

CLEANSING THE LAND
George Tabac - Oct. 1988

Context for theme --

Ezek. 39:1-7 (RSV)

- 1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal;
- 2 and I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel;
- 3 then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand.
- 4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples that are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the wild beasts to be devoured.
- 5 You shall fall in the open field; for I have spoken, says the Lord GOD.
- 6 I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands; and they shall know that I am the LORD.
- 7 "And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let my holy name be profaned any more; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

We all recognize the scene as the time of Jacob's trouble.

Gog the chief prince of Rosh Meshech and Tubal picturing the enemy of God's People Israel that will come from the North to take a spoil in the final battle of Jacob's trouble.

Our intent is not to go into detail on who is meant by Gog in this context (most of the brethren believing it refers to atheistic Russia, -- and those under her influence.) but rather to note how the name Gog is also used symbolically in a general way of all that is in opposition to God and His principles.

Similarly as in Rev. 20:7-10 where Gog is the enemy of God's people in the little Season.

Rev. 20: 7-10 (KJ)

- 7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
- 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.
- 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.
- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

This Gog and Magog are not referring to the same people as in Jacob's Trouble. The same name is used however from the standpoint that they similarly are opponents of God.

The common denominator of both these sets of enemies is found in the meaning of the name Gog.

McClintock and Strong's Definition of GOG

To be high of overtopping: Figuratively, gigantic, great of stature, powerful, warlike

Aid to Bible Understanding - Definition of Gog

The meaning of this name is uncertain. Some lexicographers believe it conveys the idea of "HIGH" or "gigantic."

From this definition of the name Gog it would seem to suggest that the basic underlying sin of both sets of enemies was selfish PRIDE.

This definition would also harmonize when we consider that all sin was instigated by the selfish pride of the prince of darkness Satan, who said, "I will be like the most high."

Thus as we progress to our theme scriptures we will see how Gog from a symbolic standpoint, would seem to picture everything that is in opposition to God and His principals that will ultimately be removed from the face of the earth.

Now we come to our theme scriptures of verses 8-16:

Ezek. 39:8-16 (a combination of several translations for clarity of understanding. Primarily RSV, also Rotherham, Leeser, NE, LB)

(8) "Behold it is coming and it will be brought about, says the Lord GOD. That is the day of which I have spoken.

(9) Then those who dwell in the cities of Isarael will go forth and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, handpikes and spears, and they will make fires of them seven years;

(10) so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, For they will make their fires of the weapons. They will despoil those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, says the Lord God.

(11) And it shall come to pass in that day that I will give to Gog a place of memorial for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers east of the (dead) sea. It will block the travellers, for their Gog and all his multitude will be buried; it will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. (Multitude of Gog)

12) For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.

(13) All the people of the land will bury them, and it will redound to their honor on the day that I show my glory, says the Lord GOD.

(14) At the end of seven months, they will appoint men to search the land systematically; going through the country and searching for any left above ground that remain on the face of the earth, so as to cleanse it.

(15) And when these pass through the land and any one sees a man's bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (The multitude of Gog)

(16) A city named Hamonah (Multitude) is there! And so the land will finally be cleansed.

First of all we would like to suggest that these verses must be symbolic not literal, for the following reasons.

1. Ezekiel tells us that in that day they will burn their weapons for fuel in their homes sufficient to last for seven years. But weapons today are not made of wood that can be burned as fuel, let alone sufficient to last for seven years.

2. Ezekiel tells us for seven months they would be burying their dead. But we realize that if dead bodies were allowed to lay exposed for seven months waiting for burial, disease would be rampant throughout the earth.

If these verses can't be referring to the literal burning of weapons, -- and literal burying of bodies, what are they referring to?

1. We will endeavor to show that these verse are a change of scene – a parenthesis in this chapter.

2. Gog in verse 8-16 symbolically refers to EVERYTHING that is in opposition to God and his principles during the **entire Mediatorial Reign and the Little Season.**

Now we would like to go on to establish these points.

Thus far we have considered two reasons why verses 8-16 are not literal but symbolic.

Weapons today cannot be burned as fuel, nor can bodies be left unburied for 7 months.

Now we would like to show why we believe verses 8-16 are **NOT** referring to the literal Gog of Jacob's Trouble, but to a symbolic Gog.

In every prophetic passage that we have found relative to the slain in Armageddon and Jacob's Trouble, the dead are never buried. But rather they are consumed by the fowl of the air, the beasts of the field, or by fire.

This is the only one that seems at first to be an exception.

But as we go on we will see why, in that it does not refer to the destruction of Armageddon or Jacob's Trouble, but to the Mediatorial reign.

Let's call to mind some of the scriptures:

Jerm. 25:30-33 (KJ)

- 30** Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that **tread the grapes**, against all the inhabitants of the earth.
- 31** A noise shall come *even* to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them *that are* wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.
- 32** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.
- 33** And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth: **they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.**

Refers to the "treading of grapes", the winepress feature of destruction of the false vine of the earth, Babylon, Christendom.

