

Ezekiel 39:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Analysis

I will send a fire on Magog—judgment falls not only on Gog's army (verse 5) but his homeland. Esh (אש, fire) represents divine wrath, the same fire that consumed Sodom (Genesis 19:24). Those **that dwell carelessly in the isles** (וְשָׁבֵי הָאָיִם לְבָטֵח) yoshevei ha'iyim lavetach)—'securely' or 'complacently' in distant coastlands—discover no distance protects from God's reach.

And they shall know that I am the LORD (וְיָדְעוּ כִּי־אָנִי יְהוָה) veyade'u ki-ani YHWH)—Ezekiel's signature phrase (60+ times). Through judgment, God's covenant name and character become undeniable. The nations' recognition of Yahweh, forced by fire, fulfills Israel's original calling: to make God known (Exodus 19:6). What Israel failed to accomplish through witness, God achieves through wrath.

Historical Context

Magog's 'isles' likely refers to distant Mediterranean or Black Sea regions, representing the ends of the known world. The prophecy assures exiles that restoration won't just survive local threats—God will judge Israel's remotest enemies. The fire imagery evokes Sodom's destruction, suggesting total, divine judgment without human agency. Israel need not fear coalition attacks; God Himself fights.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 – God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment on distant 'isles' demonstrate that no one dwells beyond His authority?
2. In what ways does divine judgment serve to make God's name and character 'known' even to enemies?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵי יָם	וְבִּישָׁב	בְּמֹג וְגַם	וְשַׁלְּחָתִי
in the isles	and dwell	on Magog	and I will send
H339	H3427	H4031	H784

Additional Cross-References

Amos 1:4 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-hadad.

Ezekiel 30:8 (References Lord): And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and when all her helpers shall be destroyed.

Ezekiel 30:16 (Parallel theme): And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily.

Jeremiah 25:22 (Parallel theme): And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea.

Isaiah 66:19 (Parallel theme): And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Psalms 72:10 (Parallel theme): The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Nahum 1:6 (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Amos 1:10 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof.