**Numerous Bible teachers, rather than remaining with the Word, teaching that which the Word clearly states about Israel and the nations, often find themselves taking liberties with the Word, teaching things completely contrary to the Word. And numerous Christians, who should know better, but don’t, are being misled on every hand.**

**“Never Again!” or “Yes, Again!”***The Prophets Have Spoken!*

**By Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

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**FOREWORD**

This book, ["Never Again!" or "Yes, Again!" by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/NAYA.htm), is about Israel and the nations in the Middle East — a subject which has increasingly attracted the attention of many of today’s Bible teachers. And an interest in and study about Israel and the nations is exactly as conditions should exist, for we can only be living very near the end of the present dispensation, portending the nearness of events which must transpire on the earth before Man’s 6,000-year Day ends (events concluding Daniel’s Seventy-Week prophecy, *the time of Jacob’s trouble*) and the Lord’s 1,000-year Day begins (the time into which Daniel’s prophecy leads, *the Messianic Era*).

But there is *a problem, A MAJOR PROBLEM!*

Numerous Bible teachers, rather than remaining with the Word, teaching that which the Word clearly states about Israel and the nations, often find themselves taking liberties with the Word, teaching things completely contrary to the Word. And numerous Christians, who should know better, but don’t, are being misled on every hand.

The crux of the matter can be set forth in a twofold manner, asking two interrelated but antithetical questions:

*1) Is the present existing nation of Israel the result of God, since May 14, 1948, progressively fulfilling any or all of His numerous promises to one day restore the Jewish people to their land?*

*2) Or, is this present existing nation to be seen and understood as something else, something completely separate from the fulfillment of any of God’s promises to one day restore His people to their land?*

And how a person views this matter is *no small thing*. Rather, this is something *MAJOR, VERY MAJOR!*

As will be clearly shown throughout this book, the correct Biblical position can only be seen in *the second part of the preceding*, not in the first part, though that seen in the first part is far more widely held and taught throughout Christendom by those dealing with the subject than that seen in the second part.

If a person sees and teaches that the existence of an Israeli nation in the Middle East has resulted from God, during the past sixty-nine years, progressively restoring the Jewish people to their land in accordance with any or all of His numerous promises to one day do so, *he can only do this in the face of a huge volume of Scripture, clearly telling him that he has gone in a completely wrong direction.*

(Numerous parts of this “huge volume of Scripture” are dealt with in different chapters of this book. References to corresponding Scripture, not dealt with in this book, can be found in [Chapter 8](http://bibleone.net/Israel%20-%20WDtFH%20-%20Ch.%208.docx), “Seventy Years, Four Hundred Ninety Years,” in the author’s book, [Israel – What Does the Future Hold? by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/Israel-WDtFH.htm). Or, see the author’s article by the same title, [Seventy Years, Four Hundred Ninety Years](http://lampbroadcast.org/Articles/70Years490YearsA.pdf).)

A section of Scripture regarding Israel and the nations which many Bible teachers turn to as a base section in order to teach the things being taught is [Ezekiel 37:1-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-14&t=NKJV). And they, more often than not, find themselves doing strange things with these fourteen verses. *They invariably interpret the Lord’s Own interpretation in* [*Ezekiel 37:11-14*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV) *(an interpretation of Israel’s restoration seen in* [*Ezekiel 37:1-10*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-10&t=NKJV)*). And they not only interpret the interpretation but they do this relative to current events.*

They, through this means, attempt to see and teach that the present existing nation of Israel, at least after some fashion (different Bible teachers teach different things), is either a fulfillment or a beginning fulfillment of the restoration set forth in this chapter.

Then, error of this nature *will always negatively affect an individual’s understanding of related Scripture, for that seen in related Scripture must then be made to align with the previous error*. In this case, contextually, an erroneous understanding of [Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) throws a person completely off on any correct understanding of the following two chapters ([Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)).

This though is only part of something *MUCH LARGER*. Only three chapters from Ezekiel are being referenced, but Scripture related to that dealt with in these three chapters can be found throughout Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets. And continuing to bring related Scripture elsewhere in line with previous error can only eventually result in large parts of *the whole of prophetic Scripture being skewed, often beyond recognition.*

But, to illustrate the point, note just the three chapters under discussion, seeing what going wrong in [Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) does to a central area of interpretation in the succeeding two chapters (38, 39).

Events in the latter two chapters, to maintain the erroneous interpretation in chapter 37, must then be seen occurring during a time when they cannot possibly occur (during Man’s Day) and involving a people which they can’t possibly involve (the present Israeli nation), for the restoration seen occurring in chapter 37 is *the same restoration* referenced in chapters 38, 39 ([Ezekiel 38:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8&t=NKJV), [11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV); [39:9ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.9ff&t=NKJV)).

And there is more, far more, in just these two chapters — things which are simply being glossed over, made to fit the erroneous interpretation in chapter 37 (*ref*. Chapters 18-20 following this FORWORD).

And that would somewhat illustrate the existing problem, which, far more often than not, results from error being taught by Bible teachers who deal with the subject. *Sound exegesis, paying attention to exactly what the text states, comparing Scripture with Scripture, allowing Scripture to interpret itself, is simply thrown to the winds.*

The remainder of this foreword relates the only recourse to correct the existing situation. But, for the most part though, matters have moved beyond the point where individuals would be able to or would even consider correction. Many would not possess the necessary Biblical foundation to make corrections even if they wanted to do so. Many would be too proud to do so. Then many would have to re-vamp their entire ministry, re-doing sermons, written material, etc.

Few can or will do any of the preceding. But there are, at times, individuals — one here and one there — who will look at the matter, study it out in the light of Scripture, and make the necessary corrections.

So, what does one do when finding himself in a situation of this nature? He simply does what he should have done in the beginning, which would have prevented the existing situation. *He simply follows that which the Word has to say, allowing the Word to make corrections for him.*

Note, in this respect, two verses out of the second chapter in John’s gospel:

*“And there were set there six waterpots of stone…*

*Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim”* ([John 2:6a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.6a&t=NKJV), [7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.7&t=NKJV)).

The preceding quoted verses are taken from the first of eight signs in John’s gospel. The complete sign ([John 2:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1-11&t=NKJV)) foreshadows that future time following Israel’s national repentance, salvation, and restoration to their land *when God again takes Israel as His wife (an adulterous, divorced wife restored).*

This sign points to events which will occur *on the third day* through one means of reckoning time ([John 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1&t=NKJV)), or *on the seventh day* through another means ([John 1:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.29&t=NKJV), [35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.35&t=NKJV), [43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.43&t=NKJV); [2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1&t=NKJV)). Both culminate at *the same time — that time to which the sign of the Sabbath points* ([Exodus 31:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.13-17&t=NKJV)), seen in the initial, foundational structure in [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV), upon which the whole of Scripture rests. Both culminate *at the end of Man’s Day, in the Lord’s Day, at the end of 6,000 years, in the seventh 1,000-year period, in the Messianic Era* (*ref*. [Appendix 2](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_A2.htm) in this book).

