

# The Remnant

*“Even so then at this  
present time also there  
is a remnant according to  
the election of grace.”  
Romans 11.5*

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## Soul and Spirit: A Question From Louisiana

*“In the May-June 2009 Remnant on page 3 was the sentence, ‘The soul and the spirit are not two words meaning the same thing.’ If you so desire, will you expound on this in some future issue.”*

*—From a reader in Louisiana*

**H**oping for the Lord’s guidance, I will try. As was said in that issue, “The soul and the spirit are not two words meaning the same thing. Hebrews 4.12 tells us that Jesus Christ, as **the Word of God**, the Word made flesh, is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to **the dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner [literally, *critic*] of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Since the Lord makes the distinction between the soul and the spirit and assures His people that He can divide between them, we are given to believe they are two different parts of a three-part creature called man; his third part is the physical body. Hence Paul

says in 1 Thessalonians 5.23f, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

### A Necessary Digression

I have crossed out the phrase “*I pray God*” in the above quote because those words are not at all in what Paul said, nor is such wording even suggested. Paul nowhere implied that the saints’ sanctification depended on his prayers or the prayers of anyone else other than the Lord Jesus Christ, who ever lives to make intercession for those who come to God by Him (Hebrews 7.25, Romans 8.34), and His Holy Spirit (Romans 8.26f). Therefore the King James translators correctly printed those words in italics to show that it was they, not Paul, who had supplied these words.

To imply otherwise, as that simple phrase “I pray God” does, opens the door to all sorts of free-will schemes that would make one’s sanctification dependent on the prayers of a minister, a friend, a family-member, or some other person to help God complete the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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To return to the subject at hand: It is an established scriptural fact that men are three-part creatures—spirit, soul, and body. The body consists of three parts: flesh, bones, and blood. (If the soul and spirit each likewise consist of three parts, we do not have any understanding of such details. It is hard enough to separate soul and spirit in our thoughts.)

## The Soul

From the beginning of the creation, the soul of man is associated with the natural life of the natural or physical body. “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis 2.7).” When a living soul (that is a living human being) dies, his or her soul departs to return to its Maker: “And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his fa-

ther called him Benjamin. 19 And **Rachel died, and was buried** in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem (Genesis 35.16-19).”

While soul and body are yet together, one has natural life. The soul is evidently the seat of one’s emotions and desires pertaining primarily to this natural life; the soul is associated with love (Song of Solomon 1.7, 3.1-3, *et al*), natural desire (Genesis 34.3, 8), anguish (Genesis 42.21), abhorrence (Leviticus 26.15), ease (Psalm 25.13), joy (Psalm 35.9), being cast down (Psalm 42), longing (Psalm 84.2), knowledge (Proverbs 19.2), bodily hunger (Proverbs 6.30), and many other natural feelings and emotions.

The soul sometimes represents the complete person (Genesis 12.5), the natural life (Genesis 12.13, 19.20), and it is representative of the complete person (Genesis 17.14; 42.15-18, 26-27; 1 Peter 3.20).

A soul sins, sometimes even through ignorance (Leviticus 4.2), and sometimes otherwise; and an atonement is to be made for it (Exodus 30.15f), as well as a ransom is to be paid for it (Exodus 30.12) as well as a redemption (Psalm 34.22). It is the soul, not the body or spirit, that is converted (Psalm 19.7) and restored (Psalm 23.3).

Applying the phrase “immortal soul” to a man is a mistake because immortal means incapable of dying, and “the soul that sinneth, it shall die (Ezekiel 18.4, 18.20).” Also, “our Lord Jesus Christ...is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords who only hath immortality (1 Timothy 6.14ff).” That is, He is the only one who has immortality. It is His alone and some day He will give it to His people. At present we only seek it (Roman 2.7). His people’s mortal bodies will put on immortality at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15.53-54).

For reasons best known to Himself, God expresses Himself as having a soul (Leviticus 26.11, 30; Job 23.13, Psalm 11.5).

The soul of the righteous may be given spiritual thoughts (Psalm 103.2), but that is more properly the realm of the spirit to which we hope to attend a bit later.

For now, look at Luke 12.16-21: “And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow **my** fruits?’

“And he said, ‘This will I do: I will pull down **my** barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all **my** fruits and **my** goods. And I will say to **my** soul, “**Soul**, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.”’

“But God said unto him, ‘Thou fool, this night thy **soul** shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?’ So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

The rich man was a natural man with no concern for spiritual things whatsoever. His soul was centered on the things of this life only: the ground and its fruits (cf. Cain); barns, goods, ease, eating, drinking, and being merry for many years. Note his emphasis on himself and his own material pleasure: I, me, my, and mine. God said he was a fool. Such is the life of the soul. The term “soul food” was well named.

### The Spirit

In contrast, it would appear that the spirit of a man is that with which God’s people apprehend God and things of a spiritual or heavenly nature. As the consciousness of the soul is directed primarily to the natural

life and world, so the focus of the spiritual life is directed toward God and the invisible world of the higher, spiritual, or heavenly plane.

Even the children of God in their natural state were **dead in trespasses and in sins** (Ephesians 2.1, 5. Read on, verses 1 through verse 5). A moment's reflection upon that fact will tell us that (a) they were not dead *physically or bodily*, for their soul was united with their body in natural life, and still were, or Paul would not have been writing to them; (b) nor was their *soul* dead in the sense of their natural life, for we have seen in Genesis (2.7 and 35.18) that the natural life of the body is its union with the soul, and the soul leaves the body at death. Since this death in trespasses and in sins was not referring to the Ephesian saints being dead in either the body or the soul, this leaves only the conclusion that they were *dead spiritually*. (Neither of the phrases "dead spiritually" or "spiritually dead" is found in the King James Version (KJV) Bible. Yet we believe, along with all Primitive Baptists worthy of the name, that this is a biblical truth. See Principle #5 on the last page of this issue.)

