

The Final war before Christ's Millennial Kingdom (Ezek 36-39)

Sept 2015 – Russia's involvement in Syria (Iran/China) VS US-led UN, with EU, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia pulled into the mix in the conflict, sounded a major alarm among the students of Bible prophecy. Most agree that this is a prelude to the fulfilment of Ezk 38-39 (C.f. Is 17:13). *'The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters.'*

A. The Framework of (I) Ezk 36-37 & (II) Ezk 38-39 as Two Main Signposts

1. Ezk 36:17-36

- I. Israel is planted by God in a designated land.
- II. Israel defiled the land by sinning against God.
- III. Israel is evicted from this land.
- IV. Israel profaned YHWH's name among nations.
- V. But God will regather Israel from all nations and plant them back in their land. Why will He do this? 'God will do this for *His own name*' sake.
- VI. God will sanctify Israel after regathering them by sprinkling on them clean water and giving them a new heart and new spirit.
- VII. God's name will be sanctified among all nations – original intention! How is God doing to do this? *'When I am hollowed in you (Israel) before their eyes' (36:23)*

2. (V) and (VI) are happening now! (V) 1948 & 1967. (VI) is ongoing to this present moment.

- Ezekiel in ch37 predicts the same events in terms of resurrection from the dead. He gives additional information - the regathered Israel will be one nation when they are gathered. Rather than Judah, the name Israel was chosen for this reason.
- Ezekiel prophesied twice in ch37 (a) 'bone to bone & sinew/flesh (rebirth of Israel); (b) breath of life (spiritual revival) making Israel an exceedingly great army (37:7-8, 9-10).

The resurrection of Israel will take place in 2 stages - physical resurrection followed by spiritual revival. Our prayer for Israel today is fulfilling the prophetic acts of Ezekiel (37:9-10).

- When Israel is regathered by God, she will be in conflict rather than in peace (Jer 30:3-7). The condition of Israel's peace is not her military might, but holiness (36:33). In between the two resurrections, there will be a desperate cry of Israel to God, *"Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!" (37:11)*. God's breath of life enters them as a result of Israel's desperate cry.

3. (VII) is a future event and has 2 components.

(1) Israel attains the right relationship with YHWH.

(2) God obtains a decisive victory against the evil nations that invade the 'resurrected army of Israel' in the war of Gog and Magog (Ezk 38-39).

B. Prophetic Prerequisites for Ezk 38-39 War

We are living between the TWO great events, which are the major timeframe signposts for the end time timetable. Signpost 1 – 1948/1967 physical rebirth & the ongoing process of the spiritual awakening of Israel. Signpost 2 - Gog and Magog war in the future.

We are now moving towards Signpost 2 outlined below.

1. God brings the confederate nations against Israel (38:1-6)

- i) Gog = the head of the confederate nations (the antichrist?).
- ii) Land of Magog and Rosh = Russia & former Soviet Republic.

- iii) Meshech & Tubal = Turkey.
- iv) Persia = Iran.
- v) Ethiopia = Ethiopia/Sudan.
- vi) Libya = Libya, Algeria, Tunisia.
- vii) Gomer = Parts of Europe.
- viii) Togarmah = Turkey, Armenia, parts of Asia Minor.

2. Israel's Pre-invasion Condition: Israel is dwelling safely in peace, all of them without walls, bars, and gates (Ezk 38:8, 10-11). The mountains of Israel are the 'mountains of Samaria' including the West Bank (37:21; 38:3).
3. The Motive for Invasion: To plunder the wealth of Israel – booty, wealthy redeveloped land, silver, gold, livestock, and goods (trades) (Ezk 38:12-13).

Note: Israel discovered the largest natural gas deposit in the Mediterranean Sea and a very large oil deposit in Golan Heights in 2015. Putin visited Israel in Oct 2015, wearing a kipper to negotiate a joint venture for the 'Leviathan gas field' - Gazprom! (Isa 60:5 'abundance of the sea shall be turned to you.' & 'the wealth of the Gentiles will come to you.')

4. The Protesting Nations: Sheba (Yemen), Dedan (Saudi Arabia), merchants of Tarshish (Spain & British Isles), and all their young lions (Former British Colonies) (38:13).

Note: Tarshish in Ezekiel's day was in the farthest western regions of the known world (Spain and the British Isles). They were wealthy and flourished in the export of silver, iron, tin, and lead through the seafaring Phoenicians (Jer 10:9; Ezekiel 27:12, 25).

