

YHWH's Guarantee of Israel's Future
A Satire on Gog of Magog and His Allies: Part 1

Veritas Adult Community

College Church Commons

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Preamble

^{38:1} The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Human, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince, chief of Meshech and Tubal. Prophecy against him ³ and say:

Frame 1

Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

Look, I am against you, O Gog, prince, chief of Meshech and Tubal. ⁴I will turn you around and put hooks into your jaws; I will take you out—with all your army, horsemen and charioteers, all magnificently dressed, a vast assembly, armed with body shields and hand shields, all of them brandishing swords. ⁵ Paras, Cush, and Put accompany them, all armed with shields and helmets; ⁶ Gomer and all its hordes, Beth-Togarmah from the remotest parts of the north, and all its hordes—vast armies accompany you.

⁷ Be prepared! Get ready—you and your entire assembly that have been mobilized about you. You will serve as their guard. ⁸ After a long time you will be summoned; in the distant future you will march against a land that has been reclaimed from the sword, and [whose population] has been regathered from many peoples [living] on the mountains of Israel, which had lain desolate for such a long time. Now they [its inhabitants] have been liberated from the peoples; they are living securely, all of them. ⁹ You will advance like a thunderstorm; you will come like the storm cloud, covering the land—you and all your allies and many peoples with you.

Frame 2

¹⁰ Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

On that day, ideas will rise in your mind, and you will conceive a wicked scheme.

¹¹ You will think, “I will invade an undefended country; I will attack the tranquil people that live securely, all of them living in unwalled towns without bars or gates, ¹² to seize spoil and to carry off booty”—to turn your hand against the repopulated ruins and against a people regathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and possessions and are living on top of the world. ¹³ Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish, and all its magnates, will ask you, “Is it to seize spoil that you have come? Is it to carry off booty that you have assembled your allies? To make off with silver and gold? To take away livestock and property? To seize vast amounts of booty?”

Frame 3

¹⁴ Therefore, prophesy, human, and declare to Gog: Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

Surely, on that day, when my people, Israel, are dwelling securely, you will take note! ¹⁵ You will come from your homeland in the remotest parts of the north—you and many peoples with you, all of them mounted on horses, a vast horde, a mighty army. ¹⁶ You will advance upon my people, Israel, like a storm cloud covering the land. In the distant future, when it happens, I will bring you against my land in order that the nations may know me, when I display my holiness among you, before their eyes, O Gog!

Frame 4

¹⁷ Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

Are you the one of whom I have spoken in the past through my servants, the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days that after many years I would

bring you against them?

¹⁸Now on that day, the day Gog invades the land of Israel—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—my fury will be aroused. In my anger ¹⁹and in my passion, in my blazing wrath I have spoken. Assuredly, on that day, a great earthquake will occur on the land of Israel. ²⁰The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, every creature that crawls along the ground, and the entire human race on the face of the earth will quake before me. The mountains will be hurled down, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will crumble to the ground. ²¹Then I will summon the sword against him, throughout all my mountains—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—every man’s sword will be turned against his brother. ²²And I will punish him with pestilence and bloodshed; I will pour out torrential rain, hailstones, fire and burning sulfur on him and his hordes and the many peoples accompanying him.

Interpretive Interim Conclusion

²³So I will display my greatness and my holiness; I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am YHWH.

Preamble

^{39:1} As for you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say:

Frame 5

Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

Look, I am against you, O Gog, prince, chief of Meshech, and Tubal! ²I will turn you around, drive you on, lead you up from the remotest parts of the north, bring you to the mountains of Israel, ³only to strike your bow from your left hand and knock your arrows out of your right hand. ⁴On the mountains of Israel you will fall—you and all your hordes and the peoples accompanying you—I will hand you over as food to every kind of scavenging bird and wild animal. ⁵On the

open field you will fall—For I have spoken—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—⁶ And I will send fire against Magog and on those who live securely on the coastal lands. Then they will know that I am YHWH. ⁷ And I will make my holy name known among my people Israel. Never again will I let my holy name be desecrated. Even the nations will know that I am YHWH, the Holy One in Israel. ⁸ Look! It is coming! It will happen!—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—that is the day that I have decreed.

