

EZEKIEL 38-39

Message 3

Date: 2022-07-24

Words: 6047

Reading: Revelation 6:1-4

INTRO: Our subject is Armageddon and Ezekiel 38-39. The big question of this battle is when does it occur? The most common views are that it happens either before the tribulation or just before the middle of the tribulation. Let me mention a few other things as well to get you familiar with the ideas. Along with the views of the Ezekiel war and the possibility of this war being fulfilled before the tribulation, in recent years a view has been put forward that Psalm 83 is prophetic of the future. This prophecy involves the countries that immediately surround Israel. It is believed that most likely this battle will happen before the tribulation as well, and most likely before the war of Ezekiel. Furthermore, Isaiah 17 speaks of the destruction of Damascus in such a way that it will never be inhabited again. It is one of the oldest cities in the world that has had continuous inhabitants. This prophecy has not been fulfilled yet and must happen sometime in the future. Some hold that this may happen before the tribulation as well.

Let me mention something important here. One of the objections to any of these prophecies being fulfilled before the rapture, puts imminency in question. The teaching of the imminent return of Christ means Christ could come at any time. So David Hocking, for instance, believes that the Ezekiel war will likely happen after the rapture but before the tribulation. In that way the timing does not affect imminency.

I have pondered the matter of imminency and these wars. We had a few Bible studies on the Ezekiel war some time ago and discussed imminency. And one of our folk asked something like this: "Israel became a nation before the rapture, does that mean the rapture was not imminent?" Good question. Ponder that. Actually, a lot of prophecies have been and are being fulfilled all the time. Jesus prophesied the destruction of the Jewish temple and it happened a very long time ago. Does that mean imminency is not correct?

It seems to me that imminency means this: We are not told that certain prophecies have to be fulfilled before the rapture. We are to be ready for Christ's return at all times. God has not told us what prophecies will happen before the rapture takes place. We are told to be ready at all times. Does imminency mean

that no prophecies will be fulfilled before Christ returns? Here is what we must remember: We have not been told what prophecies will be fulfilled before Christ returns. We were not told that Israel **had to** become a nation before Christ comes to take His own home. How much of prophecy will be fulfilled before the rapture is not for us to know. What is for us to know is that we must be ready at all times. We have never been told of anything that **must** happen before Jesus takes His own home. We get the idea of imminency from Jesus own words when He told the believer to be ready at all times. He told us that no one knows the day or hour when He will return, and that included Himself. Mark 13:32 says: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

So could the Ezekiel war, Psalm 83, and Isaiah 17 be fulfilled before the rapture? Just as Israel became a nation before the rapture, is it possible for these events to happen before the rapture as well? If the Bible said that any of these would happen before the rapture, then the rapture could no longer be imminent. As it is, Jehovah God will make the decision when the rapture is to happen. If you remember the Pentecost message, I proposed that God will blow the trumpet for the second and last time, and it will be the signal for Christ to return and this is imminent.

However, I believe that these events will happen after the tribulation begins and thus imminency is not in question from my perspective.

In the first message we were introduced to the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel 33-37 give us numerous prophecies of Israel's restoration. We are considering especially the battle described in 38-39 and where this battle is prophesied to occur.

I want to now give my personal view of events in the tribulation and show where I believe Ezekiel 38-39 will happen. We'll take an overview of the tribulation and then the details. All of this will help fix these prophecies more clearly in our mind.

II. THE CONTEXT OF EZEKIEL 38-39

So I want to now give us the context of Ezekiel's war. I will do so by giving an overview of world governments and the governments that exist just before Armageddon. So I will give a brief overview and then go through the tribulation in a little more detail to show where I think Psalm 83 might be fulfilled and a number of other things

that lead up to Ezekiel's war, Armageddon, and some of what follows.

A. An Overview

For the overview, turn to Daniel 2 which prophesies the governments of the world from Daniel's day until the end of the tribulation. You will remember the dream Nebuchadnezzar had and how he was going to destroy all the wise men if they could not tell him both the dream and the interpretation. Daniel saved the day. He and his friends prayed about this and the Lord revealed to him both the dream and the meaning.

We begin in verse 14:

14 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;

15 he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.

16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

23 "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

28 "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

29 "As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

30 "But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 *"This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,*

33 *"its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.*

34 *"You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.*

35 *"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

36 *"This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.*

Let me show you this image in relation to the times of these governments. **(PP Image of Daniel 2)**

Verse 37:

37 *"You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;*

38 *"and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.*

On the overhead you see that the kingdom represented by the head is from 539 BC to 330 BC. This was the Babylonian empire. We know these dates from secular history.