'All its young lions' – idiom for the nations that have come out of Tarshish, the most successful of these was Great Britain whose national symbol is a lion. No other empire had more young lions than Great Britain – the USA, Canada, Australia, NZ, South Africa. These represent the present free democratic world. Generally, these democratic nations have been more pro-Israel than the rest. (C.f. Is. 60:9-10).

C. Prophetic Outcome for Ezk 38-39 War

1. The Outcome of the War: Drastic victory for Israel by the direct supernatural intervention by God, not by IDF - great earthquake; pestilence; bloodshed; flooding rain, great hailstones; fire; brimstones (38:20-22 c.f. 7th Bowl judgment Rev 16:17-21). It is called 'God's great sacrificial meal' (Ezk 39:17-18) which is quoted in Rev 19:17-18. It is the war that precipitates the 2nd coming of Christ (a.k.a. the Armageddon war). The effect of this war on the land is so great that it will take 7 years to burn the weapons of war and 7 months to bury the dead to cleanse the land (Ezk 39:9-10, 12-14).

** I don't believe this is the Gog and Magog War of Rev 20:7-8, which takes place after the millennial reign of Christ which will usher in the new heaven and new earth. There is no need in the new heaven and new earth to burn the old weapons for 7 years or bury the dead for 7 months.*

2. The End Result – the Millennial kingdom of Christ:
 - i) The whole world will come to know YHWH! (Ezk 38:23). No more atheism will exist in the world from this point on. The whole world will come to know God.
 - ii) Israel will never go into captivity any longer after this event, and God will no longer hide His face from Israel anymore (Ezk 39:29). i.e., The New Covenant promise to Israel will be fulfilled.
 - iii) As a result, God put his glory among the nations. (Ezk 39:21)
3. One important question to answer: Is the condition for the invasion of Israel in Ezekiel 38-39 war met today? (Ezk. 38:8, 11)
 - i) Is Israel dwelling safely in peace including the mountains of Israel without walls, bars, and gates?
 - ii) Is Israel enjoying such wealth that she is bringing the faraway nations to invade her?

D. Three Important Questions to ponder on

1. What will cause Israel to dwell in safety and outstanding prosperity?

Israel currently is surrounded by the Islamic states vowing to obliterate Israel off the map!

2. Why is there a conspicuous absence of the Islamic states surrounding Israel in Ezk 38-39 war? There is no mention of Egypt; Jordan, Syria, Iraq (Babylon), Gaza (Hamas), Lebanon (Hezbollah)?

Can you imagine an international war against Israel today and these nations are not involved in it?

3. Will there be a regional war BEFORE Ezekiel 38-39 that will deal with the surrounding Islamic nations that will dramatically alter the current map of the middle east?

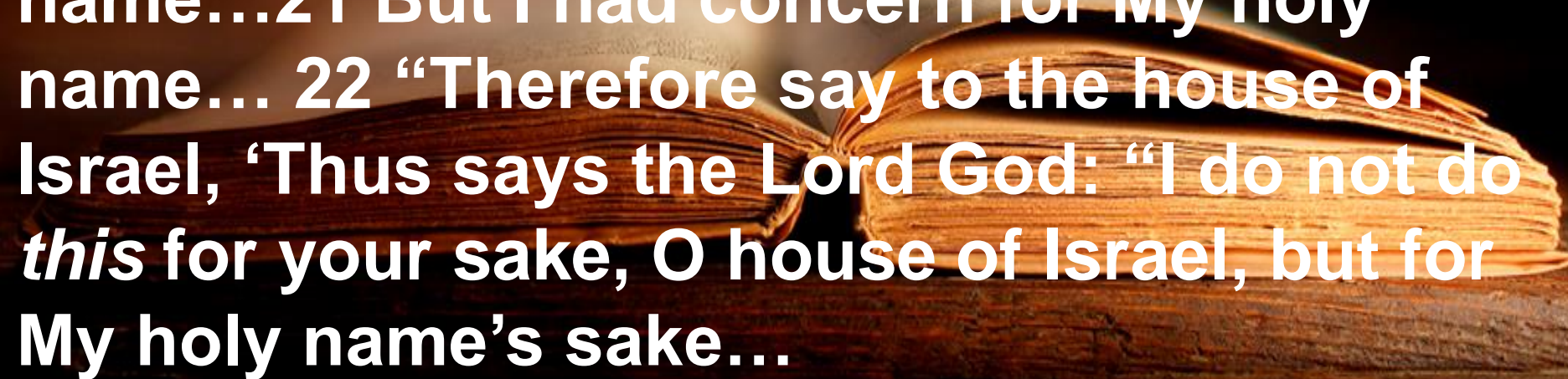
And could this event create a perfect condition for Israel's prosperity for the future invasion of Israel? (Ps. 83, Is. 19:23 – highway from Egypt to Assyria, C.f. Zech 12)