From this standpoint, it would seem that the verse "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth (1 Timothy 5.6)" is also referring to being dead spiritually while having both physical life and soul life.

We would add this comment: The text, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also (James 2.26)," refers not to a dead spirit but to a dead body. One's spirit, whether alive in Christ or dead in sin, leaves the body at the time of death, as does the soul.

Again, Christ said to the church in Sardis, "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis

write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead (Revelation 3.1)." If we understand these words as has been set forth, this would seem to indicate that there were spiritually dead people within the church at Sardis; more particularly the words may be saying that it was the angel (or translated, *messenger, i.e.*, possibly the pastor himself) who was spiritually dead.

This spiritual death leaves the natural man subject to the desires of the flesh and of the mind (verse 3), in more or less the same state as the rich man in Luke 12. So Paul says, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation [behavior] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were **by nature** the children of wrath, even as others." The saints were—and are—no better in and of themselves than the worst reprobate who ever lived. Yet **they are not and never were "children of wrath,"** but only **by nature** so, as Paul says; but in the absolute sense they were eternally chosen, saved, redeemed, and borne (carried) in Christ. "In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and **he bare them, and carried them all the days of old** (Isaiah 63.9)."

But getting the saints from spiritual death in trespasses and in sins into the life of Christ requires a sovereign act by God their Savior. This act of God was spelled out by our Lord in His conversation with Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a

man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again (John 3.3-7).” These born-again ones “**were born** [not *will be born* at some future time] not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1.13).” By this we understand the writer to mean they are born by the direct operation of God’s Holy Spirit without any human means, instrumentality, or agency.

In Romans, Paul mentions the Holy Spirit only once in the first seven chapters, in 1.4, where the initial S is not capitalized but no doubt should be. (Capitalization in the KJV is not “inspired”; in the original languages, the entire text was written in capital letters.) In chapter 8, however, he mentions the Holy Spirit around twenty times—in a few of those times it seems uncertain whether he is referring to the Holy Spirit or the spirit in the child of God. Some of the controversy has been introduced by the question arising again as to whether or not some of the S-es should or should not be capitalized, as referring to the Holy Spirit or to the human spirit.

The eighth chapter of Romans is far too complex to discuss in such an article as this. Men have written entire books about this one chapter. We can only call a few verses to your attention for now:

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be **spiritually** minded is life and peace (verse 6).” “For ye have not received the **spirit** of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit** [upper or lower case s here? I think lower case, meaning the **spirit**

of God’s child.] of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The [Holy] Spirit itself [Himself] beareth witness with our **spirit**, that we are the children of God (verses 13-16).”

Those readers who are most familiar with the Scriptures will realize the bold instances of “spirit” above would not at all mean the same thing if they are replaced by “soul.”

We must leave the subject for now; may the Lord bless you, dear reader, to pursue the truth of this matter.

### Summary

This article, as short as it is, will be found to be controversial to some readers. There are some texts that I have not mentioned at all, which might contradict some of my observations, or at least seem to do so. There are other texts, which, in and of themselves, are debatable.

All forms of the word “spirit,” whether they refer to the Holy Spirit of God, or to a man’s spirit, or to that of a beast (Ecclesiastes 3.21), occur 582 times in the KJV. All forms of the word “soul” occur 537 times. It would be impossible to look at all these passages and separate their true import from the controversies men have introduced about them.

In closing it seems to me that the most simple answer to the question as to what is the difference between the spirit and the soul is that the soul refers to the natural life and man’s relationship to the natural world. The spirit is that part of man with which he is either conscious of God and of spiritual things (if he is spiritually alive) or not (if he is spiritually dead). This is probably not the whole of the matter, but it has seemed to serve my feeble thoughts well when trying to meditate on such deep subjects. —C. C. Morris

## EZEKIEL 38 AND 39

**B**y way of introduction, Elder Enos Gingerich wrote this note:

*The following was written...almost four years ago...I still believe exactly the same today, that the invasion against Israel, led by Gog, will occur years before the last great battle called Armageddon.*

*Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb is my hope,*  
ESG

\*

### Preview of Article

1. (A) Background and (B) overview of the book
2. The Prophecy
3. Who are the nations involved? What, Why, Where, and When?
4. God is Sovereign and His Word is Truth

### 1. A. Background of the book

Ezekiel's name means, "God will strengthen."

He was ordained of GOD, a great Prophet, the son of Buzi the priest Ezekiel 1:3 He was one of the Jewish exiles who settled at Tel-Abib, on the banks of the Chebar, "in the land of the Chaldeans." He was probably carried away captive with Jehoiachin (Ezekiel 1:2, 2 Kings 24:14-16) about B.C. 597. His prophetic call came to him when he was 30 years old, "in the fifth year of Jehoiachin's captivity" (B.C. 594). He had a house in that place, where he lost his wife in the ninth year of his exile (Ezekiel 8:1 24:18). This and the idolatry of Israel's Leaders must have saddened him greatly. We see Ezekiel as a minor type of the Incarnate Son of Man, Jesus Christ, who has great anguish over Jerusalem (Matthew 23.37-38; Luke 13, 34-35). We also read of Jehovah's Providential concern of Jerusalem throughout the book of Ezekiel because it is the apple of His Eye, the city of the Great King. Ezekiel held a prominent place among the exiles, and was frequently consulted by the elders (Ezekiel 8:1, 11:25, 14:1, 20:1). His ministry extended over twenty-three years (Ezekiel 29:17), B.C. 595-573, during part of which he was contemporary with Daniel (Ezekiel 14:14, 28:3) and Jeremiah. The time and manner of his death are unknown. His reputed

tomb is pointed out in the neighborhood of Bagdad, at a place called Keffil.