Verse 39:

39 *"But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.*

On the overhead you will see that the second kingdom is in power from 339 BC to 330 BC. This was the Medes and the Persians. So it did not last long. In 330 BC Greece became the world power and they ruled until 63 BC.

Verse 40:

40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

This was the Roman Empire. It ruled from 63 BC until 476 AD. Rome ruled from 63 BC, but the kingdom began in 625 BC. When Nebuchadnezzar ruled, this kingdom was already beginning.

Verse 41:

41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

In the feet of this image we see what is referred to by prophecy students as the revived Roman Empire. I believe the antichrist will be the leader of the nations involved. I expect that these nations are republics and will include Canada and the USA. The rule of this man will be seven years, the time of the tribulation.

Verse 44:

44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it

shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

When the first world empire was in power, already other leaders were beginning a new one and eventually they ruled. In the days when these kingdoms rule God will be in the process of setting up a kingdom that will never be destroyed and it will stand forever. Right now He is in that process and every true believer is a member of that final kingdom that will destroy all the others. This is the kingdom of the Messiah and in Revelation 19 we see this Rock coming down to earth and smashing the image on the feet. This happens at Armageddon.

Verse 45:

45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

The Lord Jesus strikes the feet and the toes and the whole of man's kingdoms comes crashing down. The kingdom the Rock strikes is the revived Roman Empire and I believe it is made up of nations like Britain, Canada, the USA and a number of other Republic nations. And note the last words: "The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure!"

Now if you look at that statue, I believe that The Ezekiel war happens when the Rock, which is Christ, strikes the image on the feet. I also believe this happens at the end of the tribulation in the battle of Armageddon. I may point out where the view I hold answers some of the difficulties that were raised in message 2. Then later I want to answer them all in a message.

Now, I will give the order of events as I see them. You will understand that I am not saying this is the way it will be, but this is the way I see that it will possibly take place. What I will do is cover the

tribulation in brief and show where both Ezekiel 38-39 and Psalm 83 happen in my view.

It is correct that at the battle of Armageddon the whole world comes against Israel. Let me give some Scriptures for that. Turn to Zechariah 14 while I read a few others. The first is Joel 3:1-2.:

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Zephaniah 3:8 says this;

8 "Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All my fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.

Then in Zechariah 12:3 we have this:

1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Then Zechariah 14:1-3 says:

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

So it is true that the whole world comes against Israel. In going through the tribulation we will begin at the rapture, then look at some of the events in the tribulation and last, at the battle of Armageddon.

That is the big picture, now let me give you some of the details.

B. The Details (Ezekiel 38 & 39/Charts/The details)

1. The rapture **#1 (PP The Details of the Tribulation)**

In the great program of God, I see the rapture of the Church as the next great event. I do not see the Psalm 83 war and Ezekiel's war as happening before the tribulation. We are now in last of the last days for the Church. Sixty nine of Daniel's 70 weeks came to a close when Christ was crucified. We have historical evidence for that. The seventieth week has never yet happened. No history gives record of the prophecy of the seventieth week. What we do have and have had for 2,000 years is the Church age. The evidence of that is history and it shows we are still in the Church age.

2. Antichrist revealed **#2**

I believe the antichrist will be revealed after the rapture. I think who the antichrist is, is revealed when some man is able to make peace with Israel for seven years. Daniel 9:27 says he will confirm or make a strong covenant with many for one week.

I believe he will not be revealed until after the rapture. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 says:

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

I view the day of Christ as the time the Church spends with Christ in heaven. That day does not begin until our gathering together to Him has happened. You will remember that I hold that the falling away means the "departure." This departure happens before the man of sin is revealed.

Who is the antichrist? What country does he come from? Is he the leader of some country? Daniel prophesied of four world governments. The first was Babylon, which was in power in the days of Daniel. It ruled from 626-539 BC. Then were the Medes and Persians and they ruled from 539-330 BC. Then was Greece and it ruled from 330-63 BC. And then came Rome and it ruled for over 1,000 years.

The fourth world power is revived before Jesus returns. So in Daniel's image the last stage of this empire is indicated by the 10 toes. The toes picture 10 kings and we do not know who they will be. But the antichrist will be the head of these ten kings and will form the world government during the tribulation.

I tend to tend to think that the antichrist will be a man from some democratic country or a republic. I wonder if he will not be something like the Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum, someone who is not the head of any country but rules the world in some such position. I think in the coalition of countries of which the antichrist is the head will

be democratic or republican nations like Britain, the USA, Canada and other such nations.

