

Ezekiel 39:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְאַתָּה בָּן אָדָם הַנּוֹבֵט עַל
H859 Therefore thou son of man prophesy H5921
H1121 H120 H5012

אָתָּה אֶתְתָּ אָמַר כִּי אָמַר אָמַר אָמַר
Behold I am against thee O Gog Thus saith H3541 Thus saith the Lord GOD
H1463 H559 H136 H3069

רַא שָׁרֵן אֶל יְהֹוָה אֶת גָּוֹג אֶל יְהֹוָה
H2005 H413 Behold I am against thee O Gog H1463 prince the chief of Meshech
H5387 H7218 H4902

וְתָבָל:

and Tubal

H8422

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 35:3 (References God): And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate.

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