

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Gog's Invasion (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

### Ezekiel 38

#### The Invasion of the Armies of Gog

- 1 The word of the LORD came to me:
- 2 “Son of man, turn toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophesy against him
- 3 and say: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.
- 4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and bring you out with all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them fully armed, a great company with shields of different types, all of them armed with swords.
- 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Put are with them, all of them with shields and helmets.
- 6 They are joined by Gomer with all its troops, and by Beth Togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples are with you.
- 7 “‘Be ready and stay ready, you and all your companies assembled around you, and be a guard for them.
- 8 After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come to a land restored from the ravages of war, with many peoples gathered on the mountains of Israel that had long been in ruins. Its people were brought out from the peoples, and all of them will be living securely.
- 9 You will advance; you will come like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the earth, you, all your troops, and the many other peoples with you.
- 10 “‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan.
- 11 You will say, “I will invade a land of unwallied towns; I will advance against those living quietly in security—all of them living without walls and barred gates—
- 12 to loot and plunder, to attack the inhabited ruins and the people gathered from the nations, who are acquiring cattle and goods, who live at the center of the earth.”
- 13 Sheba and Dedan and the traders of Tarshish with all its young warriors will say to you, “Have you come to loot? Have you assembled your armies to plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to haul away a great amount of spoils?”
- 14 “Therefore, prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: On that day when my people Israel are living securely, you will take notice
- 15 and come from your place, from the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a vast army.
- 16 You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the earth. In the latter days I will bring you against my land so that the nations may acknowledge me, when before their eyes I magnify myself through you, O Gog.

#### Yahweh Comes to Israel's Defense

- 17 “‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days that I would bring you against them?
- 18 On that day, when Gog invades the land of Israel, declares the sovereign LORD, my rage will mount up in my anger.
- 19 In my zeal, in the fire of my fury, I declare that on that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.
- 20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the wild beasts, all the things that creep on the ground, and all people who live on the face of the earth will shake at my presence. The mountains will topple, the cliffs will fall, and every wall will fall to the ground.
- 21 I will call for a sword to attack Gog on all my mountains, declares the sovereign LORD; every man's sword will be against his brother.
- 22 I will judge him with plague and bloodshed. I will rain down on him, his troops and the many peoples who are with him a torrential downpour, hailstones, fire, and brimstone.
- 23 I will exalt and magnify myself; I will reveal myself before many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.’

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Yahweh's Judgment on Gog (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

### Ezekiel 39

#### The Destruction of the Invading Armies

- 1 “As for you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal!
- 2 I will turn you around and drag you along; I will lead you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel.
- 3 I will knock your bow out of your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand.
- 4 You will fall dead on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the people who are with you. I give you as food to every kind of bird and every wild beast.
- 5 You will fall dead in the open field; for I have spoken, declares the sovereign LORD.
- 6 I will send fire on Magog and those who live securely in the coastlands; then they will know that I am the LORD.

- 7 “I will make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.
- 8 Realize that it is coming and it will be done, declares the sovereign LORD. It is the day I have spoken about.
- 9 “Then those who live in the cities of Israel will go out and use the weapons for kindling—the shields, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears—they will burn them for seven years.
- 10 They will not need to take wood from the field or cut down trees from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons. They will take the loot from those who looted them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them, declares the sovereign LORD.
- 11 “On that day I will assign Gog a grave in Israel. It will be the valley of those who travel east of the sea; it will block the way of the travelers. There they will bury Gog and all his horde; they will call it the valley of Hamon-Gog.
- 12 For seven months Israel will bury them, in order to cleanse the land.
- 13 All the people of the land will bury them, and it will be a memorial for them on the day I magnify myself, declares the sovereign LORD.
- 14 They will designate men to scout continually through the land, burying those who remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They will search for seven full months.
- 15 When the scouts survey the land and see a human bone, they will place a sign by it, until those assigned to burial duty have buried it in the valley of Hamon-Gog.
- 16 (A city by the name of Hamonah will also be there.) They will cleanse the land.’

