tuesday: 40-41
- Wednesday: 42-43
- Thursday: 44-46
- Friday: 47-48

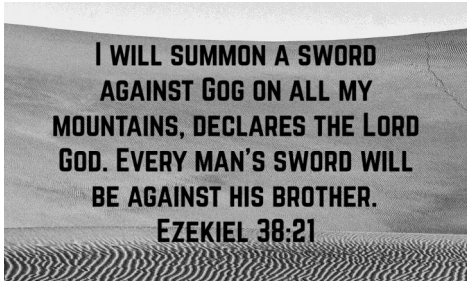
For seven years (chapters 1-33), Ezekiel had prophesied of “...lamentations, mourning and woe” (2:10). In 33:21, the destruction of Jerusalem is realized. The nation was at its lowest point since the rigors of the Egyptian Captivity—lower even!

God explains that this disaster befell the nation because of “persistent unfaithfulness” (14:13). But God also explains “...you shall know that I have done nothing without cause...” (14:23). God was purging idolatry from Israel! A remnant would be spared and Judah would be comforted (14:22-23).

For the next fifteen years (covering chapters 34-48), Ezekiel’s visions and prophecies explain the discipline and offer comfort and hope to the nation. God has not cast them off forever; they are not a dead nation; His purposes and promises to Abraham, to David, and to the nation, will be fulfilled!

In all that God did to Judah (usually addressed as “Israel” throughout Ezekiel), He was not just *destroying*, He was *disciplining* (16:2, 61-63). God wanted the remnant to feel ashamed of what the nation had done. (Read Daniel 9:1-16.)

Could the nation be restored to God’s favor? Was all lost? Were they forever cut off from God? **Chapter 37** answers these questions. In this chapter Ezekiel is shown a valley full of bones, like some killing field of some genocide, filled with the remains of the dead. The Lord asks, “Can these bones live?” (These bones represent Israel [37:11]). Suddenly, the bones rattle and begin to assemble, sinews and flesh appear on them, and before long, Ezekiel beholds “an exceedingly great army” (37:10). God would resurrect the nation! This resurrected nation would fulfill God’s design of bringing the Redeemer into the world!



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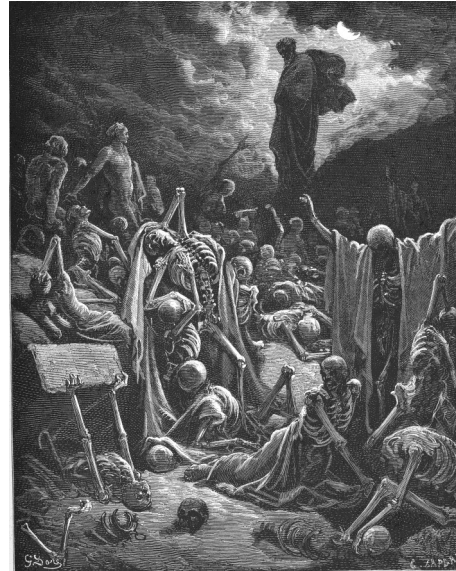
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