This first sign in John’s gospel foreshadows events which will occur not only following all seven seals of the seven-sealed scroll in [Revelation 5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+5&t=NKJV) being broken but, as well, following the completion of all the judgments connected with these seals being broken.

This will be necessary because this scroll contains God’s redemptive terms for the inheritance (that territory [the earth] presently under Satan’s dominion and control, which is to come under Christ’s dominion and control). And that foreshadowed by the marriage in [John 2:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1-11&t=NKJV) is part and parcel with the redemption of the inheritance.

This takes matters to the time not only following Christ’s return at the end of the Tribulation but following that time when a repentant and converted Israel will have been regathered from the nations and restored to her land. *At this time, Gentile world power will come against Israel, be destroyed, and complete all the judgments of the seven-sealed scroll* (which have to do with the time and events seen in [Ezekiel 37-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37-39&t=NKJV)).

The material in this foreword though is not about the overall nature of the first sign in John’s gospel. Rather, it is about a vital teaching drawn from a statement in the sign: *“Fill the waterpots with water.”*

And the material is being used and presented in this manner to illustrate “the why” of an existing problem in Christendom. The waterpots are not being filled with Water drawn from the Well, at least, *NOT with pure Water*. And all too often they are being filled with things which have no connection or association with the Water in view.

**Drawing from the Account**

Jesus and His disciples had been invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Sometime following their arrival, the wedding party ran out of wine. And Jesus set about to rectify the situation by commanding that the servants fill an existing “six waterpots of stone” with “water” (waterpots holding “two or three firkins apiece” [about ten to twenty gallons]).

Then note something and note it well! The preceding is *WHAT* the servants were to do. On their part, nothing preceded and nothing followed. They were simply *to FILL THE WATERPOTS WITH ”WATER,” and that was ALL they were to do.*

Action beyond that point was entirely out of their hands. *DIVINE ACTION ALONE FOLLOWED. It was Christ Who then continued the work, taking the water which had been poured into the six waterpots, changing the water to wine* ([John 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.8&t=NKJV)).

And this wine *was not just any wine*. It was “the good wine,” which had been “kept…until now” ([John 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.10&t=NKJV)).

This could only have been a type wine which man cannot make today, evidently similar to the type wine which man could have made prior to the Flood, but could no longer make following the Flood (because of changed atmospheric conditions produced by that which resulted in the Flood [*cf*. [Genesis 9:20-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.20-21&t=NKJV); [Acts 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+2.15&t=NKJV)]).

But, more particularly, because of that which the sign foreshadowed (events regarding Israel on the seventh day, the seventh 1,000-year period), this could only have been the type wine which will be available during the future Messianic Era (*cf*. [Isaiah 25:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+25.6&t=NKJV); [Joel 2:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.22&t=NKJV); [3:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.17-18&t=NKJV)).

(For differences in wine which could have, can, and will be made during these three different periods of time, refer to Chapter IX, “The Days of Noah,” in the author’s book, [Prophecy on Mount Olivet by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/POMO.pdf); refer also to Chapter VI, “The Wedding Festivities,” in the author’s book, [Signs in John’s Gospel by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/SJG.pdf).)

**Water**

“Water” is used in Scripture referencing *cleansing*, pointing, for example, to great spiritual truths seen in the Levitical priesthood in the camp of Israel (bathing of the priests, the brazen laver in the courtyard of the Tabernacle [[Exodus 29:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+29.4&t=NKJV); [30:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+30.17-21&t=NKJV); [40:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.12&t=NKJV)]) and in Christ’s present ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, as depicted by “water” in [John 13:2-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+13.2-17&t=NKJV). And, correspondingly, Christ’s present high priestly ministry is in view through that seen in the way John opens his first epistle ([John 1:1-2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.1-2.2&t=NKJV)).

“Water” is also used in a metaphorical respect referring to *the Word*.

Note [Ephesians 5:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.25-27&t=NKJV) in this respect (*cf*. [Titus 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Titus+3.5&t=NKJV)):

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it;*

*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,*

*That he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

First though, there is the symbolism of *the six earthen vessels into which the water was/is to be placed*. “Six” is *man’s number*, and man was created in the beginning, on the sixth day, from a piece of the earth which God took and used as He formed man.

Then, the symbolism seen in Christ’s command to the servants at the wedding in Cana in [John 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.7&t=NKJV), having to do with filling the six earthen vessels with “Water,” symbolizes a filling with the Word.

Thus, the earthen vessels into which the Water, the Word, was/is to be placed *can only symbolize man, into which that symbolized by the Water is to be placed.*

And it is not just any man which would be in view. Saved man alone can be in view, for only saved man has a saved human spirit into which the Word can be placed, can be received. That which is spiritual (the Word) simply cannot be placed/received into that which has no connection with spiritual matters, particularly as seen in the text — the earthen vessels *filled* “up to the brim.”

*One (saved man) is completely incompatible with the other (unsaved man).* One is living, the other is dead (spiritually). An individual *MUST* pass “from death unto life” ([John 5:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.24&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.1&t=NKJV), [5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.5&t=NKJV)) before that seen in the symbolism of [John 2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.6-7&t=NKJV) can occur in his life. *UNTIL THEN*, everything is foreign and foolishness to such an individual ([I Corinthians 2:9-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+2.9-14&t=NKJV)).

Now, note again that *ONE THING* and *ONE THING ONLY* is to be placed in the earthen vessels. And, these earthen vessels, as seen in that from which this teaching is drawn, are to be *FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH WATER, WITH THE WORD.*

It is not the Word plus something, it is *THE WORD ALONE!*

The Word is the only thing living, completely compatible with and forming nourishment and sustenance for one’s spiritual life. All else is non-living, incompatible with, and can furnish no nourishment for one’s spiritual life, only for his natural life.

Thus, if one wants to feed the spiritual man, it *MUST* be done by an intake of that which is itself spiritual — *the God-breathed Word, given through the instrumentality of the Spirit*.

Or, on the other hand, if an individual wants to feed the natural, *anything other than the Word will* *suffice*.

With the preceding in view, note how much of that being proclaimed to and written for Christians today — particularly what can often be found on so-called Christian web sites — falls into the category of the latter (something other than the Word) and not the former (the Word), *material that CAN NEVER feed the spiritual man.*

And this has been occurring for years, for decades. Is it any wonder that we have a generation of Christians filling the Churches of the land who can’t tell their right hand from their left in a spiritual respect?

