

**THE PRIMACY OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT
IN THE TIMING OF THE GOG/MAGOG PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL 38-39**

"It is recognized by all serious students of the Bible that the covenant of God with Abraham is one of the important and determinative revelations of Scripture. It furnishes the key to the entire Old Testament and reaches for its fulfillment into the New.

The issue, in a word, is the question of whether Israel as a nation and as a race has a prophesied future. A literal interpretation of the Abrahamic covenant involves the permanent existence of Israel as a nation and the fulfillment of the promise that the land should be their everlasting possession."

Dr. John Walvoord

I. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT - GENESIS 12:1-3

Three Basic Promises

1. Land

Genesis 12:1 (13:14,15; 15:18-21; 17:4,8; 22:15-18)

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee."

This land was an everlasting possession. Occupation of the land, however, was dependent on their obedience. Disobedience will mean dispossession of the land, but not disinheritance.

Even the unbelief of the Jewish nation has not canceled the promises - Romans 3:3,4; Galatians 3:17,18; Romans 9:4.

2. Seed (People)

Genesis 12:2 (Genesis 12:2; 13:16; 17:7)

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

Seed came through Isaac (Genesis 17:19; 21:12; 26:24) and then through Jacob (Genesis 28:13,14).

3. Blessing

Genesis 12:3

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

The Earlier Scripture (Old Testament) sees this accomplished by the servant - Isaiah 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-10, 52:13-53:12.

The Later Scripture (New Testament) sees this fulfilled in the Messiah - Galatians 3:16

Servant = Messiah.

Covenant made with the physical descendants of Abraham through Jacob

Abraham	Genesis 15:18; 17:4, 6-7
Isaac	Genesis 17:19; 21)
Jacob	Genesis 28:13-17

The establishment of the Covenant

Promised	Genesis 12:1-3
Ratified	Genesis 15:7-18
Oath	Genesis 22:15-18 (see Hebrews 6:13-18)

The Abrahamic Covenant is the most important of the Covenants for understanding the Bible. The rest of the Bible, from Genesis 12:4 through Revelation 22:21, is, in essence, commentary on how God brings to pass the three basic promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. The promises of the Abrahamic Covenant can be developed through the rest of the Scriptures in God's dealing with the Land of Israel, the Jewish people and the Messiah, and the salvation of Jews and Gentiles. The three other major covenants with Israel - Land, Davidic, and New - expand on the three basic promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.

II. THE PRIMACY OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT IN THE TIMING OF THE GOG/MAGOG PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL 38-39

The first eleven chapters of Genesis should not be dismissed for their importance in understanding the word of God. They are indispensable for our understanding about the origins of man, sin, family, nations and a host of other subjects. Yet, these 11 brief chapters cover approximately 2,000 years of human history. The rest of the Bible has 1177 chapters, around 80%-90% of this dealing with the Jewish people, and covers a period of approximately the same amount of time as the first 11 chapters. The sheer volume of material given over to the Jewish people in the Sacred Text demands our attention to God's dealing with His people.

"...the Holy Spirit is trying to say to all believers, right in the heart of your theology must be found the Jew. In the center of all your doctrines, ascertain God's purpose with Israel. Untold confusion and error have flown from failure to do this. Israel is the key to all dispensational arrangements. God's mystery of the ages will yield itself to no other key. Keep Israel in the center of your theological reckoning if a balance is to be maintained."

What it has cost the Church to withhold Christ from the Jews, Rev. Charles H. Stevens, D.D., Founder and first President of Piedmont Baptist Bible College, pamphlet, page 5, undated

1. Understanding Ezekiel 36 – 39: the Gog/Magog invasion of Israel, in light of the primacy of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Israel's sin brought God's discipline upon the nation of Israel and they were scattered to all the countries of the world.

Ezekiel 36:

- 16 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- 17 Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.
- 18 Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it:
- 19 And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them.

Holy and profane in Ezekiel 36:20-23

These two words are important in understanding what God is going to do for Israel, from their dispersion in 70 A.D, through the end of chapter 39

"Profane" חלל khaw-lal - Irreverent to anything holy; not purified or holy; allowed for common use.

Profanity (Profaneness) - "Irreverence of sacred things; particularly the use of language which implied irreverence towards God."

American Dictionary of the English Language, Webster 1828

"Holy" קדש ko '-desh - a sacred place or thing; sanctity, consecrated, dedicated, set apart, different, unique (intrinsically spiritual)

Exodus 19:6

"Holy nation"

Amos 3:2

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

"You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

Isaiah 40:25 "Holy One"

"To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One."

Zechariah 2:12 "Holy land"

"And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again."

Isaiah 52:1 "Jerusalem, the Holy City"

2 Chronicles 6:6

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean."

"But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel."

"Holy" and "Profane" are used once each in Ezekiel 36:20-22:

- 20 And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they **profaned** my **holy** name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.
- 21 But I had pity for mine **holy** name, which the house of Israel had **profaned** among the heathen, whither they went.
- 22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine **holy** name's sake, which ye have **profaned** among the heathen, whither ye went.