### 1. B. A Brief Overview of The Book of Ezekiel

Ezekiel sees in the vision a portion of God's Great Glory in chapter one, verses 3, 24-28: "The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him...24 I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. 25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. 26 ¶ And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. 27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake."

Ezekiel is formally commissioned as a Prophet primarily to Israel by the Living Word of God in chapters two and three. 2.1: "And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. 2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

3.27: "But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house."

Chapters 4-24 describe the signs and visions of Ezekiel about Israel and Judah's fall from a national

power whose leaders for the most part worshipped idols as did the pagans round about them. They became a splintered and fragmented people, captured and carried off by the Babylonians. Sad indeed but even then the Lord had His faithful Remnant, believers like Ezekiel.

Four SIGNS of coming Judgment, (4.1—5.17):

1. Clay Tablet,
2. Ezekiel's lying on his side,
3. Defiled bread,
4. Razor and Hair.

Explanation of the Signs, chapter 5.5-17.

The destruction because of Idolatry foretold in chapter six and the description of the Babylonian conquest in 7.1-27.

In chapters 8-11 there are visions of impending judgments, first though a portion of the glory of God; again as seen by Ezekiel, 8.1-4: "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain (verse 4)."

Before Almighty God brings judgment He would have Ezekiel see His Glory and Mercy to strengthen him. Amazing Grace! Strengthened, Ezekiel was able to see the horrific visions of the abominations in the Temple (8.5-18), the slayings in Jerusalem (9.1-11), Departure of the Glory of God unto the threshold, (10.1-8), more Wheels and Cherubim (10.9-22), Twenty-five wicked Rulers (11.1-12), and a faithful promise of the restored remnant, (11.13-20; verse 17). **"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.** 18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. 19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: 20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God." This will be completely fulfilled at about the time of the LORD'S second coming.

In Ezekiel chapters 12-24 are more signs, parables and messages of Judgments. [12] Sign of Judah's captivity and Ezekiel's trembling. [13] Message against the False Prophets. [14] Warning to the Elders. [15]

Parable of the Vine. [16] Marriage of Israel and her whoredoms. [17] Riddle of two Eagles. [18] Proverb of sour grapes, personal accountability, equity of God's Justice. [19] Ezekiel's lamentation for the princes of Israel, and his parable of the withered Vine. Chapters 20-24 seems to be a catalogue of Jerusalem's sins with more warnings of national judgment.

Chapters 25-32: Punishment foretold of the Gentile Nations, especially those around Israel. [25] God's vengeance upon the Ammonites, Moab, Edom, and the Philistines [26-28]. Prophecy sometimes has a two-fold application as in Chapter 28. Ultimate judgment and destruction of Tyre and Sidon extended to Lucifer himself, called in this passage King of Tyrus (28.11-19). *11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.* Lucifer, Satan, and the Devil are names for the same ungodly being, the father of all lies who will meet his doom at the end of time (Revelation 20.10). Ezekiel prophesied of this evil one who is the believers' arch-enemy; however, he can never take away eternal Life from those who are chosen and kept by GOD!

Moving on to chapters 29-32, which describe the judgment of Pharaoh and Egypt: The word Pharaoh is a title for the King of Egypt. Like Czar, Caesar, Prime Minister, President, etc., it is not necessarily one particular person, for the Pharaoh in the time of Moses was long dead when Ezekiel wrote his book. When we come to "Gog" in chapters 38-39, this same principle holds true. It is probably the title of a man and not a proper name.

**The Restoration of Israel, Ezekiel 33-48:  
Return to the Land, 33-39.**

Ezekiel as a Watchman, and his message to the shepherds, 33-34.10. God's Providence over His flock (34.11-31). Verse 20: "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; 23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it. 25 And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. 26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. 27 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. 28 And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid. 29 And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. 30 Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD. 31 And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD." This of course will also be totally fulfilled at the LORD'S second coming. Bless His Holy Name, He keeps His promises!

Chapter 35 describes further judgment on Mount Seir—Edom (the home of Esau's descendants).

Chapters 36-37 are grand prophecies concerning Israel with the resurrection of dry bones and the ultimate union of the two sticks, Ephraim (Israel) and Judah. These prophecies of Ezekiel are not necessarily in precise chronological order. Like Daniel and Jeremiah, there is overlap and also sometimes reiteration. For example: The phrase, "they shall know that I am the LORD" occurs 25 times in the Holy Scriptures with Ezekiel using it over 20 times, from chapters 6.10 through 39.6. This message is scattered throughout the whole book! Today for the most part, nations and people do not know that the LORD JESUS is Jehovah God. But they will, at the time of the great DAY of the LORD, acknowledging Him as the one and only true, Sovereign King of the universe. "They shall know that I am the LORD." This theme runs throughout the book of Ezekiel! Ezekiel 38:23: "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD." Ezekiel 39:6: "And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD." This is not necessarily referring to eternal salvation but primarily an acknowledgement to the LORD'S Kingship, for He will rule with a Rod of Iron. Psalm 2 indicates both the heathen (Gentile nations) and Israel "shall know that I am the LORD." The elect of GOD know this by spiritual experience and revelation, but the time is coming when all the rest [the reprobates], will know this by the wrath of GOD'S rule of force.