A generation of Christians is on hand whose lives are filled, not with the Word, but with about everything but the Word. They don’t know the Word, leaving them unable to deal with matters as instructed in [Isaiah 8:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+8.20&t=NKJV).

*“To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.”*

And the reason that they can’t do this, leaving them an easy prey for the cults and about anything else that comes along, *is because individuals whom God has placed in charge of the flock throughout the dispensation have, over the years, particularly during the latter years, not followed the command in* [*II Timothy 4:2*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Timothy+4.2&t=NKJV)*:*

*“Preach the Word…”*

The waterpots have, over the years, been filled with *something other than Water*.

Those to whom the flock was entrusted in time past have “sown the wind,” with Christian leadership today, in many instances, negatively affected and following suit.

And Christians in the world today, near the end of the present dispensation, are reaping the end result. They are reaping *the only thing which could be reaped*, “the whirlwind” ([Hosea 8:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hosea+8.7&t=NKJV)).

**Wine**

But, let’s look at the other side of the matter in order to complete the picture of that seen in Jesus’ actions at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Once Jesus’ instructions had been carried out, once the waterpots had been filled with Water, He then changed the Water to Wine. And, again, *not just any Wine*, but “the best Wine.”

Now, note a few things and note them well!

*THE ONE AND ONLY THING* which the servants at the wedding were instructed to do was “fill the waterpots with Water.” And that was it! That was all! They were not to go beyond this point!

Once they had filled the waterpots as instructed, they were to step aside. *They had done as instructed, and there was nothing more for them to do. Actually, there was nothing more that they could do.*

Then, bringing matters over into that being foreshadowed, the Lord’s servants today have been told to do *ONE THING ALONE* in the preceding respect: “Fill the waterpots with Water” “Proclaim the Word…” (any reproving, rebuking, exhorting, as seen in this verse [[II Timothy 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Timothy+4.2&t=NKJV)], is to be done, over time, *through proclaiming the Word*).

*Moving beyond that point is to be left entirely in the Lord’s hands, as the Spirit takes the proclaimed Word and effects results, changes the Water to Wine.*

And it has to be *THE WORD ALONE* which is to be proclaimed, not the Word plus something, or something other than the Word.

The Spirit simply *DOES NOT and CANNOT use that which is not Water, which is not the Word, to bring about changes. He DOES NOT/CANNOT use that which is non-living to deal with that which is living*.

*The Spirit uses THE LIVING WORD ALONE to deal with individuals, either effecting life or nourishing and sustaining a life which has already been effected.*

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CHAPTER 18

**THE WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL**

***DON’T Interpret the Interpretation***

*“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones:*

*And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.*

*And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?*

*Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.*

*Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.*

*And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,*

*And shall put my spirit* [‘breath’ (*cf*. [Ezekiel 37:5-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.5-11&t=NKJV))] *in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord…*

*After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them…*

*And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates”* ([Ezekiel 37:1-3a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-3a&t=NKJV), [11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV); [38:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11&t=NKJV)).

Bible students are often quick to take current events in the world and see a connection between these events and Biblical prophecy, *especially if these events involve Israel. And that is particularly true when it comes to* [*Ezekiel 37-39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37-39&t=NKJV)*.*

[Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) begins with Ezekiel placed *in the midst of a valley filled with (human) bones*, which were not only *lifeless but very dry*. And that which the Lord wanted Ezekiel to see, a prophecy pertaining to Israel, continues with the bones coming together, sinews (tendons), flesh, and skin connected to and covering the bones, with God then breathing life into the untold numbers of individuals whom He had brought forth in this manner. And these individuals are then seen standing upon their feet, “an exceeding great army” ([Ezekiel 37:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-10&t=NKJV)).

So that there can be no mistake in interpretation, God’s Own interpretation of the scene is then given in the next four verses ([Ezekiel 37:11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV)). That shown to Ezekiel had to do with *God breathing life into “the whole house of Israel,” removing the Jewish people from the nations where they had previously been scattered, and placing them in a healed land.*

The remainder of the chapter then has to do with *the unity of the nation* (no longer divided as seen following Solomon’s death) and *the theocracy restored to Israel under a new covenant*, with David their king raised up to reign over them ([Ezekiel 37:15-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.15-28&t=NKJV)).

Then — textually, contextually, anyway one wants to look at the matter — *chapters 38, 39 simply continue from where chapter 37 leaves off, showing another aspect of the matter, showing the destruction of Gentile world power following Israel’s restoration.*

The restoration seen in chapters 38, 39 ([Ezekiel 38:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.7&t=NKJV), [11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV); [39:23-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.23-28&t=NKJV)) *CAN ONLY BE* the same restoration previously seen in chapter 37.

The entirety of that seen in these two chapters can occur *ONLY FOLLOWING CHRIST’S RETURN* at the end of the Tribulation. These events occur “in that day,” in the Lord’s Day, NOT during the present day, during Man’s Day ([Ezekiel 38:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.18&t=NKJV); [39:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.8&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11&t=NKJV); *ref*. [Chapter 9, "In That Day"](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_09.htm) in this book.

**An Overview of Six Chapters**

This chapter thus far has dealt only succinctly with material in three chapters, [Ezekiel 37-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37-39&t=NKJV). But these three chapters are a continuation from three previous chapters, [Ezekiel 34-36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34-36&t=NKJV). And all six of these chapters form a unit in Ezekiel’s prophecy and should be studied together.

Chapters 34 and 36 deal, in a preliminary respect, with that seen being enlarged upon and dealt with more in detail in chapter 37, forming commentary for these two previous chapters.

And chapter 35 deals, in a preliminary respect, with that seen being enlarged upon and dealt with more in detail in chapters 38 and 39.

[**Ezekiel 34**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34&t=NKJV)**;** [**36**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36&t=NKJV)**;** [**37**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)

Chapters 34, 36, 37 all deal with one central thing pertaining to future events surrounding Israel and the nations. These chapters have to do with a succinct history of “the whole house of Israel,” ending with the Jewish people being removed from the nations of the earth in a healed condition and placed in a healed land.

Then, it is not just part of the nation but the *complete nation, every Jewish person alive in that day, “the whole house of Israel”* ([Ezekiel 37:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11&t=NKJV)). And that seen in this respect in these three chapters *CANNOT* occur until *a time yet future*.

