

Ezekiel 38:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Analysis

God declares His purpose in defeating Gog: 'Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.' The verbs 'magnify' (hitgadilti, הִתְגַּדַּלְתִּי) and 'sanctify' (hitqaddishti, הִתְקַדְּשַׁתִּי) are reflexive, showing God vindicates His own greatness and holiness. The purpose: universal recognition—'many nations' will 'know that I am the LORD.' This fulfills the recognition formula repeated throughout Ezekiel. God orchestrates history to reveal His character and authority. Even the defeat of enemies serves this revelatory purpose. The judgment on Gog (representing forces opposing God's kingdom) demonstrates that no power can ultimately resist the LORD. This assures believers that all enemies will be defeated and God's glory universally acknowledged.

Historical Context

Gog of Magog (likely representing eschatological enemies from the north) will invade Israel in the latter days (38:8, 16) but be supernaturally defeated (38:19-23, 39:1-6). The prophecy's details have generated extensive interpretation—some see ancient fulfillment, others see future eschatological fulfillment. Revelation 20:8 applies Gog/Magog imagery to final rebellion before eternal state. The core truth: God will defeat all opposition and vindicate His holiness before all nations. This encourages the faithful remnant that despite present opposition and apparent

enemy strength, God will triumph decisively and gloriously. His ultimate purpose is self-revelation—all will recognize His lordship.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that God will ultimately magnify and sanctify Himself before all nations encourage you amid present opposition?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty over history and nations?

Interlinear Text

וְהִתְגַּדַּלְתִּי	וְהִתְקַדַּשְׁתִּי	וְיָדְעוּ	לְעֵינֵי	גוֹיִם
Thus will I magnify	myself and sanctify	and they shall know	in the eyes	nations
H1431	H6942	H3045	H5869	H1471
רַבִּי	וְיָדְעוּ	כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה:
of many	and they shall know	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD
H7227	H3045			H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:16 (References Lord): The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

Ezekiel 38:16 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Ezekiel 36:23 (References Lord): And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

Ezekiel 37:28 (References Lord): And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

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