Now we turn our attention to Ezekiel 38 and 39 and my suppositions. No one is asked to agree with me and any response is welcome. I am not a prophet nor the son of a seer; I do, however, study the Biblical prophecies in their literal contextual setting, allowing of course for normal figures of speech, etc. I believe when the LORD GOD used the word Israel, He meant Israel. When He used the word church, He meant church. We can make spiritual applications but we dare not take away from the primary meaning of the inspired word. Our God is not the author of confusion. Some of the Bible's many prophecies have already been fulfilled. That would include the many minute details of the Messiah's first coming as the absolute sinless Lamb of God, Who bought redemp-



tion for His people, securing salvation for them by His perfect atonement through His blood, death, literal bodily resurrection, and His Ascension fifty days later. Then the calling of the Elect Gentiles into the church of God, the going forth of the pure gospel of Sovereign Grace by His Apostles, etc. Also in 70 AD, the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, some 1800-year scattering of the Jews to all parts of the world, and finally their partial return in the 19th and 20th century climaxed by the nation's rebirth as modern Israel—these are all uncontestable facts of the historical record. In spite of much opposition, Israel became a nation again in 1948. They have a constitution, a parliament and prime minister, police force and an army. And of course they have many enemies, mostly from the Islamic world, etc. which brings us to the subject at hand.

## **Part 2: THE PROPHECY, and**

### **Part 3: Who are the nations involved? What, Why, Where, and When?**

It is my view and also that of many other conservative Biblical commentators, chapters 38-39 have NOT yet been fulfilled. If they have, we need to see the evidence. Here is the text, verse by verse, with my comments:

*1 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, [the word of GOD came to Ezekiel] 2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, [As stated earlier, Gog is the title of an evil man from the land of Magog. These are the descendants of Noah's son Japheth; they are not of Shem (Genesis 10). Josephus, the ancient historian, identifies these people as Scythians, known for their destructive warfare. They are from the Caucasus region, north of Israel. Easton defines Meshech as "Drawing out." The sixth son of Japheth, Genesis 10:2; the founder of a tribe (1 Chronicles 1:5, Ezekiel 27:13, 38:2,3). They were in all probability the Moschi, a people inhabiting the Moschian Mountains between the Black and the Caspian Seas. In Psalm 120:5 the name occurs as simply a synonym for foreigners or barbarians. "During the ascendancy of the Babylonians and Persians in Western Asia, the Moschi were subdued; but it seems probable that a large number of them crossed the Caucasus range and spread*

over the northern steppes, mingling with the Scythians. There they became known as Muscovs, and gave that name to the Russian nation and its ancient capital by which they are still generally known throughout the East."

Gog (the prince) of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, with Rosh becoming the Russians, descendants of the ancient inhabitants on the river Araxes or Rosh.

Tubal = "thou shalt be brought," verse 1. The fifth son of Japheth, Genesis 10:2,2. A nation, probably descended from the son of Japheth. It is mentioned by Isaiah in chapter 66:19 along with Javan, and by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 27:13) along with Meshech, among the traders with Tyre, and also among the confederates of Gog Ezekiel 38:2,3 39:1, and with Meshech among the nations which were to be destroyed, a people of the Asiatic highland, the southern range of the Caucasus, on the east of the Black Sea. The prophecy is AGAINST Gog the Leader of this campaign to invade modern Israel.

*3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: the Holy Spirit reminds us; the Lord GOD of the universe is opposed to Gog and his host of anti-Jewish warriors. 4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: The only other places in Scripture the phrase 'I will turn thee back' are found in 2 Kings 19 and in Isaiah 37 both referring to the King of Assyria, Sennacherib, who, with his army, had invaded Israel in the time of Hezekiah. Supernaturally by the power of Almighty God the bulk of the Assyrian army, [185,000] were killed in one night. History under the direction of JEHOVAH doth repeat itself! God will force this multitude of wicked armies toward Israel where finally He will obliterate it and protect the Jewish people. Obviously Ezekiel is describing the weaponry and armaments in 575 BC terms, but what he probably saw were modern Russian-made tanks, missiles, planes, nukes, etc.*

*5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: 6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters,*

*and all his bands: and many people with thee.* Here we see particular nations involved; Persia is listed first in this section for it is perhaps the most significant. Quoting Easton, (a) "the empire Persia; encompassed the territory from India on the east to Egypt and Thrace on the west, and included, besides portions of Europe and Africa, the whole of western Asia between the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Caspian and the Jaxartes on the north, the Arabian desert, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean on the south. (b) Persia proper was bounded on the west by Susiana or Elam, on the north by Media, on the south by the Persian Gulf and on the east by Carmania. (c) The people of the Persian empire. Today it includes modern Iran. There can be no doubt as of this writing [early Dec.2005—EG] that Iran is Israel's most vitriolic and vocal enemy. Iran's president denies the Holocaust actually happened and believes the Jewish people should be wiped out of Israel forever. I've read file after file of demonic rhetoric coming out of the mouth of this man.

Ethiopia (the Greek word by which the Hebrew Cush is rendered Genesis 2:13, 2 Kings 19:9, Esther 1:1, Job 28:19, Psalm 68:31, 87:4) was a country which lay to the south of Egypt. It corresponds generally with what is now known as modern Sudan, which has been rife with civil war and Muslim terrorists for many years.