Events pertaining to Israel’s restoration in these three chapters can occur only in the order seen in the Jewish festivals ([Leviticus 23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+23&t=NKJV)), Biblical typology (*e.g*., [Exodus 12:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.1ff&t=NKJV)), or just a plain reading of a section such as [Matthew 24:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.30-31&t=NKJV).

That is to say, the restoration seen in chapters 34, 36, 37 is *A COMPLETE RESTORATION having to do with “the whole house of Israel,” which can occur ONLY following Messiah’s return at the end of the Tribulation.*

There is *NOTHING* in this section of Scripture about any type return prior to this time (*e.g*., the Jewish people in the land today). *EVERYTHING* has to do with this future restoration, followed by both Israel and the nations possessing a type knowledge not heretofore known prior to this time ([Ezekiel 36:35-36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36.35-36&t=NKJV); [37:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.13&t=NKJV), [28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.28&t=NKJV); [38:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.23&t=NKJV); [39:21-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.21-29&t=NKJV)).

And the restoration in chapters 34, 36, 37 is *EXACTLY THE SAME RESTORATION* spoken of in chapters 38, 39 — a restoration occurring at the end of the Tribulation, following Messiah’s return, involving the healing of “the whole house of Israel,” *both the people and their land*.

(Note something not dealt with in the material thus far — *the place which O.T. saints occupy in the matter.*

Both *O.T. typology* and the order seen in *the seven Jewish festivals* [*ref*. [Appendix 3](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_A3.htm) in this book] place the resurrection of O.T saints at a time *preceding Israel’s restoration to the land; and the dead [resurrected] return with the living.* In this respect, “the whole house of Israel,” *as seen in* [*Ezekiel 37-39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37-39&t=NKJV)*, could ONLY be understood as “complete” when BOTH are present.*

For additional information, refer to the author’s book, [Arlen Chitwood's By Faith, Ch. 15, "The Resurrection of Israel"](http://bibleone.net/BF_15.htm).)

[**Ezekiel 35**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35&t=NKJV)**;** [**38**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV)**;** [**39**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)

These chapters, as [Ezekiel 34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34&t=NKJV); [36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36&t=NKJV); [37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV), all deal with one central subject pertaining to future events surrounding Israel and the nations. These chapters have to do with *an invasion by Gentile powers once “the whole house of Israel” has been removed from the nations of the earth in a healed condition and placed in a healed land.*

At this time, unlike today or during the Tribulation, the restored Jewish people are seen at this time as *a people at rest, dwelling safely, without walls, bars, or gates, with their Messiah present* [[Ezekiel 38:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11&t=NKJV), [20-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.20-23&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Joel 2:27-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.27-32&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3&t=NKJV);[1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+1ff&t=NKJV)]). It is simply *NOT POSSIBLE* to place this scene at any time other than *following the Tribulation, following Christ’s return*.

Material in [Ezekiel 35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35&t=NKJV) — the base chapter, the chapter upon which chapters 38, 39 rest, forming commentary for that seen in chapter 35 — has to do with the destruction of Gentile world power immediately following the time matters are brought to a conclusion regarding the future history of Israel, as detailed in the other three chapters ([Ezekiel 34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34&t=NKJV); [36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36&t=NKJV); [37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)).

Thus, events seen throughout all six chapters occur at the same general time and place — *following Messiah’s return at the end of the Tribulation*.

“Mount Seir” is referenced beginning chapter thirty-five, which was the *home of the Edomites* (*cf*. [Ezekiel 35:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.2&t=NKJV), [15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.15&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Deuteronomy 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+2.5&t=NKJV)).

“Mount Seir” is referenced beginning chapter thirty-five, which was *the home of the Edomites* (*cf.* [Ezekiel 35:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.2&t=NKJV), [15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.15&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Deuteronomy 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+2.5&t=NKJV)). And, comparing Scripture with Scripture, note in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV) that “Edom” is used in a parallel text to represent *all of the Gentile nations* ([Isaiah 34:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1-8&t=NKJV)), which come under God’s judgment “in the day of the Lord’s vengeance,” because of “the controversy of Zion [‘the cause of Zion’].”

“Zion” is a synonym for *Jerusalem*, or is used referring to *the Jewish people* ([Psalm 76:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+76.2&t=NKJV); [126:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+126.1&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 1:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+1.26-27&t=NKJV)). Thus, as clearly seen elsewhere in Scripture, God’s future judgment of the Gentiles at this time will center around *their attitude toward and treatment of the Jewish people*, something clearly seen in the chapters under discussion in Ezekiel (*cf*. [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 35:4-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.4-15&t=NKJV); [38:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.3&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.18&t=NKJV); [Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.31-46&t=NKJV)).

This destruction of Gentile world power at the end of Man’s Day is seen over and over in Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets (*e.g*., [Genesis 11:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.1ff&t=NKJV); [14:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.1ff&t=NKJV); [19:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.1ff&t=NKJV); [Psalm 2:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.1ff&t=NKJV); [83:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83.1ff&t=NKJV); [Jeremiah 30:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+30.1ff&t=NKJV); [Daniel 2:37-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.37-45&t=NKJV); [Joel 2:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.1ff&t=NKJV); [3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.1ff&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 14:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+14.1ff&t=NKJV)). This is the destruction seen in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV), leading into the Messianic Era seen in the following chapter ([Ezekiel 35:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.1-10&t=NKJV)). As well, this is the same destruction seen in the parallel passage in [Ezekiel 35:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.1ff&t=NKJV), leading into the Messianic Era ([Ezekiel 40-48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)).

And this destruction, dealt with throughout Scripture, can clearly be seen, both textually and contextually, *as the same destruction depicted in* [*Ezekiel 38*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV)*;* [*39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)*, leading into the Messianic Era (*[*Ezekiel 40-48*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)*).*

And there could be no possible problem seeing *all nations represented by only certain powers mentioned in* [*Ezekiel 38:2-6*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV)*.* Note, for example, in [Ezekiel 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34.1ff&t=NKJV) and [Ezekiel 35:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.1ff&t=NKJV), that *all nations are represented by one nation, Edom; and in* [*Psalm 83:1ff*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83.1ff&t=NKJV)*, all nations are represented by ten named nations.*

Also, in line with the preceding, “Gog, the land of Magog” ([Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV)) — with “Magog” referring back to the descendants of Japheth, who was to be *enlarged* ([Genesis 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.27&t=NKJV); [10:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.1-2&t=NKJV) [as well, note “Meshech” and “Tubal”]) — is used in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) referring to “nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,” *i.e., ALL nations*.

Then note [Joel 2:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.20&t=NKJV) where reference is made to God destroying the “northern army” (an evident reference to [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV), where the main, lead power comes from the North), seen contextually in Joel as *a reference to the destruction of all nations* ([Joel 2:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.1ff&t=NKJV); [Joel 3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.1ff&t=NKJV)).

