

Ezekiel 38:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

צָפֵן וְיַרְכְּתִי תּוֹגָרְמָה הַבַּיִת אֶגְפֵּן וְיַכְלֵן גַּת מָר
Gomer H3605 and all his bands the house of Togarmah quarters of the north
H1586 H102 H1004 H8425 H3411 H6828

אֶתְנָהָרִים וְבַבְּיַם עַמִּים וְעַמִּים יִמְשְׁלָעָת
H853 H3605 and all his bands people and many H854
H102 H5971 H7227

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 27:14 (Parallel theme): They of the house of Togarmah traded in thy fairs with horses and horsemen and mules.