Frame 6

⁹ Then the residents of Israel's cities will go out and burn up the weapons completely: hand shields and body shields, bows and arrows, clubs and spears. For seven years they will fuel their fires with them. ¹⁰ They will have no need to carry wood in from the field nor cut down any [tree] in the forests because they will use the weapons as fuel for [their] fires. They will seize the spoil of those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them— the declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Frame 7

¹¹ On that day I will assign a burial site for Gog right within Israel—the valley of those who have passed on, east of the sea. It will block off those who pass on. There they shall bury Gog and all his hordes, and they shall name the place, “The Valley of Hamon Gog.” ¹² Then the house of Israel shall spend seven months burying them, so the land may be cleansed. ¹³ All the people of the land shall join in burying them, and their fame will spread on the day that I display my glory—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—¹⁴ And they shall set apart a standing commission of men who shall pass through the land and bury any who have passed on, who[se corpses] remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They shall conduct their search for a period of seven complete

months.¹⁵ As the commissioners tour the land, if anyone spots a human bone, he shall erect a marker beside it, until those responsible for the burials have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog.¹⁶ (Hamonah is actually a city name.) Thus they shall cleanse the land.

Frame 8

¹⁷ As for you, human, thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Proclaim to every kind of scavenging bird and to every wild animal:

Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you—a huge sacrificial feast—on the mountains of Israel. You may eat flesh and drink blood.¹⁸ The flesh of valiant men you may devour, and the blood of the princes of the earth you may drink: rams, lambs, and male goats; bulls and fatlings of Bashan, all of them.¹⁹ You may devour fat until you are satisfied and drink blood until you are intoxicated, at the sacrificial feast that I have prepared for you.²⁰ You may gorge yourself at my table with horses and charioteers, valiant men and all the men of war.

The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Interpretive Conclusion

²¹ Thus I will establish my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see my justice that I have executed, and my power that I have imposed upon them.²² Then the house of Israel will know that I am YHWH their God from that day onwards.²³ And the nations will recognize that the house of Israel went off into exile on account of their own iniquity. Because they had acted faithlessly against me, I hid my face from them. When I delivered them into the power of their adversaries, they fell to the sword, all of them.²⁴ I dealt with them according to their defilement and according to their treachery. Therefore I hid my face from them.

²⁵ Assuredly, thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob; I will have compassion on the whole house of Israel and demonstrate passion for my holy name. ²⁶ They will bear their disgrace and all their acts of infidelity that they have perpetrated against me when they dwell securely on their own land, with no one frightening them. ²⁷ When I bring them back from the peoples and regather them from the countries of their enemies, then I will display my holiness among them in the sight of many nations. ²⁸ And they will know that I am YHWH their God in that, having sent them off into exile to the nations, I will gather them to their own land. I will never again leave any of them out there. ²⁹ Nor will I ever again hide my face from them, for I will have poured out my Spirit upon the house of Israel.

The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Exposition

A. The Nature and Design of the Gog Oracle

Panel A: The Defeat of Gog (38:2–23)

Frame 1: The Conscription of Gog (38:2–9)

Frame 2: The Motives of Gog (38:10–13)

Frame 3: The Advance of Gog (38:14–16)

Frame 4: The Judgment of Gog (38:17–22)

Interpretative Conclusion (38:23)

Panel B: The Disposal of Gog (39:1–29)

Frame 1: The Slaughter of Gog (39:1–8)

Frame 2: The Spoiling of Gog (39:9–10)

Frame 3: The Burial of Gog (39:11–15)

Frame 4: The Devouring of Gog (39:17–20)

Interpretative Conclusion (39:21–29)

B. Summary Exposition