Ezekiel War Paradigm

Ezekiel Framework

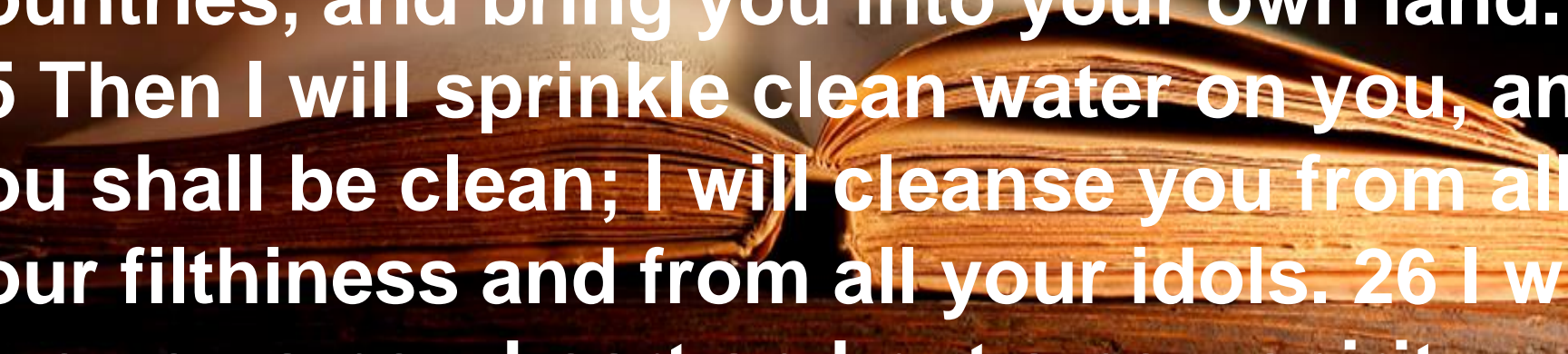
Ezekiel 36:17-36

17 “Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds...19 So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries...20 When they came to the nations...they profaned My holy name...21 But I had concern for My holy name... 22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake...



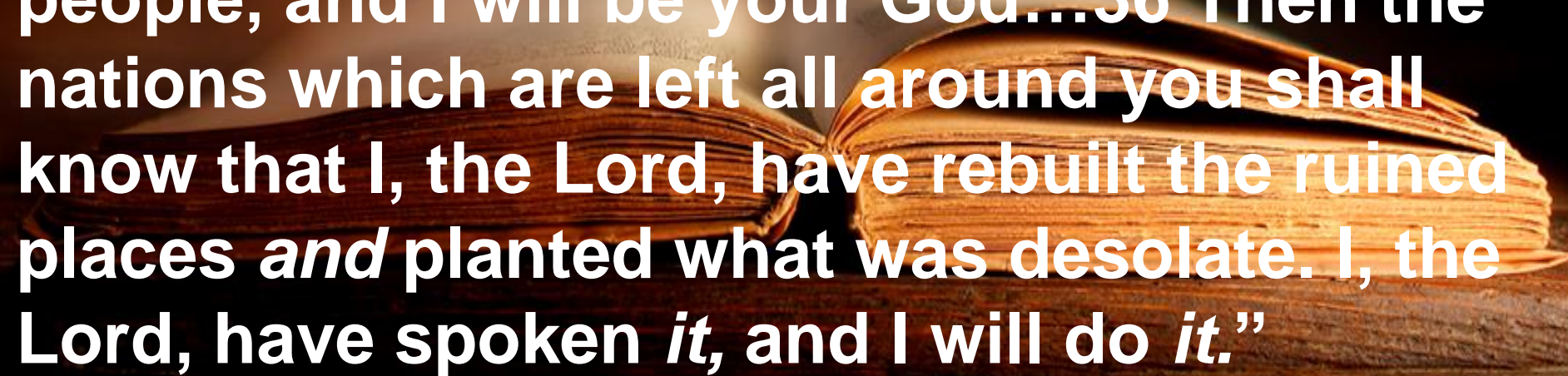
Ezekiel 36:17-36

23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations...and the nations shall know that I *am* the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. 24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. 25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...




Ezekiel 36:17-36


I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God...36 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken *it*, and I will do *it*.”



Ezekiel 36-37 Framework

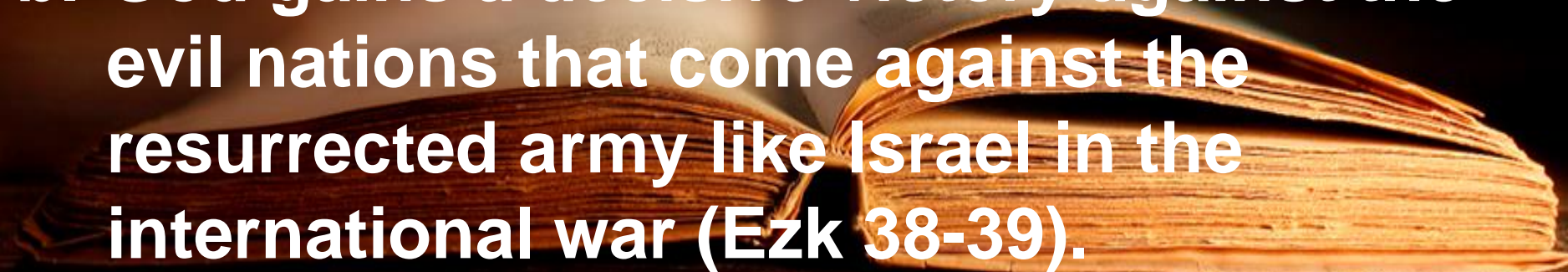
1. Israel planted by God in a designated land;
 2. Israel defiled the land by sinning against God;
 3. Israel is evicted from this land;
 4. Israel profaned YHWH's name among nations;
 5. But God will re-gather Israel from all nations and plant them back in their land.
 6. God sanctifying Israel after re-gathering – clean water & new heart & new Spirit;
 7. God's name honoured among all nations!
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Ezekiel 36-37 Framework

1. Israel planted by God in a designated land;
 2. Israel defiled the land;
 3. Israel evicted from this land;
 4. Israel profane YHWH's name among nations;
 5. God re-gathering Israel from all nations
 6. God sanctifying Israel after re-gathering – clean water & new heart & new Spirit; (The Message of Ezekiel 37)
 7. God's name honoured among all nations!
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Ezekiel 36-37 Framework

7. Ultimate fulfillment of God's name
honoured among all nations as two
component.

- a. Israel attains the right relationship with the Lord.
 - b. God gains a decisive victory against the evil nations that come against the resurrected army like Israel in the international war (Ezk 38-39).
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Pre-requisite to Ezekiel 38-39

2 Main Events of Ezekiel Framework:

Ezekiel 36-37

Re-gathering of
Israel & Spiritual
Restoration of
Israel

1948 → Ongoing

We
are
living
here!

Ezekiel 38-39

Gog & Magog
War &
Restoration of
God's glory over
Israel & the
world

Future Event

Who are the Invading Nations?

Bible Description	Today's Nations
Gog	the head of the confederate nations
land of Magog & Rosh	Russia & former Soviet Republic
Meshech & Tubal	Turkey
Persia	Iran
Ethiopia	Ethiopia/Sudan
Libya	Libya, Algeria, Tunisia
Gomer	Parts of Europe
Togamah	Turkey, Armenia, parts of Asia Minor.



Magog



Gomer

Meshech

Tubal

Togarmah

Perala

Phut

Libya

Cush

Dodan?

Sheba?