And this destruction in Joel, as in Ezekiel , occurs following Man’s Day, following Christ’s return ([Ezekiel 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+3.16&t=NKJV)), in the Lord’s Day ([Ezekiel 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+3.14&t=NKJV) [which begins at the end of Man’s Day, with the Tribulation comprising the last seven years of Man’s Day]).

**The Problem Today**

The preceding is far from the way material in these chapters is invariably handled by Bible students today, particularly the three chapters dealing with explanatory material (chs. 37-39) on the three previous chapters (chs. 34-36).

*The interpretation of* [*Ezekiel 37:1-10*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-10&t=NKJV) *(*[*Ezekiel 37:11-14*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV)*) is quite clear*, but numerous Bible students over the years (particularly since May 14, 1948) have looked at current events and *have been quick to interpret the interpretation*, *seeking to align current events with Biblical prophecy*. And this has created all types of interpretive problems regarding Israel and the nations.

If an individual adds to the Lord’s Own interpretation, interpreting the interpretation in order to align things seen in [Ezekiel 37-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37-39&t=NKJV) with events surrounding the existing nation of Israel in the Middle East, he might as well forget about properly understanding events pertaining to Israel and the nations in the end time. *One simply CAN’T follow error and arrive at truth. Following error CAN ONLY result in additional error and misunderstanding.*

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CHAPTER 19

**GOG, THE LAND OF MAGOG**

*Contextual Interpretation*

*The Lord’s Own Interpretation*

*Comparing Scripture with Scripture*

*“And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,*

*Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him”* ([Ezekiel 38:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.1-2&t=NKJV)).*“*

*And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

*And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea”* ([Revelation 20:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-8&t=NKJV))

“The words “Gog and Magog” are only used together two places in all Scripture — once in [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), and once in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV). And both refer *to exactly the same thing, seen in two separate battles, separated by 1,000 years.*

One battle occurs *immediately before the Millennium*, and the other occurs immediately *following the Millennium*. Both battles have to do with *Satanic-led Gentile armies*, *originating from the nations of the earth*. And both battles have to do with *these armies being led against the Jewish people, beginning at Jerusalem.*

As well, as will be shown, both battles occur when “the whole house of Israel” (all Jews) *has been restored to their land, with their Messiah present, in the nation’s midst.*

One battle occurs *immediately before the Jewish people, with their Messiah, occupy the nation’s proper position relative to all the Gentile nations of the earth* (at the head of the nations, with the nations being reached by and blessed through Israel). And the other occurs *immediately following the Jewish people, with their Messiah, occupying this position for 1,000 years.*

Both battles have to do with *EXACTLY THE SAME THING — final attempts by Satan to destroy the Jewish people, along with their Messiah.*

*The first* will be led by a man seated on Satan’s “throne,” to whom Satan will have given his “power” and “great authority”; and *the second* will be led by Satan himself ([Revelation 13:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.2&t=NKJV); [19:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.19&t=NKJV); [20:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-9&t=NKJV)).

**Interpretation — Two Verses**

Scripture is to be interpreted *in the light of itself* — contextual and comparing Scripture with Scripture, recognizing the different ways God has structured His Word ([I Corinthians 2:9-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+2.9-14&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1&t=NKJV)).

To begin, note that there is nothing in the New Testament which is not seen after some fashion in the Old Testament. In that respect, *the Old Testament is COMPLETE in and of itself, apart from the New Testament.* The New Testament can do no more than open up and further explain that which already exists in some form or fashion in the Old Testament, which is exactly what God designed it to do.

If the preceding were not true, the Word made flesh ([John 1:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.1-2&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.14&t=NKJV)) following the completion of the Old Testament but before a single word of the New Testament had been written would be *incomplete*.

And viewing both Testaments after this fashion, which is the only possible way that they can be properly viewed, the reference to and explanation of “Gog and Magog” in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) can only be seen as inseparably connected with “Gog, the land of Magog” in [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV). Strictly from a Biblical standpoint, *there can be no other possible way to view the matter.*

Then, viewing matters in this manner, it could only be said that [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) has been designed to help explain and shed further light on [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), and vice versa. The two references are parallel, inseparable references.

Thus, “Gog and Magog” in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) forms an expression *which could only have been derived from and have a connection with ONE Old Testament verse —* [*Ezekiel 38:2*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV)*.* And when [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV) and [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) are viewed together in this respect, *it all becomes relatively simple and quite clear.* Another way to say this would be, *when Scripture is compared with Scripture, it all becomes relatively simple and quite clear.*

In [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV), the expression is used in a synonymous respect, or a parallelism, to the two parts of the statement immediately preceding — “*nations* [Gog] which are in *the four quarters of the earth* [Magog].” And with the expression used this way in Scripture’s own interpretation of the Scripture from which it was derived, strictly from a Biblical standpoint, it would not be possible to see [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV) refer to other than the interpretation, to *other than the nations of the earth as well.*

The preceding, of course, has to do with *contextual interpretation added to comparing Scripture with Scripture, further explaining* [*Ezekiel 38:2*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV) *and* [*Revelation 20:8*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV)*.*

(Note in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) that the name “Gog” is used to reference not only *the nations* but, at times, it is used as *a synonym for the nations’ leader as well* [*cf*. [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), [14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14-15&t=NKJV); [39:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.1-5&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11&t=NKJV)].)

**Interpretation — The Nations**

To describe these nations in [Ezekiel 38:2-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV), five descendants of Japheth are listed — four sons and one grandson (“Magog,” “Meshech,” “Tubal,” “Gomer,” and “Togarmah” [Gomer’s son]). Then three countries are mentioned (one Middle East, and two North African), forming a *trilogy* in relation to the descendants of Noah’s three sons (evidently referencing *ALL nations, as in v. 2*) — “Persia” (Iran [descendants of Japheth]), “Ethiopia” (descendants of Ham) and “Libya” (descendants of Shem).

*Japheth*, the eldest of Noah’s three sons, was to be “enlarged” ([Genesis 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.27&t=NKJV)). His descendants populated countries in the area north of Israel in the Black, Caspian, and Baltic Sea areas, extending into other surrounding countries (centrally, Europe, Russia, and the surrounding countries).

And a heavy emphasis on the descendants of Japheth in the prophecy would only be natural. They were the ones who would populate a large part of the globe, with armies from a global population in view in Ezekiel’s prophecy.

But there is far more to the matter than just the preceding, pointing to armies from the four points of the compass, as seen in the counterpart to [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV). There are surrounding Scriptures to [Ezekiel 38:2-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV) which shed light on the matter as well.

