

48 WHO WAS GOG?

INTRODUCTION: We sketch out some of the evidence that Ezekiel 38 and 39, the “Gog chapters,” prophesied the events in Esther. Although written in different genres, historical narrative and apocalyptic, there are remarkable parallels between these two scriptures which compel investigation. We recommend Gary DeMar’s book, “The Gog and Magog End-time Alliance” to fill out this very abbreviated overview. Familiarity with the book of Esther is needed as we follow Ezekiel 38 and 39 more or less in order.

1. GOD WAS AGAINST GOG, THE PRINCE OF CHIEFS, AS WELL AS HIS LIKE-MINDED HORDES.

“Behold, I am against you, Gog, prince of rosh [chiefs], Meshech, and Tubal... Persia, Cush, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer, and all his hordes; the house of Togarmah in the uttermost parts of the north, and all his hordes; even many peoples with you.” Ezk 38:3-6

When the Persian Empire emerged in 539 BC, it gradually came to include these named territories and more. Haman was made chief (510 BC) over all the governors of the provinces of Persia. Es 3:1-2 “Rosh” was not a place, but rather a title meaning “chief”.

2. HAMAN WAS AN AGAGITE. AMALEK, AMALEKITES, GOG, AGAG, AGAGITES ARE REFERENCES TO THE SAME PEOPLE GROUP. THE AMALAKITES WERE ANCIENT ENEMIES OF ISRAEL.

Agag was the king of the Amalekites. I Sam 15:20

The Hebrew name “Agag” is translated “Gog” in the Septuagint. Num. 24:7 LXX

Haman was an Agagite, a descendant of Agag and therefore an Amalekite. Es 3:1, 9:24

Haman was promoted to “chief of the chiefs” in the Persian Empire. Es. 3:1-2

The Amalekites attacked the Israelites as they were escaping from Egypt during the Exodus. Ex. 17:8-13

God promised to blot out Amalek and the Amalekites. Ex 17:14-16

The Amalekites attacked Israel when camped outside of Canaan. Num 14:45

Israel was given the command to blot out the remembrance of Amalek. Dt 25:17-19

The Amalekites attacked Israel in the promised land. (Judges 3:13, 6:3)

Saul was tasked with wiping out the Amalekites but failed to obey. I Sam. 15

The Amalekites raided and burned David’s hometown of Ziklag. I Sam. 30:1-20

3. GOG/HAMAN MADE AN EVIL PLAN TO KILL ALL THE JEWS ALONG WITH MORDECAI.

“Things shall come into your mind, and you shall devise an evil device.” Ezk 38:10

“Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom... Mordecai’s people.” Es 3:6

Haman said to the king, *“Their laws are different than other people’s. They don’t keep the king’s laws. Therefore it is not for the king’s profit to allow them to remain. If it pleases the king, let it be written that they be destroyed...” Es 3:8-9*

4. ABOUT 25 YEARS BEFORE HAMAN BECAME CHIEF PRINCE IN PERSIA (510 BC), THE JEWS RETURNED (537 BC) TO THEIR LONG ABANDONED LANDS. TO GOG, THEY APPEARED TO BE AN EASY TARGET.

“You shall say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to those who are at rest, who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates; to take the spoil and to take the prey; to turn your hand against the waste places that are [now] inhabited, and against the people who are gathered out of the nations....” Ezk 38:11-12 Both Esther 9:19 and Ezekiel 38:11 refer to “unwalled villages” with the same word—Strong’s #6519

5. THE JEWS HAD GREAT WEALTH IN ISRAEL: GOLD, SILVER, GOODS, CATTLE. GOG PLANNED TO PLUNDER THESE VERY THINGS.

“Have you come to take the spoil? Have you assembled your company to take the prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great spoil? Ezk 38:13

Those who returned to Jerusalem, *“their neighbors assisted them with silver utensils, gold, equipment, animals, and expensive gifts, not to mention all the voluntary offerings.” Ezra 1:6.*

6. GOG, WITH HIS MINIONS, WOULD COME FROM THE NORTH.

“You shall come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you, and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.” Ezk 38:15

“The north” had dangerous and evil connotations both historically and symbolically. Baal worship emanated from the north and it was from the north invading armies came to “the land.” The returning Jews had originally been taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar who came from “the north.” Jer 1:13-16.

7. THERE WOULD BE GREAT BLOODSHED IN ISRAEL TO BRING JUDGMENT TO GOG. EZEKIEL PAINTED HIGHLY DRAMATIC WORD PICTURES TO DEPICT GOG'S ANGUISH AND PAIN.

