

At That Time There Shall Be a Great Earthquake in the Land of Isra'el Ezekiel 38: 17-23

DIG: What will God accomplish through this war? What will the entire world learn from it? What will Isra'el learn?

Having described the LORD's purpose, the questions of *what* and *how* are answered.

Gog's attack will be crushed by the LORD Himself.¹³⁵ This is what ADONAI ELOHIM says: Are you not the one I spoke of in former days by My servants the prophets of Isra'el? At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them (Ezekiel 38:17). When you look at all the writing prophets in Isra'el's history one thing becomes very clear. Up to the days of Ezekiel, there is never any mention of an invasion of Isra'el from the land of Magog. However, God said that He had prophesied about it for years in the former days in the distant past. This would exclude the contemporaries of Ezekiel such as Jeremiah and Daniel. It would also have to exclude more recent prophets such as Isaiah and all of the minor prophets. Therefore, the prophets he is referring to here are the oral prophets such as Elijah, Enoch, Elisha, and many others, who didn't write their prophecies down. Ezekiel was not the first one to speak of an invasion of Isra'el by Gog and Magog. However, he is the only prophet to have written it down in a book.

The invasion will be against the LORD's Land and His people. Attacking God's Land makes it anti-Israel, and coming against God's people makes it anti-Semitic. And because this violates the principle of Genesis 12:3b, *whoever curses you I will curse, then ADONAI ELOHIM's hot anger will be aroused* against the invaders (Ezekiel 38:18). The invasion will cause God to move for two reasons. First, He will act because of His zeal for His Land and His people, or the right of exclusive ownership and protection. The Bible teaches that the LORD is Isra'el's husband and no weapon forged against her would prevail (Isaiah 54: 14-17). Secondly, when anyone violates His people, it always leads to His fiery wrath that will destroy the invader in keeping with the cursing aspect of God's Covenant with Abraham (Ezekiel 38:19a). ADONAI will use four means to destroy the invading army.

The first means of destroying the invading army will be an **earthquake**. At the time of the invasion, **there shall be a great earthquake in the Land of Israel (Ezekiel 38:19b)**. As a result, **the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people in the Land will tremble at My presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every outer city wall will fall to the ground (Ezekiel 38:20)**.

The second means of destroying the invaders will be anarchy. In the pandemonium, communication between the invading forces will break down and they will begin attacking each other. **I will summon a sword against Gog on all My mountains, declares ADONAI ELOHIM. Every man's sword, or weapon, will be against his fellow soldier (Ezekiel 38:21)**. They will die on the **mountains of Isra'el**. Fear and panic will sweep through the forces so that each army will shoot indiscriminately at the others.¹³⁶ **God has done this before (Judges 7:22; First Samuel 14:20; Second Chronicles 20:23)**.

The third means will be various diseases. **The LORD declares: I will execute judgment upon them with plague (like the sixth plague of boils in Egypt) and bloodshed.**

The fourth means will come from the heavens. Through **His prophet the LORD announces that He will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones (like the seventh plague of hail in Egypt) and burning sulfur (like Sodom) on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him (Ezekiel 38:22)**. Therefore, this downpour will be similar to the destruction of Sodom and the plagues of Egypt.

God Himself will totally destroy the alliance by natural and supernatural means. No other nations are used to destroy these invaders, **He will do it all by Himself**. In this way **He will receive all the glory. He will show His greatness and His holiness, and He will make Himself known in the sight of many Gentile nations. Then they will know that He is ADONAI (Ezekiel 38:23)**.