(Note that when nations are mentioned with respect to the battle seen in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) [often referred to by individuals as “Armageddon,” a battle referenced over and over in Scripture (*cf*. [Isaiah 63:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+63.1-6&t=NKJV); [Revelation 14:14-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+14.14-20&t=NKJV); [16:14-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.14-16&t=NKJV); [19:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.17-21&t=NKJV))], there is always either one nation or several nations listed, *representing ALL NATIONS*.

[Ezekiel 35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35&t=NKJV) and [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) are parallel sections, with the latter two chapters forming commentary on that previously seen in [Ezekiel 35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35&t=NKJV). “Mount Seir” is referenced beginning chapter 35, which was *the home of the Edomites* [*cf*. [Ezekiel 35:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.2&t=NKJV), [15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.15&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Deuteronomy 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+2.5&t=NKJV)]. And, comparing Scripture with Scripture, note in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV) that “Edom” is used in a parallel text to represent *all of the Gentile nations* [[Isaiah 34:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1-8&t=NKJV)], which come under God’s judgment “in the day of the Lord’s vengeance,” which has to do with *that coming day seen in* [*Ezekiel 38*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV)*;* [*39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)*.*

And the same thing is seen in [Psalm 83](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83&t=NKJV), where ten named nations seeking to do away with Israel [“ten,” showing *completion*, as *well as Antichrist’s ten-kingdom confederation of nations*] represent *all the Gentile nations in that coming day*.)

**Interpretation — Context**

In the chapter preceding chapters 38, 39 in Ezekiel (ch. 37), one finds the account of the *valley of dry bones* ([Ezekiel 37:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-10&t=NKJV)), *followed by the Lord’s Own interpretation* ([Ezekiel 37:11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV)), with the remainder of the chapter taken up with millennial conditions once the Jewish people have been restored to their land ([Ezekiel 37:15-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.15-28&t=NKJV)).

*The valley of dry bones*, in its entirety, has to do with “the whole house of Israel,” *clearly seen in the interpretation*. And, since a restoration of “the whole house of Israel” is involved, the matter not only has to do with events following Messiah’s return at the end of the Tribulation but with events following Israel’s national conversion as well (*ref*. previous chapter in this book, “[THE WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#THE%20WHOLE%20HOUSE%20OF%20ISRAEL)").

*Scripture ALWAYS places Israel’s restoration, as seen in* [*Ezekiel 37*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) (*e.g*., [Deuteronomy 30:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+30.1-3&t=NKJV); [Matthew 24:29-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.29-31&t=NKJV)), at a time *FOLLOWING* the nation’s national conversion.

According to both *typology* on the subject and *the order seen in the seven Jewish festivals* ([Exodus 12:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.1ff&t=NKJV); [Leviticus 23:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+23.1ff&t=NKJV)), *the national conversion of Israel occurs while the Jewish people are still scattered among the nations.*

*In* *typology*, the application of the blood of dead paschal lambs *preceded* the Israelites’ departure from “Egypt” (a type of *the world*) under Moses, with a view to an inheritance in a theocracy in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*The antitype* has to do with the Israelites still scattered among the nations (still in Egypt) when they apply the blood (by faith) of the Paschal Lamb which they slew 2,000 years ago. *ONLY THEN* will they be led out by the One greater than Moses, with a view to an inheritance in a theocracy in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Relative to *the seven Jewish festivals* showing exactly the same thing in their orderly structure (*ref*. [Appendix 3](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_A3.htm) in this book), the first festival is *the Passover*. Again, Israel has slain the Lamb, but they must still apply the blood. And this must be done *FIRST, BEFORE* anything else can occur (*e.g*., their being regathered from the nations, shown in the fifth festival — the feast of trumpets).

*A major, two-fold mistake* is often made in the interpretation of [Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV), which carries over into chapters 38, 39. Individuals look at an Israeli nation in the land today and attempt to interpret the Lord’s interpretation of the valley of dry bones, reading current events into Biblical prophecy. And, because of the inseparable nature of these three chapters, *this mistake will negatively affect the interpretation of all three, presenting a completely wrong understanding of practically everything.*

A restoration of the Jewish people is mentioned several places in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV), a people dwelling safely and at rest ([Ezekiel 38:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8&t=NKJV), [11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV); [39:7ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.7ff&t=NKJV)). And, to properly understand these two chapters, a person *MUST* see this restoration as *THE SAME RESTORATION carried over from the previous chapter* (ch. 37). Actually, to see this restoration any other way, and remain Scriptural, would *NOT* be possible.

Then, Israel’s Messiah is seen as *PRESENT* with His people, in the land, when these Gentile armies come against Israel ([Ezekiel 38:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.20&t=NKJV)), *which necessitates a time following Christ’s return at the end of the Tribulation*.

Then, beyond the preceding, the account itself tells the reader *EXACTLY* when this battle will occur. It will occur “in that day” ([Ezekiel 38:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.18&t=NKJV); [39:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.8&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11&t=NKJV)) — an expression which must be understood contextually, but more often than not refers to events in the Lord’s Day, which *CAN’T* begin until Man’s Day is over.

(Refer to [Chapter 9, "In That Day"](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_09.htm) in this book.

Also, as seen in the previous chapter in this book [Chapter 18], note again that both *O.T. typology* and the order seen in *the seven Jewish festivals* place the resurrection of O.T saints at a time *preceding Israel’s restoration to the land; and the dead [resurrected] return with the living. In this respect, “the whole house of Israel,” as seen in* [*Ezekiel 37-39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37-39&t=NKJV)*, could ONLY be understood as “complete” when BOTH are present*.)

**Interpretation —Additional Thoughts**

Note a comparison of the valley of dry bones in [Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) and the harlot woman in [Revelation 17-19a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17-19a&t=NKJV). *Metaphors* are used in both instances, *the interpretation* is given in both instances ([Ezekiel 37:11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV); [Revelation 17:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.18&t=NKJV)), and both present *two different pictures of exactly the same thing* — Israel’s current condition, a condition which will persist and reach its apex during the Tribulation, with restoration occurring following the Tribulation.

Remain with *the context*; you will come out ahead every time!

Remain with *comparing Scripture with Scripture*; you will come out ahead every time!

Remain with *the Lord’s Own interpretation; DON’T attempt to interpret the interpretation*; you will come out ahead every time on the former and end up in a sea of misinterpretation every time on the latter!

And *DON’T attempt to interpret Scripture in the light of current events*; you can only end up in a sea of misinterpretation every time!