Verse 23 answers the **HOW** of the Gentiles of the world knowing who the LORD is. That is, when God is sanctified, made holy in Israel, before the nations of the world's eyes.

- 23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

EZEKIEL 36:24-28 tells us the **WHEN** that the LORD will be glorified in the whole earth and the Gentiles will know who the LORD is. It will be with the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant at the end of the 7-year Tribulation.

Verse 24 – the return to the LAND

Verses 25 – 27 - the BLESSING of salvation for the nation

Verse 28 – the SEED (Jewish people and Jesus) in the land

It will be with the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant at the end of the 7-year Tribulation

III. EZEKIEL 37 - 39

This lesson will look at Ezekiel 37 – 39 with an emphasis solely on the Abrahamic Covenant and its relation to these prophecies. Keep in mind that the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation period.

EZEKIEL 37:1-12 – the "dry bones" prophecy

The "bones" represent the nation of Israel - vs. 11

"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."

Verse 8 of this chapter was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became a nation again.

"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them."

Ezekiel 37

- 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. **LAND**
- 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. **SEED (Jewish people and Jesus)**
- 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **BLESSING**

Ezekiel 38 and 39

Dr. Charles Feinberg:

"Chapter 39 is inseparably connected in thought and form with the previous chapter."
The Prophecy of Ezekiel, page 227.

The "dry bones" prophecy of chapter 37 is the beginning of the consummation of God's plan (started in 1948 with the re-birth of Israel) bringing the Abrahamic Covenant to fulfillment.

The "Gog / Magog" battle of chapters 38-39 is the end of God's plan (for Israel and the nations) bringing the Abrahamic Covenant to fulfillment.

Ezekiel 39:25, 28-29

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name."

"Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. **LAND** and **SEED**

"Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD." **BLESSING**

WHEREVER ONE PLACES THE TIMING OF THE GOG INVASION OF ISRAEL, THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT MUST BE PART OF THE CONSIDERATION.

THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE TIMING OF THE EZEKIEL 38-39 INVASION MUST INCLUDE THE END OF THE TRIBULATION.

EZEKIEL 39:

- 17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.
- 18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.
- 19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.
- 20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 37:17-20 is quoted in REVELATION 19:17-21 when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation and destroys Anti-Christ and his armies.

REVELATION 19:

- 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
- 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

- 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.
- 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

It is clear from scripture that the Gog invasion includes the end of the Tribulation period.

One consideration that removes the likelihood of these events being relegated *solely* to the end of the Tribulation is *"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 38:11.

Israel is certainly not dwelling safely and at rest at the end of the Tribulation (actually from the middle of the Tribulation until the end), so the events of these chapters must start earlier and extend to the end of the Tribulation.

IV. DANIEL 11:40-45

This passage gives additional details that enable us to place the gog invasion before the middle of the tribulation.

Daniel 11:36-39 speak of the Anti-Christ.

Daniel 11:

- 40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.
- 41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.
- 42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.
- 43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.
- 44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.
- 45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO

1. Daniel 11:40-45, specifically verse 45, the Anti-Christ goes into the Temple after the battles of verses 40-44 have happened. After Anti-Christ defeats the king of the north and the king of the south other armies from the north and east come to attack, and Anti-Christ goes out with great fury to defeat them. I believe these are the Ezekiel 38-39 armies. These armies are destroyed by God, Ezekiel 39:1-6.
2. Anti-Christ goes to *"the glorious holy mountain [Mt. Moriah],"* Daniel 1:45, and sets up his palace. From scripture such as 2 Thess. 2:4, we know he goes into the Temple and, *"he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."* He claims to be God and SHOWS that he is God.
3. How does the Anti-Christ SHOW that he is God?
4. God uses fire to destroy Gog, Magog, and other nations

In Ezekiel 38:22, *"And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone."*

In Ezekiel 39:6 *"And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD."*

5. God uses fire to bring the promised destruction upon Gog and his allies.

Perhaps by claiming that it is he (Anti-Christ) who used fire from heaven to destroy these armies, and actually bringing down fire from heaven, the world is convinced he is god.

6. Revelation 13:12-13 says that the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet can call down fire from heaven.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

7. Satan has counterfeited the miracles of God in the past.

Exodus 7:

3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

Rod(s) turned into serpents by God's men and Satan's men.

8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Water turned into blood by God's men and Satan's men.

17 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

18 And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.

19 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Frogs multiplied in the land by God's men and Satan's men.

Exodus 8:

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

2 And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:

5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.

- 6 And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.
- 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

The "last days" will have professing Christians denying truth in the same way the Egyptian magicians Jannes and Jambres) did, preparing the way for the uncritical acceptance of miracles in the name of "Christ."

2 Timothy 3:

- 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
- 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
- 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Ezekiel 39:29

"Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."

The pouring out of the Spirit of God on Israel is clearly taught in other passages to happen at the end of the Tribulation.

Zechariah 12:10

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Joel 2:28

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

Perhaps, the best understanding is the Gog invasion of Israel, Ezekiel 38-39, begins prior to the middle of the Tribulation period and is the initial battle of the *campaign of Armageddon* which ends at the second coming, **when the Abrahamic Covenant is fulfilled.**