### The Great Slaughter

- 17 “As for you, son of man, this is what the sovereign LORD says: Tell every kind of bird and every wild beast: ‘Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my slaughter which I am going to make for you, a great slaughter on the mountains of Israel! You will eat flesh and drink blood.
- 18 You will eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the earth—the rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fattened animals of Bashan.
- 19 You will eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, at my slaughter which I have made for you.
- 20 You will fill up at my table with horses and charioteers, with warriors and all the soldiers,’ declares the sovereign LORD.
- 21 “I will display my majesty among the nations. All the nations will witness the judgment I have executed, and the power I have exhibited among them.
- 22 Then the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward.
- 23 The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile due to their iniquity, for they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies; all of them died by the sword.
- 24 According to their uncleanness and rebellion I have dealt with them, and I hid my face from them.

### Israel Restored

- 25 “Therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob, and I will have mercy on the entire house of Israel. I will be zealous for my holy name.
- 26 They will bear their shame for all their unfaithful acts against me, when they live securely on their land with no one to make them afraid.
- 27 When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will magnify myself among them in the sight of many nations.
- 28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations, and then gathered them into their own land. I will not leave any of them in exile any longer.
- 29 I will no longer hide my face from them, when I pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the sovereign LORD.”

## Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—A Lament over Pharaoh (March 15, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 32:1–16

### Judgment on Pharaoh

- 1 In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:  
 2 “Son of man, sing a lament for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him:

“You were like a lion among the nations,  
 but you are a monster in the seas;  
 you thrash about in your streams,  
 stir up the water with your feet,  
 and muddy your streams.

3 “This is what the sovereign LORD says:

“I will throw my net over you in the assembly of many peoples;  
and they will haul you up in my dragnet.

- 4 I will leave you on the ground,  
I will fling you on the open field,  
I will allow all the birds of the sky to settle on you,  
and I will permit all the wild animals to gorge themselves on you.
- 5 I will put your flesh on the mountains,  
and fill the valleys with your maggot-infested carcass.
- 6 I will drench the land with the flow  
of your blood up to the mountains,  
and the ravines will be full of your blood.
- 7 When I extinguish you, I will cover the sky;  
I will darken its stars.  
I will cover the sun with a cloud,  
and the moon will not shine.
- 8 I will darken all the lights in the sky over you,  
and I will darken your land,  
declares the sovereign LORD.
- 9 I will disturb many peoples,  
when I bring about your destruction among the nations,  
among countries you do not know.
- 10 I will shock many peoples with you,  
and their kings will shiver with horror because of you.  
When I brandish my sword before them,  
every moment each one will tremble for his life, on the day of your fall.

#### **Babylon’s Role in Egypt’s Fall**

11 “For this is what the sovereign LORD says:

“The sword of the king of Babylon will attack you.

- 12 By the swords of the mighty warriors I will cause your hordes to fall—  
all of them are the most terrifying among the nations.  
They will devastate the pride of Egypt,  
and all its hordes will be destroyed.
- 13 I will destroy all its cattle beside the plentiful waters;  
and no human foot will disturb the waters again,  
nor will the hooves of cattle disturb them.
- 14 Then I will make their waters calm,  
and will make their streams flow like olive oil, declares the sovereign LORD.
- 15 When I turn the land of Egypt into desolation  
and the land is destitute of everything that fills it,  
when I strike all those who live in it,  
then they will know that I am the LORD.’
- 16 This is a lament; they will chant it.  
The daughters of the nations will chant it.  
They will chant it over Egypt and over all her hordes,  
declares the sovereign LORD.”

### **Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Pharaoh’s Descent into Sheol (March 29, 586 BC)**

Ezekiel 32:17–32

#### **Egypt’s Hosts in Sheol**

17 In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

18 “Son of man, wail over the horde of Egypt. Bring it down; bring her and the daughters of powerful nations down to the lower parts of the earth, along with those who descend to the pit.

19 Say to them, ‘Whom do you surpass in beauty? Go down and be laid to rest with the uncircumcised!’

20 They will fall among those killed by the sword. The sword is drawn; they carry her and all her hordes away.

21 The bravest of the warriors will speak to him from the midst of Sheol along with his allies, saying: ‘The uncircumcised have come down; they lie still, killed by the sword.’

#### **Assyria in Sheol**

22 “Assyria is there with all her assembly around her grave, all of them struck down by the sword.

23 Their graves are located in the remote slopes of the pit. Her assembly is around her grave, all of them struck down by the sword, those who spread terror in the land of the living.