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CHAPTER 20
**IN THE VALLEY OF HAMON-GOG**

*HAMON-GOG — “A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS”*

*END AND FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR GENTILE WORLD POWER*

*“After many years thou shalt be visited* [Gentile powers previously referenced in [Ezekiel 38:2-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV) (*ref*. previous chapter, [GOG, THE LAND OF MAGOG](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#GOG,%20THE%20LAND%20OF%20MAGOG), in this book)]. *In the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.*

*Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.*

*Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:*

*And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, having neither bars nor gates,*

*To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land”* ([Ezekiel 38:8-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8-12&t=NKJV)).

[Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) are invariably (with few exceptions) looked upon by Bible students as revealing an invasion of the present existing nation of Israel by Gentile powers (usually seen as powers headed by Russia, including Middle East and North African nations). And this invasion is seen occurring at a time immediately before or sometime during the Tribulation (most see the invasion occurring during the Tribulation).

But, in the light of *the clear wording of the text itself* (both chapters) and the context (chapters on both sides of the text), *the common interpretation can only be seen as something quite flawed.*

As will be shown, these two chapters have to do with Gentile powers coming against a restored Jewish nation, *a nation restored following Christ’s return at the end of the Tribulation, following Man’s Day, during the Lord’s Day.* And, for a multiplicity of reasons, the restored Jewish nation referenced in these chapters *CANNOT possibly have any type connection, after any fashion, with the nation presently in the land.*

*And the preceding can be clearly shown, in an unquestionable manner, from the text and the context of these two chapters in Ezekiel.*

(Note that the heavens are closed relative to God’s dealings with Israel today. God has, so to speak, stopped the clock marking off time in Daniel’s Seventy-Week prophecy while He deals with *the one new man* “in Christ.” *Only after God has completed His present dealings with this new man will the heavens once again open relative to His dealings with Israel, with time once again being counted in Daniel’s prophecy.*

Thus, for this reason alone [and there are many others] *the present existing nation of Israel in the Middle East CANNOT be a work of God, even in part, relative to the prophesied restoration of the Jewish people to the land* [*alone rendering it impossible for this nation to fit into Ezekiel’s prophecy*].

[For information on the preceding, refer to Chapter VIII, “Seventy Years, Four Hundred Ninety Years,” in the author’s book, [*Israel – What Does the Future Hold? by Arlen Chitwood*](http://bibleone.net/Israel-WDtFH.htm)." Or, see the author’s article by the same title, [Seventy Years, Four Hundred Ninety Years](http://lampbroadcast.org/Articles/70Years490YearsA.pdf).]

The present restoration of some 6,000,000 Jews to the land can only be a *Zionistic work of man, wherein the Jewish people have taken matters into their own hands and have sought to effect an emancipation of the nation apart from either repentance or the nation’s Messiah*.)

**The Context**

*1) Preceding* [*Ezekiel 38*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV)*;* [*39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)

The several chapters immediately preceding and leading into [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) deal, to an extent, with the entire history of Israel ([Ezekiel 34:11-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34.11-31&t=NKJV); [36:16-38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36.16-38&t=NKJV); [37:1-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-28&t=NKJV)).

But, though the preceding references succinctly cover the complete history, or parts of this history, *the emphasis throughout is ALWAYS on the outcome of this history — Israel’s future salvation, restoration, and cleansing — which can occur ONLY following Messiah’s return, following the Tribulation.*

And the place which all of the Gentile nations will occupy in this complete history is seen as well.

Then, note that nothing in chapter thirty-five was listed among the preceding chapter references regarding Israel. Material in this chapter has to do with the destruction of Gentile world power at the same time matters are brought to a conclusion regarding the future history of Israel, as detailed in the other three chapters ([Ezekiel 34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34&t=NKJV); [36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36&t=NKJV); [37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)).

“Mount Seir” is referenced beginning chapter thirty-five, which was *the home of the Edomites* (*cf*. [Ezekiel 35:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.2&t=NKJV), [15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.15&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Deuteronomy 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+2.5&t=NKJV)). And, comparing Scripture with Scripture, note in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV) that “Edom” is used in a parallel text to represent *all of the Gentile nations* (vv. 1-8), which come under God’s judgment “in the day of the Lord’s vengeance,” because of “the controversy of Zion [‘the cause of Zion’].”

“Zion” is a synonym for *Jerusalem*, or is used referring to *the Jewish people* ([Psalm 76:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+76.2&t=NKJV); [126:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+126.1&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 1:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+1.26&t=NKJV), [27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+1.27&t=NKJV)). Thus, as clearly seen elsewhere in Scripture, God’s future judgment of the Gentiles at this time will center around their *attitude toward and treatment of the Jewish people*, something clearly seen in the chapters under discussion in Ezekiel (*cf*. [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 35:4-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.4-15&t=NKJV); [38:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.3&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.18&t=NKJV); [Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.31-46&t=NKJV)).

*2) Following* [*Ezekiel 38*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV)*;* [*39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)

The nine chapters following [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) ([Ezekiel 40-48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)), concluding the Book of Ezekiel, have to do with Israel in the future Messianic Era, following God’s dealings with Israel and the nations as seen in the previous chapters.

These chapters have to do with millennial conditions — with the Temple, the priesthood, offerings, worship, and a tribal division of the land.

Thus, the chapters which precede simply provide information concerning Israel and the nations, leading into the Messianic Era. And, as is evident from reading chapters thirty-four through thirty-seven, this information has to do mainly with Israel and the nations immediately following the Tribulation and Messiah’s return — with events which will evidently occur during the seventy-five-day period seen at the end of the Book of Daniel ([Daniel 12:11-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+12.11-13&t=NKJV)).

**The Text**

Since events seen in the four chapters preceding chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine ([Ezekiel 34-37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34-37&t=NKJV)) have to do mainly with events occurring following Christ’s return, leading into the Messianic Era ([Ezekiel 40-48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)), why should the two chapters now under discussion ([Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)) be looked upon as dealing with something different?

After all, numerous places in these two chapters call attention to events paralleling those seen in the previous four chapters. These two chapters simply form an expansion of that dealt with in chapter thirty-five and alluded to different places in the other three chapters ([Ezekiel 34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34&t=NKJV); [36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36&t=NKJV); [37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)).

That revealed in these two chapters is simply a detailed description of the destruction of Gentile world power following Christ’s return and following the completion of His dealings with the nation of Israel (following their national conversion, restoration to the land, and cleansing).

In short, that seen in these two chapters has to do with the same thing seen so many places in Scripture — a final summing up of matters regarding Gentile world power, preceding the Messianic Era, in what is commonly called “The Battle of Armageddon” ([Revelation 14:14-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+14.14-20&t=NKJV); [16:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.16&t=NKJV); [19:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.17-21&t=NKJV)).

