EZEKIEL 39

Gog’s Defeat and God’s Holy Name

> *“I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel.”*
> EZEKIEL 39:29

Where Ezekiel has brought us

1. Ezekiel 39 continues the oracle against Gog from chapter 38 with no new date or heading.

2. This chapter closes the long section of restoration prophecies (chapters 33–39) before the temple vision of chapters 40–48.

Gog Disarmed

God knocks the bow from Gog's hand and makes His holy name known.

EZEKIEL 39:3

"I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik, passing on Clarke, explains the picture in verse 3: 'The bow is held by the left hand; the arrow is pulled and discharged by the right.'

WHAT IT MEANS

God repeats the sentence on Gog and adds detail. He leads Gog out, then knocks the weapons from his hands (v3).

chalal (חָלַל)

CHALAL · "TO PROFANE"

Chalal means to pollute, to treat as common — the opposite of holy. God says, "I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore" (v7).

Seven Years of Firewood

The invaders' weapons keep Israel's fires burning for seven years.

EZEKIEL 39:9

"Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, and for seven years they will make fires of them.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik reads the seven years as a picture of the size of the defeat — so much abandoned equipment that it fuels a nation. Quoting Feinberg: 'The plunderers will be plundered and the robbers will be robbed.'

WHAT IT MEANS

Israel did not fight this battle; they only picked up the pieces. For seven years they need no wood from the field or the forest, and "they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them" (v10).

nesheq (נֶשֶׁק)
NESHEQ · "WEAPONS"

Nesheq means arms, armor, weapons. Verse 9 lists them — "shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears" — and Israel turns every one into fuel: "they will make fires with the weapons" (v10).

After the Battle

After the Battle

Ezekiel 39:9–20 · what is left of Gog's great army

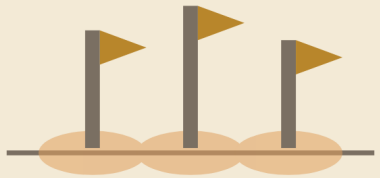


7 years

weapons become firewood

vv9–10

no wood from the forests



7 months

burial cleanses the land

vv11–16

the valley of Hamon-gog



My sacrifice

birds and beasts invited

vv17–20

the proud are the offering

Israel lifts no sword — God makes His holy name known (v7)

Seven years of firewood, seven months of burial, and God's great sacrifice — Israel lifts no sword.

Seven Months of Burial

Israel buries Gog's horde in Hamon-gog to cleanse the land, marking every bone.

EZEKIEL 39:11

"On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog.

DAVID GUZIK

Passing on Vawter and Hoppe, Guzik notes the scale: 'Their work will take seven months, so immense were Gog's forces.'

WHAT IT MEANS

Victory over an enemy still leaves debris. For seven months the whole house of Israel buries the dead (v12).

taher (טָהֵר)

TAHER · "TO CLEANSE"

Taher means to be clean, to purify. It is the goal of the whole burial: "in order to cleanse the land" (v12), repeated in verses 14 and 16.

God's Sacrificial Feast

Birds and beasts are invited to a sacrifice — and the proud armies are the offering.

EZEKIEL 39:17

"As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.

DAVID GUZIK

Passing on Wright, Guzik reminds us how Ezekiel's hearers would picture this: 'But every Israelite had watched the blood flowing at the sacrifices.'

WHAT IT MEANS

The leaders and warriors are slaughtered "as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan" (v18). The birds will be "glutted at My table with horses and charioteers" (v20).

zebach (זֶבַח)

ZEBACH · "SACRIFICE"

Zebach is a slaughtered sacrifice, the kind from which worshipers ate. The word comes again and again here: "My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel" (v17).

Why the Exile Happened

Israel fell because of its own treachery, not because its God was weak.

EZEKIEL 39:21

"And I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them.

DAVID GUZIK

The battle teaches both Israel and the nations.

WHAT IT MEANS

God sets His glory among the nations so that everyone sees His judgment (v21).

sathar (סָתַר)

SATHAR · "TO HIDE"

Sathar means to hide, to conceal. Twice God says, "I hid My face from them" (vv23, 24).

From a Hidden Face to a Turned Face



God explains the exile as the fruit of Israel's treachery, then promises mercy, a full regathering and His Spirit poured out.

Mercy and the Spirit Poured Out

God restores the whole house of Israel, leaves no one behind, and turns His face toward them.

EZEKIEL 39:26

"They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik, quoting Meyer: 'We must never overlook the literal significance of this promise.'

WHAT IT MEANS

"Now" (v25) turns from the far future back to the hope of Ezekiel's hearers and beyond.

shaphak (שָׁפַךְ)

SHAPHAK · "TO POUR OUT"

Shaphak means to pour out, to spill. In the chapter's last verse God pours out not wrath but His Spirit: "for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel" (v29).

What to carry from this chapter

1

Left hand, right hand.

Guzik, passing on Clarke, notes the bow is held in the left hand and the arrow drawn with the right; God strikes both (v3).

2

Profaned no more.

Chalal means to treat as common; God will not let His holy name be profaned anymore (v7).

3

The plunderers plundered.

Israel takes “the spoil of those who despoiled them” and burns the weapons for seven years (vv9–10).

4

Cleanup takes time.

For seven months Israel buries the dead and marks every bone “in order to cleanse the land” (vv12–15).

More to carry

5

The sacrifice turned upside down.

In God's great sacrifice the birds are the guests and the proud armies are the offering (vv17–20).

6

Iniquity, not impotence.

Guzik, quoting Poole: the exile showed 'not impotence in Israel's God, but iniquity in Israel's people.'

7

A face hidden, a face turned.

Sathar, to hide, describes the exile (vv23–24) — and God promises to hide His face no longer (v29).

8

No one left behind.

God will "leave none of them there any longer" and pour out His Spirit (vv28–29).

Talk it through

1. Israel never lifted a weapon; they only picked up the pieces. What battle are you trying to win in your own strength?

2. Why did Israel spend seven months burying the dead? What cleanup is still unfinished in your life after God gave you a victory?

3. God says Israel went into exile “for their iniquity.” Why does it matter that we own our part in the hard seasons we have lived through?

4. What does it mean to you that God will “not hide My face from them any longer”?

CLOSING

The army that came to plunder became firewood, graves and a feast for the birds, and God's holy name was made known. God told the truth about the exile — it was Israel's sin, not His weakness — and then He spoke the last word: mercy. His face is no longer hidden, and His Spirit is poured out.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides and reflection journal: see the Ezekiel study page.