

## The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like? - 13

Last time we saw Ezekiel's description of how the stream of Gog's forces invading Israel will be brought to a grinding halt by a massive earthquake. Their resumption of progress will be prevented by a hailstorm which will turn their pathway into sheets of ice, making their armoured vehicles slither around in all directions. Before untangling that mess, they will suffer the combined effects of volcanic activity, accompanied by rainstorm which will turn the ash into loads of wet cement, covering the vehicles and making the roads impassable.

And so the Divine defender of Israel will bring the mechanized force to a permanent halt. If this were not enough, the Divine resentment will be expressed towards the riders with far more severity than to the previous invasion - 22 "And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed..." - Sight of the coming catastrophe will evidently divide the invading forces into warring camps. Seeking to break out and escape, they will begin massacring each other - continues Ezekiel 38:21 "I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains, says the Lord God. Every man's sword will be against his brother."

Even after such bloodshed they will have no respite, for it will be followed by a murderous "pestilence" = epidemic. Such biological assault will be a contagious and fatal disease affecting the people, such as ebola, Lassa fever, or the one mentioned in Zechariah 14:12. The invaders from the north will have demonstrated their total ignorance of who the new ruler of Israel is. He will therefore find it necessary to extend the consequence of his anger northwards into the homeland of the invaders - "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD" - Ezekiel 39:6.

The end result with the invaders is described in v.4 - "You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken, says the Lord God." And so the prophet continues,

17 "And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field...18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes of the earth...19 You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you. 20 You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war, says the Lord God."

And so after the carrion consumers have gorged themselves with Gog's armies, the hill country of Israel - currently called the West Bank - will be scattered with masses of human bones. 11 "It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea...there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog" = the multitude of Gog. The scale of carnage can be seen in the immense scope and duration of the burying process -

12 "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. 13 Indeed all the people of the land will be burying them, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified, says the Lord God." Not only will the news of these events fill the world-wide media, but it will be highly educational - 7 "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel."