

Ezekiel 38:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְהִי הַ

H1961

And it shall come to pass at the same time

H3117

בְּזֶה

בְּזֶה

H1931

בְּזֶה וְ

And it shall come to pass at the same time

H3117

בְּזֶה וְ

shall come

H935

בְּזֶה גּוֹג

Gog

H5921

against the land

H127

וְהִי הַ

of Israel

H3478

saith

H5002

the Lord

H136

GOD

H3069

בְּזֶה הַ

shall come up

H5927

בְּזֶה תִּ

that my fury

H2534

בְּזֶה תִּ

in my face

H639

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:29 (References God): For our God is a consuming fire.

Psalms 89:46 (References Lord): How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire?

Nahum 1:2 (References God): God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Deuteronomy 32:22 (Parallel theme): For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

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