



Square Halo Books

## Selections from *The End: A Reader's Guide to Revelation*

### EZEKIEL 38, 39

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 contain a prophecy against Gog and Magog that is referred to in Revelation 20:8 at Satan's gathering of the nations for battle. The reference to Gog and Magog in Revelation 20 is designed to clarify that Revelation 20 and Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe the same events. Ezekiel 37 leads into this section with a description of the restoration of Israel that includes the making of an everlasting covenant of peace, and God's sanctuary among them forever. This is clearly a promise to be fulfilled in the new Jerusalem at the end.

Gog was a chief ruler of Meshech and Tubal, and Magog is thought to be the country where he lived. What makes Gog such a fearful figure is that he comes with an army described as hordes and a cloud covering the land. This army is gathered from many nations. Persia, Cush, and Put are mentioned as being included among the nations who participate in this gathering.

The description of the inhabitants of the holy land in Ezekiel 38 fits the reestablishment of national Israel that has occurred during the twentieth century.

*Ezekiel 38:8f After many days you (Gog) will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.*

Gog represents the Man of Lawlessness who gathers the nations to attack Israel. In Revelation 20:8, Gog and Magog are connected with the release of Satan and the gathering of the nations for battle. Those who are gathered are "like the sand on the seashore." The horde of people gathered by the Man of Lawlessness surround "the camp of God's people, the city he loves" (Jerusalem), and attack it. Beginning in Ezekiel 38:18, many passages similar to the descriptions of the end are found in Revelation and elsewhere. When Gog (the Man of Lawlessness) attacks Israel:

*Ezekiel 38:19 In my zeal and fiery wrath I (God) declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel (see Zech. 14:4f, Rev. 6:12, 11:13, 16:18.)*

*Ezekiel 38:21f Every man's sword will be against his brother (see Zech. 14:13.) I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulphur on him and on his troops and the many nations with him (see Daniel 8:25, Rev. 11:19, 16:21, 20:9.)*

*Ezekiel 39:4-6 On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals. You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in safety in the coastlands, and they will know that I am the Lord (see Rev. 19:17-21, 20:9.)*

*Ezekiel 39:17-20 Son of man, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink blood till you are drunk. At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,' declares the Sovereign Lord (see Rev. 19:17-21.)*



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The descriptions of animals eating the corpses and drinking their blood discredits the view that some have held, based on Zechariah 14:12, that God destroys the nations who gather to attack Israel through nuclear weapons. Such weapons would destroy not only the enemies, but would kill the birds and animals who are called to consume the corpses. For no reason would God need to use modern human technology to destroy his opponents.

At the conclusion of Ezekiel 39, God promises to pour out his Spirit on the house of Israel. This is consistent with Romans 11:25f, where Paul asserts that after the full number of the Gentiles have come in, all Israel will be saved.