#### **Elam in Sheol**

24 “Elam is there with all her hordes around her grave; all of them struck down by the sword. They went down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, those who spread terror in the land of the living. Now they will bear their shame with those who descend to the pit.

25 Among the dead they have made a bed for her, along with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword, for their terror had spread in the land of the living. They bear their shame along with those who descend to the pit; they are placed among the dead.

#### **Meshech, Tubal and Their Followers in Sheol**

26 “Meshech-Tubal is there, along with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword, for they spread their terror in the land of the living.

27 They do not lie with the fallen warriors of ancient times, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, having their swords placed under their heads and their shields on their bones, when the terror of these warriors was in the land of the living.

28 “But as for you, in the midst of the uncircumcised you will be broken, and you will lie with those killed by the sword.

#### **Edom, Prince of the North and Sidon in Sheol**

29 “Edom is there with her kings and all her princes. Despite their might they are laid with those killed by the sword; they lie with the uncircumcised and those who descend to the pit.

30 “All the leaders of the north are there, along with all the Sidonians; despite their might they have gone down in shameful terror with the dead. They lie uncircumcised with those killed by the sword, and bear their shame with those who descend to the pit.

#### **Pharaoh’s Doom**

31 “Pharaoh will see them and be consoled over all his hordes who were killed by the sword, Pharaoh and all his army, declares the sovereign LORD.

32 Indeed, I terrified him in the land of the living, yet he will lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with those killed by the sword, Pharaoh and all his hordes, declares the sovereign LORD.”

## **Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—The Watchman and Individual Responsibility (March 29, 586 BC)**

Ezekiel 33:1–20

### **The Duty of the Watchman**

1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 “Son of man, speak to your people, and say to them, ‘Suppose I bring a sword against the land, and the people of the land take one man from their borders and make him their watchman.

3 He sees the sword coming against the land, blows the trumpet, and warns the people,

4 but there is one who hears the sound of the trumpet yet does not heed the warning. Then the sword comes and sweeps him away. He will be responsible for his own death.

5 He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, so he is responsible for himself. If he had heeded the warning, he would have saved his life.

6 But suppose the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people. Then the sword comes and takes one of their lives. He is swept away for his iniquity, but I will hold the watchman accountable for that person’s death.’

### **The Function of the Watchman**

7 “As for you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you must warn them on my behalf.

8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you must certainly die,’ and you do not warn the wicked about his behavior, the wicked man will die for his iniquity, but I will hold you accountable for his death.

9 But if you warn the wicked man to change his behavior, and he refuses to change, he will die for his iniquity, but you have saved your own life.

10 “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you have said: “Our rebellious acts and our sins have caught up with us, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’”

#### **Individual Responsibility**

11 Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but prefer that the wicked change his behavior and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil deeds! Why should you die, O house of Israel?’

12 “And you, son of man, say to your people, ‘The righteousness of the righteous will not deliver him if he rebels. As for the wicked, his wickedness will not make him stumble if he turns from it. The righteous will not be able to live by his righteousness if he sins.’

13 Suppose I tell the righteous that he will certainly live, but he becomes confident in his righteousness and commits iniquity. None of his righteous deeds will be remembered; because of the iniquity he has committed he will die.

14 Suppose I say to the wicked, ‘You must certainly die,’ but he turns from his sin and does what is just and right.

15 He returns what was taken in pledge, pays back what he has stolen, and follows the statutes that give life, committing no iniquity. He will certainly live—he will not die.

16 None of the sins he has committed will be counted against him. He has done what is just and right; he will certainly live.

17 “Yet your people say, ‘The behavior of the Lord is not right,’ when it is their behavior that is not right.

18 When a righteous man turns from his godliness and commits iniquity, he will die for it.

19 When the wicked turns from his sin and does what is just and right, he will live because of it.

20 Yet you say, ‘The behavior of the Lord is not right.’ House of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his behavior.”

### **A Fourth Deportation to Babylon (582n BC)**

Jeremiah 52:28a, 30

#### **The Fourth Deportation (retribution for Gedaliah’s murder?)**

28a Here is the official record of the number of people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile:

30a in Nebuchadnezzar’s twenty-third year, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, carried into exile 745 Judeans.

#### **Summary and Total**

30b In all 4,600 people went into exile.

*Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996–2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://bible.org> All rights reserved. This material is available in its entirety as a free download or online web use at <http://netbible.org/>.*