"...great shaking in the land of Israel...all the men who are on the surface of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. I will call for a sword... With pestilence and with blood... overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire, and sulfur." Ezk 38:18-23

8. THE BLOOD OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE JEWS WOULD FLOW THROUGHOUT THE PERSIAN EMPIRE ACCORDING TO ESTHER, BUT THE EMPHASIS IN EZEKIEL 38-39 WAS SPECIFICALLY THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

"You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you, and all your hordes, and the peoples who are with you: I will give you to the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the animals of the field to be devoured. 5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken it, says the Lord Yahweh." Ezk 39:4-6

75,000 total enemies were slain in the Persian Empire. Es 9:16.

9. HAMAN WAS AGAINST THE LAW OF GOD, FAVORING MAN'S LAW.

"Their laws are different than other people's. They don't keep the king's laws. Es. 3:8

Mordecai did not bow to Haman because he was a Jew. Mordecai held allegiance to God, not man. This drove the self-serving Haman into a murderous rage determined to destroy all the Jews along with Mordecai. Es 3:4-6

The law of God taught one's *"heart not be lifted up above his brothers..."* Deut. 17:18-20 an idea repugnant to Haman.

10. EZEKIEL PAINTED VAST WORD PICTURES TO DEMONSTRATE THE GREAT EXTENT OF THE MATERIAL DEVASTATION AND THE IMMENSE LOSE OF LIFE.

"Those who dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall make fires of the weapons and burn them...they shall make fires of them seven years... Seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them, that they may cleanse the land. Yes, all the people of the land shall bury them...Speak to the birds of every sort, and to every animal of the field, assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side ...that you may eat flesh and drink blood." Ezk 39:1-20

11. MORE THAN 50 YEARS BEFORE THE GREAT DEFEAT OF GOG, AND TO LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT AS TO GOG'S IDENTITY, EZEKIEL EMBEDDED HAMAN'S NAME IN HIS TEXT NO LESS THAN THREE TIMES.

"It shall happen in that day, that I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the valley of those who pass through on the east of the sea; and it shall stop those who pass through: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude; and they shall call it The valley of Hamon-Gog." Ezk. 39:11

The valley of Hamon-Gog was repeated in Ezk 39:15

Hamonah was the name of the city associated with the purging of Gog from the land of Israel. Ezk 39:16

There were no vowels in ancient Hebrew, so Haman=hmh and Hamon=hmh are the same.

Haman and Hamonah have the exact same meanings according to Abarim Publications, a Hebrew on-line source.

12. THESE SCRIPTURES SHOW THE NATURE OF GOD: HIS HOLINESS DEMANDS JUDGMENT/JUSTICE WHICH CALLS HIS PEOPLE BACK TO HIM, WHERE HE FREELY GIVES FORGIVENESS/MERCY.

"My holy name will I make known in the midst of my people Israel; neither will I allow my holy name to be profaned any more: and the nations shall know that I am Yahweh, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it comes, and it shall be done, says the Lord Yahweh; this is the day about which I have spoken..." Ezk. 39:7-8

Fulfilled prophecy demonstrates God's sovereignty over all things—events are not "of man" or "happenstance."

The Jews were taken into captivity because of their uncleanness, sin, and treachery against God. Ezek. 39:23f

They were made dependent on Yahweh in their suffering and were then mercifully restored to His protection.

NOTES:

"Gog" appears to refer to an individual at times and the "hordes" at other times.

Haman killed in Susa, Gog buried east of Jordan: David took Goliath's head to bury in a despised place. Hamon's corpse perhaps had the same treatment.

God's superior Law: Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18, 34

Dates: We are using James B Jordan's dates regarding these texts.

Plunder: Plunder was taken in Ezekiel (Ezk 39:10) but not in Esther (Es. 9:10) Perhaps all plunder was given to the temple.

Latter days means future. There was no word for future in Hebrew. The latter days to Moses (Deut 31:29) took place soon after his death in Judges.

Contemporaries (more or less): Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zachariah, latter part of Daniel.

Biblical basis for "all men created equal"— Lev 19:33-34, Deut 10:17, Mal 2:10, Pro. 22:12, Ps. 67:4, Deut. 17:18-20, Gen. 1:26-27

RECOMMENDED BOOK: "THE GOG AND MAGOG END TIME ALLIANCE" by Gary DeMar, American Vision website