

Ezekiel 38:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

Analysis

This prophetic word demonstrates God's sovereign control over history and nations. Even pagan empires and hostile coalitions serve God's purposes while remaining morally accountable for their actions. This Reformed understanding of providence affirms that nothing occurs outside God's decree, yet human agents bear full responsibility for their choices. The prophecy serves pastoral purposes: assuring God's people of His protection, warning enemies of certain judgment, and demonstrating that history moves toward God's appointed end. These prophecies find layered fulfillment—immediate historical, ongoing spiritual, and ultimate eschatological.

Historical Context

This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

Interlinear Text

לְכֹן	הִנְבִּי א	בֶּן	אָדָם	אָמַר	לְגֹג	כֹּה	אָמַר
H3651	prophesy	Therefore son	of man	Thus saith	unto Gog	H3541	Thus saith
	H5012	H1121	H120	H559	H1463		H559

יְהוָה	יְהוָה	הַלְוָאן	בֵּי יוֹם	הַהוּא	בִּשְׁבֶּת	עַמִּי
the Lord	GOD	H3808	In that day	H1931	dwelleth	when my people
H136	H3069		H3117		H3427	H5971

יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְבִטָּח	יָדָע:
of Israel	safely	shalt thou not know
H3478	H983	H3045

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 2:5 (References Lord): For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Ezekiel 38:8 (References Israel): After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and

is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Jeremiah 23:6 (References Lord): In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Ezekiel 38:11 (Parallel theme): 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,

Zechariah 2:8 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.