*1) Prevalence and Place in Scripture*

This destruction of Gentile world power at the end of Man’s Day is seen over and over in Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets (*e.g*., [Genesis 11:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.1ff&t=NKJV); [14:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.1ff&t=NKJV); [19:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.1ff&t=NKJV); [Psalm 2:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.1ff&t=NKJV); [83:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83.1ff&t=NKJV); [Jeremiah 30:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+30.1ff&t=NKJV); [Daniel 2:37-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.37-45&t=NKJV); [Joel 2:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.1ff&t=NKJV); [3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.1ff&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 14:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+14.1ff&t=NKJV)). This is the destruction seen in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV), leading into the Messianic Era seen in the following chapter ([Isaiah 35:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+35.1-10&t=NKJV)). As well, this is the same destruction seen in the parallel passage in [Ezekiel 35:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.1ff&t=NKJV), leading into the Messianic Era ([Ezekiel 40-48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)).

And this destruction, dealt with throughout Scripture, can clearly be seen, both textually and contextually, *as the same destruction* *depicted in* [*Ezekiel 38*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV)*;* [*39*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV)*, leading into the Messianic Era (*[*Ezekiel 40-48*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)*).*

And there could be no possible problem seeing *all nations represented by only certain powers mentioned in* [*Ezekiel 38:2-6*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV). Note, for example, in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV) and [Ezekiel 35:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.1ff&t=NKJV), that *all nations are represented by one nation, Edom;* and in [Psalm 83:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83.1ff&t=NKJV), *all nations are represented by ten named nations.*

Also, in line with the preceding, “Gog, the land of Magog” ([Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV)) — with “Magog” referring back to the descendants of Japheth, who was to be *enlarged* ([Genesis 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.27&t=NKJV); [10:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.1-2&t=NKJV) [as well, note “Meshech” and “Tubal”]) — is used in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) referring to “nations which are in the four quarters of the earth.”

Then note [Joel 2:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.20&t=NKJV) where reference is made to God destroying the “northern army” (an evident reference to [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV), where the main, lead power comes from the North), seen contextually in Joel as *a reference to the destruction of all nations* ([Joel 2:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.1ff&t=NKJV); [3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.1ff&t=NKJV)).

And this destruction in Joel, as in Ezekiel, occurs following Man’s Day, following Christ’s return ([Joel 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.16&t=NKJV)), in the Lord’s Day ([Joel 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.14&t=NKJV) [which begins at the end of Man’s Day, with the Tribulation comprising the last seven years of Man’s Day]).

*2) As Seen in These Two Chapters*

And, with the preceding in mind, note the same thing seen in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV).

Gentile world power, as seen in these two chapters, will come against Israel at a time after the Tribulation, after the nation’s Messiah has returned, after Israel’s national conversion, after the Jewish people have been removed from the nations and restored to their land, and after the nation is at rest in the land, with the Lord present among His people. *THEN, and ONLY THEN, can that seen in these two chapters occur.*

Note in [Ezekiel 38:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.20&t=NKJV) that *Messiah Himself will be present* (“…shall shake at my presence”), and in [Ezekiel 39:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.8&t=NKJV), this will occur in the future Lord’s Day, which, again, doesn’t begin until the end of Man’s Day and Messiah’s return (*cf*. [Ezekiel 34:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34.12&t=NKJV), showing that the two times are the same).

(Also note the expression [or allusion to], “in that day,” in [Ezekiel 38:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.18&t=NKJV); [39:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.8&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11&t=NKJV). Refer to Chapter 9 ["Never Again!" or "Yes, Again!"](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_09.htm) in this book.)

And since all of the things detailed in the preceding, clearly seen in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV), can occur *ONLY FOLLOWING MESSIAH’S RETURN*, this alone would preclude any possible fulfillment of the prophecy until a time following the Tribulation.

Further, according to [Ezekiel 38:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV), these Gentile powers will come into the land against Israel at a time when the nation dwells safely, “having neither bars nor gates.” And Israel cannot possibly be seen occupying such a position at any time between now and the middle of the Tribulation, when the present existing nation will be uprooted and driven back out among the nations.

Nor will the nation possess the wealth seen in these verses prior to the end of the Tribulation, when they return back to the land possessing the wealth of the Gentiles (*cf*. [Genesis 31:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+31.1-3&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 60:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+60.5&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+60.11&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 38:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.12&t=NKJV)), with the Gentile armies coming into the land not only in an all-out attempt to, once and for all, destroy the nation of Israel (“They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance” [[Psalm 83:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83.4&t=NKJV)]) but to recover the wealth which will then be in Israel’s possession (*cf*. [Ezekiel 38:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.13&t=NKJV); [Revelation 18:15-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+18.15-21&t=NKJV); refer to Chapter 8 ["Never Again!" or "Yes, Again!"](http://bibleone.net/NAYA_08.htm) in this book.)

The overthrow of these Gentile armies in [Ezekiel 39:17-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.17-20&t=NKJV) is *the same* as that seen in [Isaiah 63:1-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+63.1-4&t=NKJV); [Revelation 14:14-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+14.14-20&t=NKJV); [19:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.17-21&t=NKJV). This overthrow occurs *at the hands of Israel’s Messiah, present among His people* ([Ezekiel 38:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.20&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.23&t=NKJV));  *and those overthrown are left in the open fields for the carrion birds of the air and the wild animals of the earth, with their remains then buried “in the valley of Hamon-Gog* [‘*the valley of a Multitude of Nations’*]” ([Ezekiel 39:4-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.4-5&t=NKJV), [11-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11-22&t=NKJV)).

And the end result of the whole of the matter has to do with both the house of Israel and the Gentile nations *recognizing and acknowledging the true identity of the One in Israel’s midst* (*cf*. [Ezekiel 36:33-36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36.33-36&t=NKJV); [37:25-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.25-28&t=NKJV); [38:21-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.21-23&t=NKJV); [39:23-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.23-29&t=NKJV)).

Nothing like any of the preceding can possibly occur *until Man’s Day has run its course — until Israel’s Messiah has returned back to the earth, and a number of ensuing events have occurred.*

The destruction of Gentile world power, as seen in [Ezekiel 35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35&t=NKJV); [38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV), occurs not only in conjunction with all the things seen relative to Israel in [Ezekiel 34-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34-39&t=NKJV) but following God’s dealings with His people relative to the nation’s conversion, restoration, and cleansing.

*Then, the Messianic Era…* ([Ezekiel 40-48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV)).

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[Never Again! or Yes, Again! by Arlen Chitwood of Lamp Broadcast](http://www.lampbroadcast.org/Books/NAYA.pdf)