

**Ezekiel, Son of Man**  
**Class 11 - June 11, 2014**  
**Reading: Ezekiel 37-39**

**Chapter 37**

One of the most visually remarkable parts of the book of Ezekiel is the vision of of the valley (or plain) of dry bones. This is a vision like that of the temple in 8:3. The meaning of the vision is clearly explained in verses 11-14. Israel is dead in their hearts; as predicted, the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple has devastated these people. Now they have no will to live. But God will restore them, in a seemingly miraculous manner, by creating a new covenant and a new kingdom.

The second part of the chapter is the promise of this kingdom and its new king. God tells Ezekiel to take two sticks and put the names of Judah and Ephraim on them (Ephraim is the nickname given to the northern kingdom, particularly used by Hosea and Isaiah, perhaps because it was the dominant tribe of the north). God will reunite them and make one covenant of the two kingdoms, divided no more. David will be the king of this kingdom, the sanctuary will be among them, and God will dwell with them forever.

Such language is becoming common now in Ezekiel, having finished the language of penalty against Judah. Now God speaks of reviving the people with a new covenant. This speaks not to their return from captivity, but the covenant purchased by Christ. This covenant "made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall" (Ephesians 2:13-15). It is this new spiritual Israel (Romans 9-11) that is the heart of the lesson.

One point we ought to know as well is that the Mormon church (LDS) claims that this is a prophecy or command for the book of Mormon to be created. They hold that they are the other stick. Yet this does not fit the context, nor does it follow the theme of reconciliation.

**Chapter 38**

Gog and Magog are relatively unknown to us. It may be that these are two lands, or it is the case that Gog is the king of Magog. We have no precise record of a king Gog; some believe this may be King Gyges of Lydia. Magog is the name of a son of Japheth, as are Mesach and Jubal. We have no records that identify a land of Gog or of Magog. It may be a generalization of the gentiles of the north, the peoples of the land we today see in the nation of Turkey. The names seem to correspond to the table of nations in Genesis 10. Because this is a symbolic name in Revelation 20:8, it is most likely it is a symbolic name only here as well.

Certainly, this imagery is different than much of the judgment language from previous chapters. In verse 8 we are told that the sins of Gog of Magog will be in the future, against God's people. They will war against the people of God, who have no walls on their city. The chapter concludes that God will bring wrath on Gog & Magog for their treachery.

What does this chapter mean? Since the language follows the new covenant promises, and precedes the temple images of chapters 40-44, we should presume this is prophetic of the New Covenant enemies, such as Rome, the Jews or other nations that seek to destroy the church. Daniel prophesied of similar things, pointing out in Daniel 12 the war on the saints that is perhaps the entirety of the book of Revelation.

However, the Gog and Magog references in Revelation point to the as of yet unrevealed foes of Christianity, likely the foes who are throughout time constantly opposing and persecuting the kingdom of Christ.

### **Chapter 39**

A continuation of the prophecy against Gog of the nations. The promise is that this nation will fall on the mountains of Israel (which we have previously identified as the church, and we might further identify as the strength of the church).

One part of this prophecy is the promise of the name of God. It will no longer be profaned, but will be sacred once more. The new name prophecies are a great part of the kingdom of Christ. A contrast of these prophecies are between what Isaiah said and what John said:

*Isaiah 62:2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name.*

*Revelation 3:12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*

The description of the conquest of these enemies is quiet dramatic; (Spiritual) Israel will burn their weapons for fuel for seven years. Ezekiel is told to call on the wild animals to feast on the flesh of these kings.

Finally, God once more promises to bring out Judah from their shame to His glory. He will no longer hide His face (caused by sin, Isaiah 59:1-2), but instead He will pour out the Spirit on them.

*Acts 2:17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;*