

Ezekiel 39:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamon-gog.

Analysis

I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea—The Hebrew maqom sham qever (מָקוֹם־שָׁם קָבֵר) literally means "a place there, a grave," emphasizing the ironic destiny of Gog. Instead of conquering Israel, Gog receives only burial ground. **The valley of the passengers** (gey ha-overim, גֵּיא הַעֲוֹרִים) refers to a major thoroughfare, likely the valley between the Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee, where travelers would pass.

The name **Hamon-gog** (הַמּוֹגָג) means "multitude of Gog" or "horde of Gog," memorializing the magnitude of this eschatological defeat. The phrase **it shall stop the noses of the passengers** graphically depicts the stench of unburied corpses blocking the route—the Hebrew chosemes (חוֹסֵם) means "stopping up" or "obstructing." This vivid imagery emphasizes the totality of divine judgment against those who assault God's covenant people.

Historical Context

Ezekiel prophesied this during the Babylonian exile (593-571 BCE), addressing both immediate concerns about Israel's enemies and eschatological themes of final judgment. The "valley of the passengers" likely refers to major trade routes

through Israel connecting Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Arabia. In ancient Near Eastern warfare, unburied corpses were considered both a military disgrace and ritual defilement (Deuteronomy 21:23).

The seven-month burial period and the valley's renaming demonstrate that this prophecy concerns an unprecedented event. Many Reformed interpreters see this as unfulfilled eschatology pointing to Revelation 19-20's final battle, though some apply it symbolically to God's ongoing protection of the church against worldly powers.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God transform Gog's intended conquest into a monument of divine judgment?
2. What does the detailed burial account teach about God's concern for both justice and ritual purity?

Interlinear Text

גּוֹג אַתְּ | בָּה וְאַתְּ | בְּיַם וְיַם | וְיַם הַיְמָן

H1961 And it shall come to pass in that day H1931 that I will give Gog

H3117 H5414 H1463

בְּעִיר יָמָן מִקְרָם שְׁמָן בְּרָא לְאַתְּ בְּיַשְׁבָא לְאַתְּ יְאַתְּ בְּעִיר יָמָן

a place H8033 there of graves in Israel it The valley of the passengers

H4725 H6913 H3478 H1516 H5674

בְּעִיר יָמָן קָדְםָן תְּ בְּיַם וְיַם מִתְּ וְיַם יְאַתְּ הַיְמָן אַתְּ בְּעִיר יָמָן

on the east of the sea and it shall stop of the passengers

H6926 H3220 H2629 H1931 H853 H5674

בְּמִזְבֵּחַ כָּל אַתְּ גּוֹג וְיַם בְּרָא

and there shall they bury Gog H853 H3605 and all his multitude

H6912 H8033 H1463 H1995

גּוֹג וְיַם יְאַתְּ בְּרָא וְיַם בְּרָא

and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog

H7121 H1516 H0 H1996

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