Libya, the country of the Ludim Genesis 10:13 Northern Africa, is a large tract lying along the Mediterranean, to the west of Egypt. The leaders of modern Libya are very anti-Israel.

Gomer was the eldest son of Japheth and the father of Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah (Genesis 10:2,3). His descendants formed the principal branch of the population of South-eastern Europe. He is generally regarded as the ancestor of the Celtae and the Cimmerii, who in early times settled to the north of the Black Sea, and gave their name to the Crimea, the ancient Chersonesus Taurica. Traces of their presence are found in the names Cimmerian Bosphorus, Cimmerian Isthmus, etc. In the seventh century B.C., they were driven out of their original seat by the Scythians, and they overran western Asia Minor, from whence they were afterwards expelled. Their descendants are still found in the Gaels and Cymry. Some think perhaps Germany is derived from Gomer. I do

not know; however it is a fact of history that Adolph Hitler and his so-called Third Reich systematically killed approximately 6 million Jews. I've heard reports that the present Russian leader, Putin, has the former German prime minister Schroeder on his foreign staff as a top consultant.

Togarmah was a son of Gomer, a grandson of Japheth, and a great grandson of Noah. The territory settled by the descendants of Togarmah was probably the area known as Armenia, which could include parts of modern Turkey, a mostly Islamic population.

Gog will have many mixed multitudes with him in this invasion of Israel. *7. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.* The word for company here can be defined as, "assembly, for evil counsel, war or invasion." That is exactly what is going to happen, God is going to bring it to pass.

*8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.* God is declaring the eventual judgment upon Gog and all his evil host of armies. Their days are literally numbered, [visited]. It will happen in the latter years—not the last day—an important distinction. They will come toward Israel and invade the land, which had been mostly barren for many years. Then a few more Jews started migrating back to Israel in the late 1800s. Because of World War 2 and the awful Holocaust, they finally became a nation again in 1948. Jewish Immigrants from many nations have returned and live somewhat normal lives without the constant thought of genocide hanging over them as it was in their past. Now they have their own country which is almost 60 years old.

*9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.* God uses the words, ascend, storm and cloud in this verse to also describe an aerial attack possibly with missiles, planes, nukes, etc.

*10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy*

*mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: 11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, 12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Gog and his hordes will have an evil thought and mind, the core of which is Anti-Israel, and they will spout their selfish "I will" cultic cry not with the least idea that the Almighty Jehovah God is directing their final particular destiny. This prophecy could not have been fulfilled until after Israel had become a nation in 1948. Now it is different. There are no walls around every major city like there was in past history.*

*13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Sheba, in fact, was Saba in Southern Arabia, the Sabaeans of classical geography, who carried on the trade in spices with the other peoples of the ancient world. They were Semites, speaking one of the two main dialects of Himyaritic or South Arabic. Sheba had become a monarchy before the days of Solomon. Its queen brought him gold, spices, and precious stones (1 Kings 10:1-13). She is called by our Lord the "queen of the south" (Matthew 12:42). Probably Sheba includes part of modern Saudi Arabia. Dedan means "low country," a place in south Arabia. Tarshish, is a Sanskrit or Aryan word meaning "the sea coast." This is the name of a place which first comes into notice in the days of Solomon. The question as to the locality of Tarshish has given rise to not a little discussion. There can be little doubt, however, that this is the name of a Phoenician port in Spain, between the two mouths of the Guadalquivir (the name given to the river by the Arabs, and meaning "the great wady" or water-course). It was founded by a Carthaginian colony, and was the farthest western harbour of Tyrian sailors. "Ships of Tarshish" is an expression sometimes denoting simply ships intended for a long voyage (Isaiah 23:1,14), ships of a large size (sea-going ships), whatever might be the port to*

which they sailed. There is going to be a mild protest made against the Gog invasion—perhaps in the U.N. by the western-backed country Saudi Arabia, and the West itself like Spain—and by extension, Europe and England—the "young lions thereof." Could this also include the U.S.A.? This is probable as there are still approximately 5 million Jews living in the United States, and supposedly this country is an ally to Israel. I wish we were her true friend and not just superficially so. Also, were there not Spanish ships involved in the founding of America? Anyway, the weak protest will fall on deaf ears. Gog and company (Russia-Islamic-Fascists) will not listen.

*14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? 15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: 16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. Ezekiel is told to repeat the prophecy against Gog; the Holy Spirit declares again it will happen when Israel dwelleth or inhabits the Land as a sovereign nation. Gog's home is north of Israel, and his fellow warriors from surrounding nations previously named, a great company and mighty army. Horses are almost always referred to in the Bible in connection with warlike operations, and that is certainly what is going on here. This war will occur in "the latter days" not on the Last Day. This isn't the battle of Armageddon. The elect among the Gentile (heathen) nations will ultimately know that Jehovah God fights for Israel as He did in days of the Old Testament, when He separates Gog for destruction.*

*17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? 18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. 19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of*

*Israel; 20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face 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.* As can clearly be seen by all Bible believers, God shows His wrath periodically throughout history and He changes not. This will be very apparent in the future. The vessels of wrath are fitted for destruction, and although He is longsuffering, their doom is set. There will be a great shaking in the land of Israel, possible earthquakes. It may be that the pagan Islamic Mosques—Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa—will come tumbling down during this time!

*21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. 22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.* Now comes the Sword of the LORD upon Gog and his cohorts. Also there will be brother versus brother—we see that among Arab Islamists today, Shiites against Sunnis, and so on. They fight among themselves, yet some things they agree on: Jews and conservative Christians are infidels who must be destroyed. The word "plead" in verse 22 is very often translated 'to judge'; [Strong's #8199 jpv shaphat shaw-fat', a primitive root; AV-judge (v) 119, judge (n) 60, plead 11, avenged 2, condemn 2, execute 2, judgment, 1) to judge, govern, vindicate, punish]. It is obvious from the passage that God alone is bringing His judgment and wrath upon the invasion. Israel seems passive and is not even attempting to defend herself during this sneak Russian-Islamic attack. Ultimately God will receive all the credit and glory and therefore will be known among many nations.

Ezekiel 39

This chapter fills in more detail of the same invasion. Like Genesis Chapter 2 gives more minute information of what is described in Genesis 1, the same pattern is sometimes also found in the prophetic scrip-

tures. Isaiah 13 and 14 is one of many examples. The point being, biblical prophecies are not always in a precise chronological order. There is reiteration, expansion, and occasionally even a dual application, both near (when it was first written) and far (future), when it is finally and completely fulfilled.

*1 ¶ Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: 3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. 4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.* Ezekiel, inspired of the LORD, continues the prophecy against Gog. To have Jehovah God, the Sovereign of the universe, against someone does not bode well for that particular person or people. It appears however, one sixth of the Invaders will be spared this dreadful conflagration. We're given another reason why this war is not Armageddon; there all the armies of the world get hit with none spared. Not so here, although, as with any great destruction by the LORD GOD, some of the language is very similar.

*5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. 6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD. 7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.* God's fire of indignation will fall on Magog, literally, "the land of Gog" somewhere north of Israel. And it will also fall, "among them that dwell carelessly in the isles" (coast, island, shore, region). Curious phrase indeed, and many have speculated the meaning. Is it the islands in the Mediterranean, perhaps the countries around Israel, or even the British Isles and by extension America? Only God knows for certain and His time will tell. He will make His Holy Name known to His people in Israel when He manifests His great power in destroying Her present enemy, Gog and the radical

Islamic Jihadists. Israel as a whole will not pollute [profane] His Holy Name any more. Even the elect believers among the heathen (Gentiles) shall know that the LORD is the Holy One in Israel.

8 ¶ *Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken.* There is an old saying, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it." It is good if we believe His Word and greatly blessed are we if that is indeed the case, but our believing has nothing to do with this prophecy coming to pass. From our vantage point, it doesn't matter how many believers there are among the 6 billion plus people on this planet, Almighty God is going to bring this prophecy to pass. It's as good as done. God said it and that settles it.

9 *And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: 10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.* An astounding miracle. As best we can tell, no one in the cities of Israel is hurt during this firestorm from on High! Why? Because God makes a difference between His own and those of Satan's children. He always has. The Israelis then go out and carefully destroy all of the enemies' weaponry. Who knows what hi-tech missiles are all involved, rocket carrying nuclear bombs, etc. At any rate they have to be very careful in burning them with fire SEVEN years! We are given another clue that this is not the last battle of the world, because when that one is fought, time as we now know it shall be no longer. Here the LORD GOD is telling us, there will be at least seven more years of time after this war is over.

11 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog. 12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.* The burial of Gog and his dead army will be a smelly job! It will be east of the Dead

(Salt) Sea—that would be very appropriate! Or perhaps east of the Sea of Galilee because it is farther north. Either way they're known today as the Golan Heights area; or if east of the Dead Sea, modern day Jordan. All of that burial ground was part of Israel when it was first given to them by Jehovah God. The word *Hamongog* means "multitude of Gog," and it will take Israel SEVEN months to bury these evil invaders.

13 *Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD. 14 And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. 15 And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog. 16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.* It will be a day of renown for Israel when GOD is glorified, a famous time of rejoicing while they are busy burying and cleansing that area of their land. Maybe at this time more Jews from America and other places in the world will go back to Israel. There is great joy because Gog and his Anti-Jewish multitude have been destroyed by the Almighty JEHOVAH. A new city, Hamonah ("multitudes"), will be founded to commemorate the defeat of Gog!

17 *And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. 18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD. 21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. 22 So the house of Israel*

shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. The LORD GOD tells Ezekiel in very picturesque language to speak to the feathered fowl and beasts of the field. This is similar to the Revelation 19 account, but there are some differences. Here Ezekiel is told to speak, there the King of Kings and LORD of LORD comes with the Heavenly Host and His glorious appearance is for all to see. At that same time an angel of GOD will stand in the sun and cry with a loud voice announcing the supper of the Great GOD. Probably the most important difference between the two battles is: In the Ezekiel war, Gog and his multitude are BURIED by Israelis. In the Armageddon gathering (Revelation 16.16, Revelation 19.10-21), the nations of the world are represented, and ALL their armies are destroyed. Not one sixth left, not any army left! And the Beast and the False Prophet will not be BURIED but taken and cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone (Revelation 19.20). It is my belief that these are two entirely different miracles of war that the Almighty GOD will use in destroying the enemies of His people. He certainly has done this in the past history of Israel. When young David came up against Goliath and the Philistine army, as seen in 1 Samuel 17:45: *Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.* Notice the language and outcome of David is very similar to that of Ezekiel and of John in Revelation. The reason being, GOD inspired all three writers into using almost the same language but describing three different miraculous battles with JEHOVAH victorious and receiving great glory in all three!

