

Introduction: Disaster films typically reflect the \_\_\_\_\_ of their particular generation.

- If Ezekiel 38-39 were put on film it would be a disaster movie of epic proportions. In graphic detail the destruction of Gog and Magog. Ch. 38 describes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gog. Chapter 39 describes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gog.
- When people read these two chapters two questions dominate:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is Gog and Magog? Josephus identified Magog as the land from which the Scythians descended in an area now occupied by Russia and several other nations of the former Soviet Union. Gog was called the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal (38:2), areas located in modern-day Turkey. However, history shows we tend to read our own times into these passages
    - The church father Ambrose, writing in the late fourth century, confidently identified Gog as the Goths.
    - In the seventh century, Gog and Magog were the Arab armies that threatened the Holy Land.
    - By the thirteenth century, Gog had become a cipher for the Mongol hordes from the East.
    - During the First World War, Arno Gaebelin argued that Gomer was Germany.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ will this battle happen? Two options in the book of Revelation:
    - In the middle of the Tribulation: when Israel is regathered and is living in peace (Ezek 38:8), but this peace may be that of the false covenant of peace with the antichrist (see Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15–22), which he will violate.
    - At the end of the millennium: (Revelation 20:7–9)
- To understand these chapters lets remember the context.
  - Chapters 1-24- an unmitigated pronouncement of \_\_\_\_\_ on God's people and Jerusalem for idolatry.
  - Chapters 25-32 Oracles announcing judgment the nations that \_\_\_\_\_ in or celebrated the Judah's destruction.
  - Chapters 33-37- the restoration of the land of Israel described as 1)new leadership (shepherds) ch. 34 2)Restoration of the land (35-36) 3)People will dwell in the land (37) (Ezekiel 37:24–28)
- This would raise questions in the Jew's minds: What will \_\_\_\_\_ once Israel is restored? Will the cycle of restoration, sin, and judgment happen \_\_\_\_\_? Will another invading army come again in the future?

Key thought: God will be \_\_\_\_\_ over our enemies. What do these chapters tell us about the future as well as the present?

- I. God is in control even in a world full of \_\_\_\_\_. (38:1-13) Gog is enticed by a vulnerable and prosperous Israel.
  - A. Gog is under God's control. Was Jesus crucifixion the result of men's scheming or God's will? "this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." (Acts 2:23)
  - B. God's wonderful plan for your life may include great suffering. "(2 Corinthians 11:24–29)
  - C. We have to look beyond the present to truly make sense of suffering.
  - D. Following Christ means taking up the cross-If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34–35) "They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been." (Revelation 6:10–11)

- II. God is going to \_\_\_\_\_. No matter how big the opposition, how well organized they are, how powerful their weaponry, or how paltry the resources of God's people, ultimately the plans of God's enemies will come to nothing. (Psalm 2:1-5)
- The church will ultimately be victorious. (Matthew 16:18)
  - Satan will ultimately be destroyed (Revelation 20:10)
  - God's victory eliminates to accusations against God: God is unable to protect his people (He is weak). God is unwilling to protect his people (he is malicious)
  - God's victory is can be seen in all his works. (Psalm 46:8-11)
- III. Ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of all who oppose him. Gog and his army end up as a massive array of corpses, scattered on the face of the earth. Their weaponry is useless against God's cosmic arsenal of fire and earthquake, hailstones and burning sulfur (Ezek. 38:19-22)
- The destruction is on a massive scale:
    - The discarded weapons will provide fuel for 7 years.(39:9)
    - The dead bodies will be a sacrificial feast for carrion. (39:17-20)
    - Seven months to bury the dead- to cleanse the land. (39:14-20)
    - A meticulous search for bodies and bones. (39:14)
  - The destruction will reveal the true nature of God (he is righteous) and the people (they are sinful). (Ezekiel 39:21-24)
  - The destruction of the unbeliever is a sobering reality. "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. (2 Corinthians 5:11)" (Revelation 20:11-15) "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31)
- IV. God's victory means our ultimate \_\_\_\_\_. (Ezekiel 39:28-29)
- The victory by divine means. -Israel doesn't have to lift a finger in the victory. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32) (2 Timothy 1:12)
  - Our victory is escape from the wrath of God. "(Romans 3:23-26)
  - Our victory gives us a settle assurance. "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Conclusion: God can demonstrate in two ways.

- Remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ -"Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him," (Psalm 66:5-6)
- Supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of suffering. "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)