The reason I think the democratic or republican countries will form the world government is because of the prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar's dream that Daniel interpreted. Rome is pictured as Iron mixed with clay. And when Christ comes, He is pictured as a Rock. He strikes the statue in the feet and the whole of mankind's government comes to an end. And the place He strikes is the feet.

Rather than seeing such countries as Canada and the USA as not having much impact in the world government, I think that somebody from within those countries will come the head of the government that rules the world. I do not think it will be Klaus Schwab, but his way of working could be the forerunner to how the antichrist will come in as a world ruler.

However that will be, when the antichrist is revealed the tribulation will begin and one of the greatest things he will accomplish is he will make peace in Israel.

3. The tribulation begins #3

So we have the rapture then the antichrist is revealed and then the 70th week, the tribulation, begins. If you look at the statue of Daniel, what we look at now is pictured by the feet of the image of Daniel 2. Daniel 9:27 describes this 70th week. It says:

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

This time begins as a time of peace. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 says:

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*

3 *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

The tribulation enters with a time that looks like all is peace and safety. No doubt this happens when the peace pact of the antichrist is accepted. Never has the future looked brighter, but what has happened is the tribulation is underway. This time is pictured by the white horse of Revelation 6. Real peace comes when Christ comes on a white horse.

But before this 70th week begins the Church is taken up to glory. This is the great catching up of 1 Thessalonians 4. It is some time after this catching up that the 70th week begins.

We go to Daniel 9. We'll begin in verse 24:

24 *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

25 *"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

26 *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

When it says seven weeks and sixty two weeks, these add up to 69 weeks, and the word for weeks is "sevens." When these are added up as 69 sevens of

years that is 480 years and brings us to when Christ rode into Jerusalem on the donkey just before He was crucified. This is a calculation made by Sir. Robert Anderson, many years ago and it still holds.

What one must understand is that according to verse 24 these 70 weeks are determined "for your people and for your holy city." The pronoun "your" speaks of the Jews. What we have is a Jewish time period.

From history we can learn that 69 of those weeks have been fulfilled but the 70th week has never happened yet. There is no historical evidence that it has ever taken place. It is viewed by many that God's time-clock of these 70 weeks stopped at the end of the 69th week, when Christ rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. Israel had rejected her Messiah.

What happened is that the Church age began and in the NT we learn of the great mystery of Jew and Gentile becoming one body in Christ. One of the very important things to learn in Bible prophecy is that Israel is not the Church, nor is the Church a replacement of Israel. Israel and the Church are two separate programs in God's work on earth in mankind. Israel is the wife of God, and the Church is the bride of Christ, and never are these pictures mixed up. So the Church and Israel are two separate entities. It is most fitting then that the Church is taken out before the 70th week, because this will again be a Jewish time period.

Turn to Revelation 6. With regard to the antichrist's covenant, what all this covenant entails I do not know. But an assurance of peace in Israel is a very big part of it. Revelation chapter 6 introduces us to the tribulation. Verse 1:

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

I believe this white horse pictures peace, a false peace, and the one who sits on it is the antichrist. He had a bow, but no arrows. It seems that he conquers without shooting. We see how that is possible from the World Economic Forum. The antichrist is an imposter. He is a false Christ and brings a false peace. When Jesus Christ, the real Christ comes, He will also come on a white horse, but He will bring the real peace (Rev. 19). It also seems quite clear that this covenant will allow the Jews to rebuild their temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 says:

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Here we see the temple exists in the tribulation. It is later, in the middle of the tribulation, that the antichrist sets himself up in the temple of God. At that time he causes sacrifice and offerings to cease and he takes over the temple. This is the abomination of desolation. What we learn from this is that it was in use before the middle of the tribulation for sacrifices and offerings, and that the antichrist then takes over in the middle of the tribulation. Now for Israel to be allowed to rebuild their temple is a miracle in itself, given what the situation is on that spot today.

So it seems evident that at least these two events, Israel's guarantee of peace and the right to rebuild their temple are part of the covenant the antichrist makes with Israel.

4. Psalm 83 - red horse Rev. 6 **#4**

I think that if Psalm 83 is prophetic of that which lies in the future, that it will be fulfilled

shortly after the tribulation begins. The white horse is immediately followed by a red horse. Revelation 6:3-4 says:

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

If white pictures peace, red pictures bloodshed. This same antichrist who came in through peace now is the cause of much bloodshed. So what is this bloodshed? With the red horse we are just into the tribulation and now we have much bloodshed, what happens?

I want to now make my first major proposal. Although I am not sure Psalm 83 is prophetic, I think it is well possible. Nothing could sound more precisely like the situation in the Middle East today than Psalm 83. Turn to Psalm 83. Before we read that let me mention that now in later years Psalm 83 has come under close scrutiny, because there is a battle described here that some now believe has yet to be fulfilled.

Bill Salus, who has taught on this Psalm more than maybe all others, has a lot of information on this battle. He says it has never yet taken place. It is interesting that John F. Walvoord and J. Dwight Pentecost who wrote years ago do not mention this Psalm as prophetic for the future. It is only of late that it has received a lot of attention.

Now it is debated whether the prophecy of Psalm 83 was fulfilled historically or not. Some say yes and others say no. But even if this Psalm was fulfilled historically, it could still have a far fulfillment as many prophecies do. So that would not negate it from being a valid prophecy for today.

Some hold that it was fulfilled in modern times. Of those some think it may have been fulfilled in 1948 when the neighboring Arab nations sought to push

Israel into the sea. Still others think it was fulfilled in the six day war. Bill Salus and David Raegan agree that neither of these fully fit the nations described in Psalm 83 (Kindle 7352).

[[<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/ab-israeli-war>]]

I think it is well possible that this prophecy could have a future fulfillment although with my present understanding I would not be dogmatic about that. The Psalm does sound precisely like the talk of the modern Arab nations of today.

If this battle lies in the future, like the battle of Ezekiel 38-39, nobody is sure when this battle will happen. It is believed by some that the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 happens before the tribulation. Of the war of Psalm 83 one writer says, "Therefore, **many believe the war in Psalm 83 will happen soon**, before the invasion of Ezekiel 38."

<https://free.messianicbible.com/feature/psalm-83-ezekiel-38-and-the-coming-battles-for-israel/>

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZKSuhA9iYc&ab_channel=JewishVoice Bill Salis Psalm 83.)

So for some modern prophecy teachers it is viewed that the Psalm 83 battle takes place before the Ezekiel 38-39 battle happens and both happen before the tribulation.

David Hocking suggests the possibility that the nations gathered by God of Ezekiel 38-39 bring the nations of Psalm 83 with them when they come to Israel because Ezekiel says, and I quote, "many peoples are with you."

Now Psalm 83 is written by a man named Asaph. Asaph is credited with having written 12 Psalms. Here is how Psalm 83 is structured. Verses 1-8 are the section that is viewed by some as prophetic. It describes Israel's enemies. The rest of the chapter is Asaph's prayer about what he wants God to do to Israel's enemies. So look at verses 1-8:

1 Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!

2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.

3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."

5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah

I do not know of any Scripture that more precisely relates the efforts of the modern Muslim nations around Israel. The nations of Psalm 83 are all close around Israel.

(Depending on time. If short, leave it out. 270 words.) We'll just read the rest of the Psalm and look at it more closely in the next message. In verses 1-8 Israel's enemies are listed. Those are Israel's enemies today. Asaph then goes on to pray against these nations. He asks God to deal with them for their animosity towards Israel and he prays like this:

9 Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera, As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

10 Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth.

11 *Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,*

12 *Who said, "Let us take for ourselves The
pastures of God for a possession."*

13 *O my God, make them like the whirling dust,
Like the chaff before the wind!*

14 *As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame
sets the mountains on fire,*

15 *So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten
them with Your storm.*

16 *Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek
Your name, O LORD.*

17 *Let them be confounded and dismayed forever;
Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,*

18 *That they may know that You, whose name alone
is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.*

If you know OT history you will know how God dealt with Midian and the others mentioned here. And what did these nations do wrong? Verse 12, they said: "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession." They wanted to take Israel as their possession. That is how it is today.

CONCL: Well, we have taken an overview of world governments and shown how they come to an end from a dream God gave the first world ruler, Nebuchadnezzar. This dream was interpreted by Daniel. In the end, Christ, the Rock cut out without hands smites all human governments on the feet and the whole image comes crashing down. That happens at Armageddon. This is the bigger context of the war of Ezekiel.

We have just begun to look at a little more detailed view of the closer context of the war of Ezekiel 38. As I see it, the next thing on the prophetic calendar is the rapture of the Church. We do not know how long after the rapture it is until the antichrist is revealed. Antichrist means either against Christ or instead of Christ, or the false Christ. The peace is also a false peace. When the peace agreement has been signed and sealed

the tribulation begins. In the next message we will continue on from there.