23 *And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. 24 According to*

*their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them. 25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; 26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. 27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 28 Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. 29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.*

#### **4. God is Sovereign and His Word is Truth**

Now we come to the last section of Ezekiel 38-39 and see once more a glimpse of the purpose and tapestry of the Almighty. His ways are not the ways of man, and He is very merciful in chastising His chosen nation. Why was Israel in Diaspora? Because of idolatry—the following after of pagan deities and the religions of men. Read the Word of God in Chronicles and Jeremiah; 1 Chronicles 7:21: *And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house? 2 Chronicles 7:22: And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them. Jeremiah 22:8-9: And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city? Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.* This is a slap in the face, as it were, upon the Jehovah of the Bible.

He is a jealous God and He has that right because He is the Creator and the Sovereign of the universe. He detests the worship and following after other gods,

which is idolatry. But His mercy endureth forever, and He will bring the chosen nation Israel back into the land as He has already begun to do. There will be a greater manifestation of this after the Gog war. And finally, after the Armageddon victory, the surviving Jews will be forever safe and secure in their own land with the King of Kings the LORD Messiah as their exalted Saviour.

The huge question is, When will Gog and his evil Islamic armies invade Israel? Only the LORD GOD knows for certain. Israel is surrounded by enemies today, so it could happen within a year or two, or it may be decades away. One thing is sure, the Word of God is true and forever settled in eternity. The invasion will occur, and these adversaries of Jehovah will be destroyed! Praise His Holy Name.

We're told in many other Holy Scriptures that Almighty Yahweh has not utterly cast off His chosen nation, Israel. It can not happen because His very Name and Word are at stake. He will never forsake any of His Elect people.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, *2 Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. 3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.*

*Jeremiah 31.35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. 37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.*

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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE ARTICLE BY ELDER GINGERICH

**F**or far longer than the four years he mentioned in his opening note (page 6), Brother Gingerich and I have “debated” back and forth over the subject of the battle described in these two chapters (38 and 39) of Ezekiel. (Primarily our discussion is about the timing: When will this prophesied invasion occur—is it the war of Armageddon, or will it happen some time before Armageddon?)

It has been a friendly, enjoyable debate that, I trust, has provoked us both, not to rage, but to more prayerful and diligent searching of the Scriptures.

It is not my purpose to perpetuate our debate on these pages. It would be gross ingratitude on my part to undercut the magnificent work Elder Gingerich has been given to do in his article. We are thankful that he, in God’s providence, allowed us to use it.

I bring up the fact that he and I have had a difference of opinion for an important reason. It is important for all our readers and brethren to know that, in the subject of understanding prophecy, brethren may have honest differences of opinion without angrily attacking one another and pushing for more divisions between our already too-divided people.

Prophecy is, admittedly, a controversial area of the Scriptures. If we had fifty brethren submit articles on these two chapters in Ezekiel, or on the book of Revelation, or on Matthew 24-25, or many other prophetic passages, we would certainly have at least fifty different understandings and “interpretations.”

On the positive side, there has never been any serious “split” over prophetic articles or sermons among the Old School Baptists—at least, in my limited knowledge, I have not heard of such.

We freely admit that *The Remnant* has received a few cancellations since we began writing on prophetic subjects. Some of those cancellation requests were in direct response to some of our comments on prophecy; but for every cancellation we have received, we have also received at least five or ten new subscriptions, and countless letters of encouragement and support from our readers encouraging us to continue to write on the prophetic Scriptures of the Bible.

The fact is, **prophecy is the missing dimension in Primitive Baptist preaching**; or so it has been expressed to me. The brethren at large generally *know* things are happening in the world that indicate a major change is in the offing, and without the intervention of God, it will continue to be a change for the worse. These “Things” are happening in the United States of America that would have been unthinkable fifty or sixty years ago. The nation is bankrupt, not only financially, but spiritually, religiously, morally, socially. The educational system seems filled with teachers who cannot teach students who cannot learn. Maybe that is a good thing, in that the NEA wants to teach our children things we do not want them to be taught. The legal system, from the cop on his beat to the Supreme Court, no longer works to protect the people from the criminals; all too often, the cops, the judges, and the lawyers, along with most politicians, are the criminals. This is not to say all teachers, judges, policemen, and politicians are either inept, corrupt, or both. No; the percentage of good teachers and good men within the legal systems is probably about the same as the percentage of truly God-fearing saints who yet worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Let’s face it; this is not the same country into which you and I were born, and anyone with a modicum of perception knows it.

We do not criticize those who cry out for national repentance and beg for more and more people to pray for our country, other than to say this: (a) anything short of God-given repentance and true prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit is too little and too late; (b) 99 % of all such talk is rooted and grounded in Arminian free-willism, which in itself, and more importantly, **in the providence of God**, is a major contributor to the decline of all so-called “Christian” nations; (c) God says Christ is returning in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; when He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe...in that day...” Until then, false prophets will continue to tell their congregations that by their prayers and a diligent application of 2 Chronicles 7.14 they can stave off the impending wrath of God. And the apostasy of an unregenerate church will continue until Armageddon.

God has His own recipe for manifesting His own glory. *“I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them (Isaiah 42.8f).”*

*“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another (Isaiah 48.10ff).”*

His recipe calls for cooking all the nations of earth in a long, slow simmer that will in the end prove to all sentient beings in heaven, earth, and hell that

“Triumphant grace and man’s free will  
Shall not divide the throne,  
For man’s a fallen sinner still  
And Christ shall reign alone.”

We are not “date setters.” We are neither of those who say, “Lo, here is Christ,” or, “Lo, He is there,” nor, on the other hand, are we of the ones who say, “My lord delayeth His coming.” If someone were to tell us, “Behold, he is in the desert,” we would go not forth: if they should say, “Behold, he is in the secret chambers,” we believe it not, “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Christ said, “For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to **watch**. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**.” We are not date setters; we are only **watchers**.