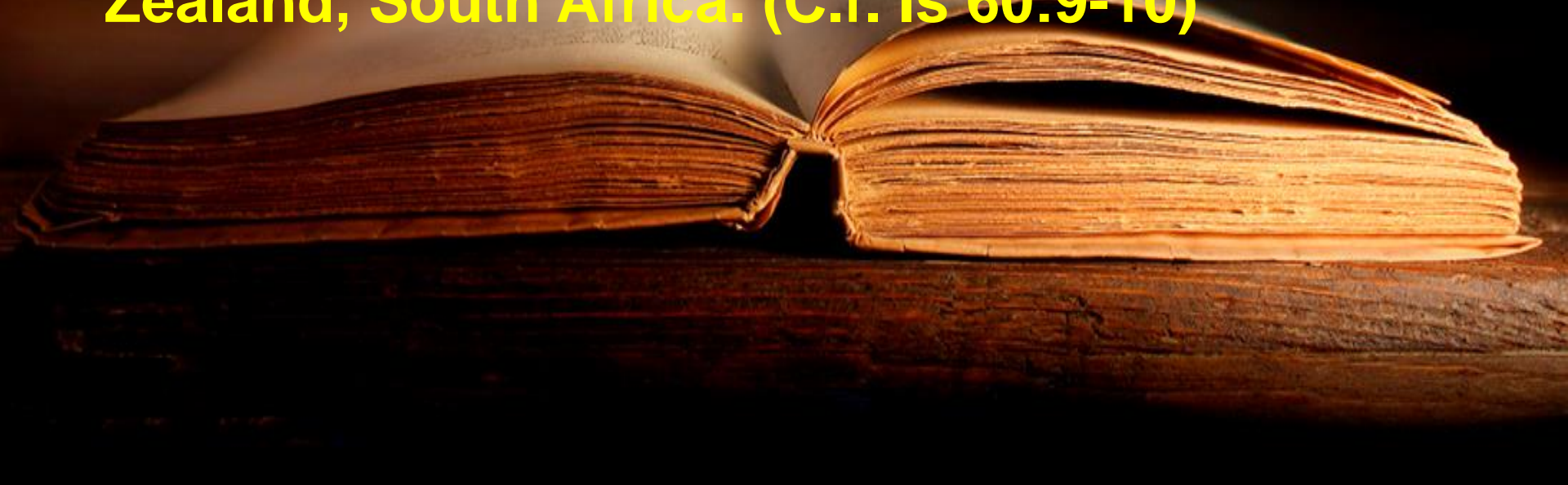
Israel

Condition & Motive of Invasion

10 ...“On that day it shall come to pass *that* thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 11 You will say, ‘**I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’—** 12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places *that are again* inhabited. **Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, “Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?** (Ezk 38:10-13)

Protesting Nations

1. Sheba = Modern Yemen
2. Dedan = Saudi Arabia
3. Merchants of Tarshish = Spain & British Isles C.f. Ezk 27:12, 25 (far west that produce silver, iron, tin, and lead through seafaring Phoenicians)
4. All their young lions = nations that have come out of Tarshish – i.e. USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa. (C.f. Is 60:9-10)

