

Ezekiel 38:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

בֶּן	אָדָם	שֶׁן יָם	פָּנֶי יָךְ	אֶל	גּוֹג	אֶרֶץ	הַמָּג וּג	נָשִׁיא
Son	of man	set	thy face	H413	against Gog	the land	of Magog	prince
H1121	H120	H7760	H6440		H1463	H776	H4031	H5387
רֹאשׁ	מֶשֶׁחַ	וּתּוּבַל	וְהִנֵּנִי אֶ	עָלָיו:				
the chief	of Meshech	and Tubal	and prophesy	H5921				
H7218	H4902	H8422	H5012					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 39:1 (Prophecy): Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

Genesis 10:2 (Parallel theme): The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.

Ezekiel 38:3 (Parallel theme): And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

Ezekiel 27:13 (Parallel theme): Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market.

Ezekiel 6:2 (Prophecy): Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,

Ezekiel 2:1 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

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