No one will need to tell anyone else when and where Christ comes the second time, for, “Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen (Revelation 1.7).” If that happened in AD 70, or AD 139, or any other time since He left, (Acts 1.9-11), it made no impression whatsoever on the vast majority of humanity. He has not yet returned, but He will. The fact that we observe the Lord’s supper proves He



has not returned yet. “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come.”

### No So-called “Rapture”

Nor do we believe the Bible teaches a “pre-tribulation rapture” that will whisk all the Christians out of harm’s way just before something serious—the great tribulation—happens. I have had little to say about the so-called “rapture,” since what I *have* said for the last several years has seemed sufficient for the moment. But because I have said little or nothing about such a “secret rapture,” many have *wrongly assumed* that I have bought into the scenario of Tim LeHaye, Hal Lindsey and C. I. Scofield. Let me say here, plainly: I have scriptural reasons to believe that the Lord’s people will go through the great tribulation period, but they will be preserved from the plagues spoken of in the book of Revelation even as the Israelites were preserved through the plagues Jehovah sent upon Egypt (Exodus, chapters 7 through 14).

Lot was not “raptured” out of Sodom seven years before God destroyed those ungodly cities by fire from heaven: “*But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed* (Luke 17.29f).”

We do not believe prophecy was given to us so that we could become fortune-tellers or predict the future. Rather, prophecy confirms our belief that God is faithful to keep His promises, though their fulfillment be long in coming. Prophecy is given as an encouragement for the Lord’s people in dark hours.

The text from 2 Peter, the third chapter, “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, **Where is the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation (2 Peter 3.3-4) **is itself a prophecy**, and when scoffers say, “Where is the promise of his coming?” it is only a confirmation of the veracity of our God and the accuracy of biblical prophecy.

It may have been easy enough for Philip Mauro, back in 1922, to write that God is through with Israel, and write that the Jews will never occupy the Promised Land again. “**Therefore, no other conclusion is possible from a careful examination of the Scrip-**

**tures cited in the article we are discussing, than that the doctrine of a yet future restoration of the Jewish nation has not a scriptural leg to stand upon,”** says Mr. Mauro. He was dead wrong. He wrote that twenty-six years before Israel was recognized as a sovereign nation among the sovereign nations of the world. That was easy enough for him to do in the early 1920s, but how can anyone nowadays persist in such blindness as Mauro manifested, when by now the elect nation has been back in their God-given homeland for over sixty-one years?

(concluded on page 18, column 1)

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(Editorial Comments Concluded)

But *They* say, “The ones over there are not true Jews, and God will never bless them because they don’t believe in Jesus,” etc., proving their own underlying Arminianism; is not their hope in a Savior who saved them from their own unbelief? Why should He not then do the same for Israel in their unbelief? Where is the God of all grace in *their* doctrine?

God brought Israel back from the dispersion throughout the world: Read Ezekiel 36 and 37 along with Elder Gingerich’s article. That He brought them back in unbelief it is plain; they are still a valley of dry bones. He chose them in the furnace of affliction, and He will bring a remnant of them through the fire. He brought them back in unbelief that, to His own honor and glory, He might regenerate them *en masse* at His appointed hour. “They are not true Jews,” *they* say? Would that Israel’s critics had such a divine pedigree as Israel has!

No, prophecy is not something to fight about and to divide over. We should have Scripture-based opinions on prophetic truths as we see the things that are coming to pass on the earth. We should be able to discuss those opinions with open Bibles, open minds, and open hearts. May the Lord grant all of us such blessings with the light and leadership of His Spirit.

—C. C. Morris

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We believe these principles are, in the main, harmonious with the articles of faith published by predestinarian associations and churches of the old order of Baptists known as Primitive, Particular, or Old School Baptists the world over.

1—The eternal existence, sovereignty, immutability, omnipotence, and perfections of Jehovah God; He has revealed Himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these sacred Three are One; Jesus Christ was and is God manifest in the flesh, and in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

2—The Old and New Testaments in their original languages are the verbally inspired word of God, and they are the complete and only valid guide of faith and practice; the King James Version is the preferred English translation;

3—The will of the eternal God is the first cause of all causes;

4—The absolute predestination of all things;

5—The eternal personal election of the redeemed in Christ, before the world began, and their eternal, vital union with Him; their number is fixed, certain, and sure, and can neither be increased nor diminished; their fall in

their federal head Adam into spiritual death, total depravity, and just condemnation; their utter inability to recover themselves from this fallen state;

6—The blood atonement and redemption by Jesus Christ are for the elect only, and are both efficacious and effectual in accomplishing the will and purpose of God to reconcile His people unto Himself;

7—The sovereign, irresistible, effectual work of the Holy Spirit in quickening the elect of God; the new birth is by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit without the use of any means;

8—The final preservation, perseverance, and eternal happiness of all the sons of God, by grace alone;

9—No works are good works other than those which God Himself has so designated; none of the works called good are left up to men to perform or not, at the creature's discretion; nor do the works of the creature, either before or after regeneration, result in merit accruing to his account in God's sight;

10—The peaceable fruits of righteousness are the certain result of God's working in His people both to will and to do of His good pleasure, and His people will be found walking in paths of righteousness for His name's sake;

11—The separation of church and state;

12—The principles outlined in the Black Rock Address of 1832;

13—The bodily resurrection, first of Christ, and also that of all the dead;

14—The final and eternal judgment; and,

15—The bliss of the redeemed and the torment of the wicked are both eternal and everlasting.