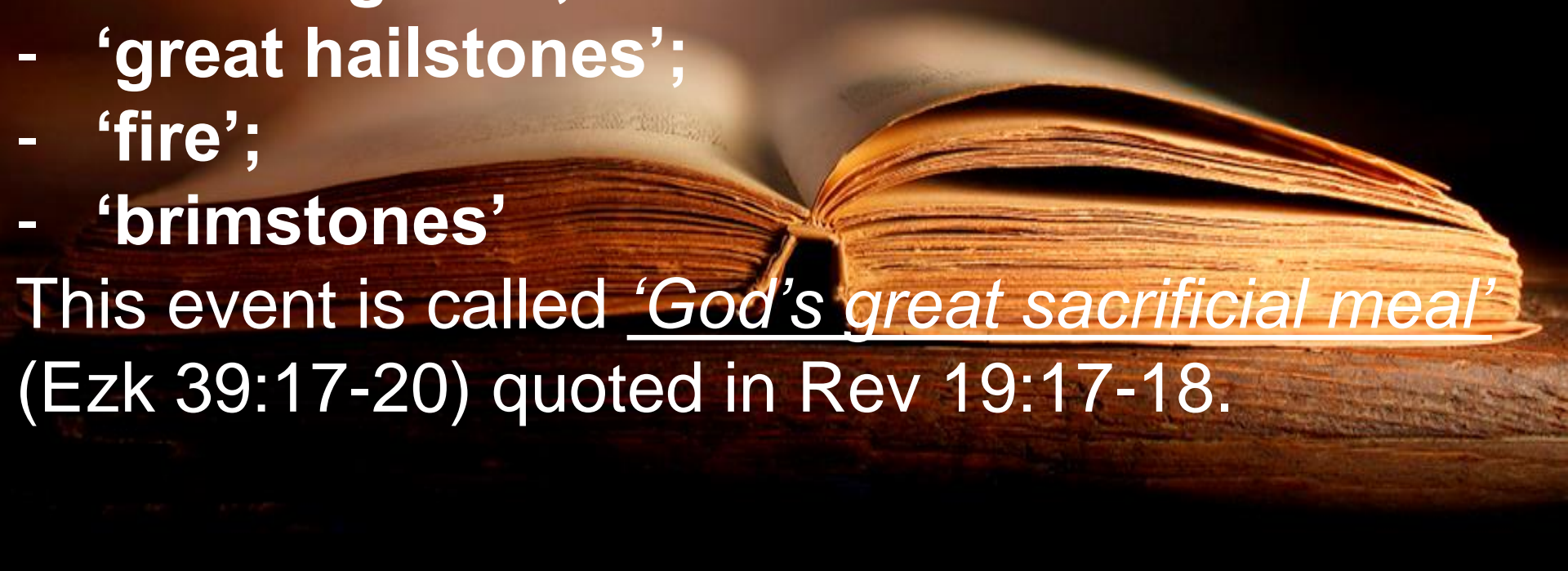


How does the war end?

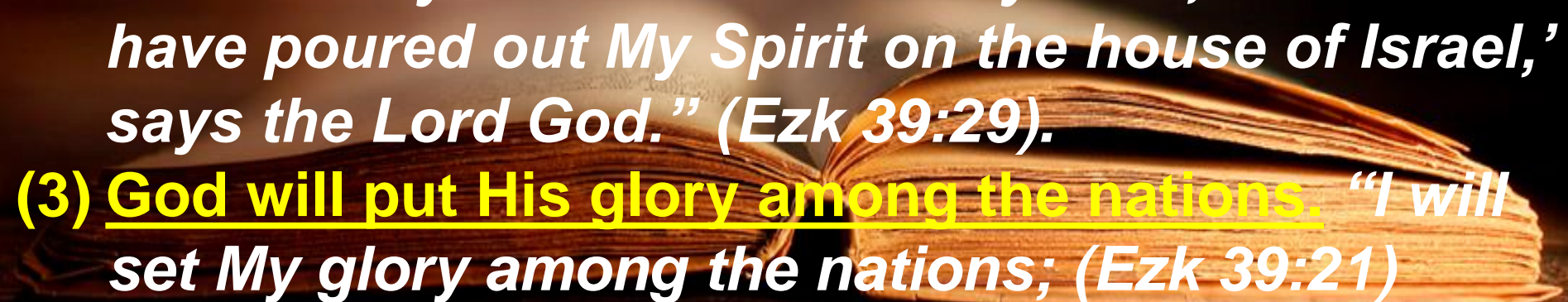
By a direct supernatural intervention by God
(Ezk 38:20-22 c.f. Rev 16:17-21):

- 'great earthquake';
- 'pestilence';
- 'bloodshed';
- 'flooding rain',
- 'great hailstones';
- 'fire';
- 'brimstones'

This event is called 'God's great sacrificial meal'
(Ezk 39:17-20) quoted in Rev 19:17-18.



The Final Outcome of Ezekiel War

- (1) The whole world will come to know YHWH!** *“Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezk 38:23).*
 - (2) Israel will never go into captivity any more & God will no longer hide His face from Israel** *“And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” says the Lord God.” (Ezk 39:29).*
 - (3) God will put His glory among the nations.** *“I will set My glory among the nations; (Ezk 39:21)*
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One important Question to consider

Is the condition of the invasion of Israel met today?

– i.e. Is all of Israel dwelling safely in peace on the mountains of Israel without walls, bars, and gates and is Israel enjoying such wealth to bring the nations from far away to invade? (Ezk. 38:8, 11).



3 further questions to consider

(1) What will cause Israel to dwell to dwell in safety?

(2) Why the conspicuous silence of current Islamic states surrounding Israel in Ezk 38-39 war?

No mention of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq (Babylon), Gaza (Hamas), Lebanon (Hezbollah), etc. *Can you imagine an international war against Israel today and these nations are not involved in it?*

(3) *Is there going to be a preceding war before Ezekiel 38-39 that deals with all of these nations that will dramatically alters the current map of the middle east and create a perfect condition for the future invasion of Israel? (Ps 83, Is 19:23; Zech 12)*

