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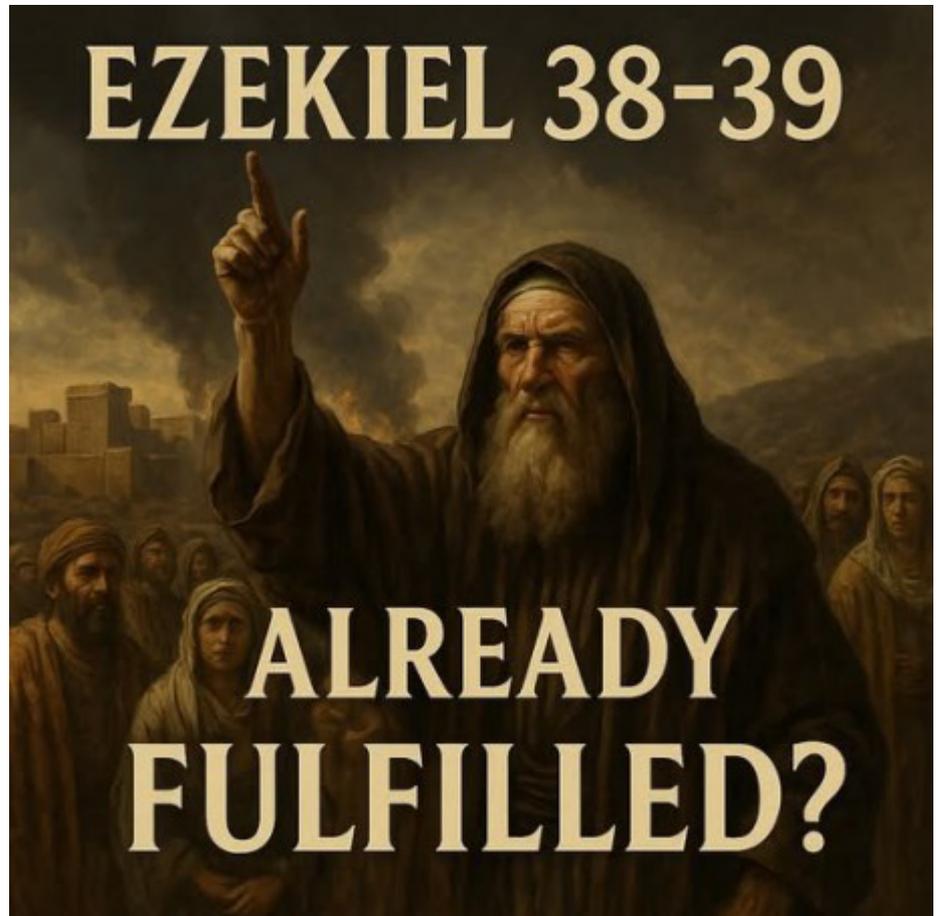
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**Ezekiel 38-39 and
the Fulfillment in
Christ**



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 38-39 and the Fulfillment in Christ

Ezekiel 38:1-3

And the word of the Lord came to me saying, Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, This is what the Lord God says: Behold, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

† Gog and Magog were historic enemies of Israel, but here they are used apocalyptically to represent the enemies of God's

covenant people. This is symbolic language, the same way Revelation speaks of Babylon as Jerusalem.

† The prophets regularly used ancient enemies as types of future judgment. For example, Isaiah called Babylon a symbol of pride and oppression long after its empire had faded (Isaiah 13-14). Ezekiel does the same with Gog and Magog, showing that this is covenantal language, not geography.

† Josephus records that the Jews of the first century already saw Rome as the enemy of God's people, the new oppressor of Israel (Wars 2.16.4). To them, Rome fit the role of Gog far more than any far-off modern nation.

Ezekiel 38:8

After many days you will be summoned, in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste, but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.

† The latter years refers to the final days of the Old Covenant, not our modern age. Israel had returned from Babylon, but their full covenant promises awaited fulfillment in the Messiah.

† The people were living securely under Rome's rule for a time, enjoying peace through Roman law, but that false peace collapsed when they rebelled against Rome in AD 66.

† Tacitus confirms that this rebellion brought chaos and terror, with Rome sweeping in from many nations of its empire to crush Jerusalem (Histories 5.1-13). This fits Ezekiel's picture of nations gathered against the land.

Ezekiel 39:21-22

And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. And the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God from that day onward.

† This glory among the nations came when God judged Jerusalem in AD 70. Jesus tied this to His coming in glory with the angels (Matthew 24:30).

† The nations did see it. Roman historians like Tacitus wrote of signs and wonders in the skies over Jerusalem before its fall (Histories 5.13).

† Eusebius also testifies that Christians understood the destruction of the Temple as God's hand of judgment, and that they escaped by heeding Christ's warning to flee to the mountains (Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3).

Romans 9:6

For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel.

† This verse is key. The promises of God never meant guaranteed military success for fleshly Israel. The true Israel is the believing remnant.

† Paul separates covenant Israel (those in Christ) from national Israel (those rejecting Him). To confuse the two is to miss God's entire plan.

† Josephus explains that the leaders of Jerusalem were destroyed in infighting, showing the blindness and corruption of those who claimed to be Israel but were cut off from the covenant (Wars 5.1.5).

Daniel 2:44

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people, it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

† Daniel's vision was fulfilled in the days of the Roman Empire. Christ's kingdom was inaugurated at His resurrection and poured out at Pentecost.

† The stone striking the image is Christ's judgment, bringing down the Old Covenant world and replacing it with an everlasting kingdom.

† This was not about a revived Roman Empire thousands of years later. It was about the Roman power of that time being struck by Christ's kingdom, which is still here and unshaken.

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay each one according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

† These words cannot be pushed to the resurrection alone. Jesus said some standing there would see His coming in His kingdom before they died.

† This matches His teaching in Matthew 24:34 that all would happen in that generation.

† The apostles expected this because they believed Jesus. It was fulfilled in AD 70, just as He promised.

Hebrews 10:37

For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

† The writer emphasized nearness, not delay. The coming was in their time.

† To stretch this across thousands of years empties the text of meaning. The inspired writer says it was at hand, and history shows it was fulfilled in the fall of Jerusalem.

How it applies to us today

† We must recognize the true Israel is in Christ, not in a modern political nation. The body of Christ is the covenant fulfillment.

† We live in the unshakable kingdom that Daniel foresaw, which Christ established in the first century.

† Historical testimony from Josephus, Tacitus, and Eusebius confirms the reality of those fulfillments, strengthening our confidence that God did exactly what He said.

† The fulfilled perspective clears away confusion about Israel, Gog and Magog, and so-called modern prophecy, grounding our faith in what God has already accomplished.

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

Source Index

† Josephus – The Jewish War, 2.16.4; 5.1.5; 6.5.3

† Tacitus – Histories, 5.1-13

† Eusebius – Ecclesiastical History, 3.5.3

† Philo – The Embassy to Gaius

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