Notice the last part of vs. 33. "They shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground."

It sounds somewhat grotesque, almost as if God has no feeling or compassion.

But we realize that this is all symbolic. It is describing the destruction of Satan's evil systems, but the people as individuals in the system will all come back in the resurrection to be given an opportunity to come into full harmony with God and have everlasting life.

This is why they are not buried. Burial implies the making of a memorial so the individuals will not be forgotten.

But these individuals do not require a burial/ memorial for none of them will ever be forgotten. Each and every one will raised in the resurrection.

* Rev. 19:15-21 (KJ)

- 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
- 16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
- 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
- 18 That ye may **eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.**
- 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.
- 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- 21 **And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**

Again we have the winepress feature of destruction, and again no burial, but the fowl of heaven (the Anarchistic element of society), are called to the destruction and removal (so to speak) of the remains of Satan's evil institutions of Christendom, and his followers.

We come back to the chapter our theme text of Ezek.39

Ezek. 39:1-7 (RSV)

- 1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal;
- 2 and I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel;

- 3 then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand.
- 4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples that are with you; **I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the wild beasts to be devoured.**
- 5 You shall fall in the open field; for I have spoken, says the Lord GOD.
- 6 I will send **fire on Magog** and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands; and they shall know that I am the LORD.
- 7 "And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let my holy name be profaned any more; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Notice vss. 4-6, vs.4 Beasts devour, vs.6 fire on Magog,

Verse 7 brings to end the first scene. (Read vs. 7)

Then verses 8-16 are our theme scriptures that refer to the **BURIAL of Gog.**

But as we will shortly show it's a complete change of scene, a parenthesis that refers to the kingdom. Showing how Gog is a picture or personification of all that is in opposition to God.

Then immediately following verse 16 the scene goes back to the literal destruction that takes place on the mountains of Israel in Jacob's Trouble.

Ezek 39:17-20

- 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.

Again we notice how the slain are not buried.

Also notice the terminology is almost exactly the same as the treading of the winepress in Rev.19. How come? For the Rev. picture of the treading of the false vine of the earth is referring to the destruction of Christendom, while Ezek. 39 is referring to the destruction of Israel's enemies in Jacob's Trouble.

It appears that the treading of the winepress takes place in two different localities.

One being in the cities of Christendom itself, and the other being referred to here in vs.17, as being on the mountains of Israel.

Since the language here is identical to Revelation it would seem reasonable that one of the aspects of the winepress feature takes place in Israel during Jacob's Trouble.

We see this in 1 Kings 21:23,24

1 Kings 21:23,24 NAS

- 23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.
24 Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

Notice how these verse show the two parts or two locations for the destruction of Christendom.

Explain! Jezebel and Ahab = Church state union.

Jezebel the religious element = will meet its downfall in the cities of Christendom and be eaten by the dogs.

Ahab the civil element = will meet part of its down fall in the city and part of its downfall in the field.

That is outside of Christendom proper. And these in turn will be eaten by the fowls of the air.

So we can see the harmony of part of the winepress feature of the destruction of Christendom, being the destruction of it's armies outside of Christendom proper, on the mountains of Israel in Jacob's Trouble.

Rev. 14:19,20

- 19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.
20 And the **winepress was trodden without the city**, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Winepress trodden without the city.
40 x 40 = 1600 furlongs = trial judgment

This does not mean that the armies of Christendom will be the attackers of Israel, but rather they will be there to protect their own interests by protecting Israel's.

Notice how Obadiah portrays Christendom's army as being in Israel for the purpose of protecting her in Jacob's Trouble.

Obad. 8, 10-14, 18 NAS

- 8 Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise *men* out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?
10 "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered *with* shame, And you will be cut off forever.
11 "On the day that **you stood aloof**, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem— You too were as one of them.
12 "**Do not gloat over your brother's day**, The day of his misfortune. And **do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction**; Yes, do not boast In the day of *their* distress.

- 13 **"Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster.** Yes, you, do not **gloat over their calamity** In the day of their disaster. And **do not loot their wealth** In the day of their disaster.
- 14 **"Do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress.**

Verse 8 shows the prophecy is against EDOM or Christendom.

Verses 10-14 shows the reason why. Christendom's armies were to be allied with Israel and be a protector, but alas when the enemy comes from the north they stand aloof, and let the enemy come in and attack. They are not the prime attacker, but Christendom's armies actually "gloat" over Israel's attack and near destruction by the forces of Gog from the north. They also join in the looting of Israel.

Notice how Joel 3 also harmonize with the thought that part of the winepress feature is in Israel.

Joel 3:1,2, 12-13 NAS

- 1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,
- 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and *for* my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.
- 12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.
- 13 **Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.**

A few other scriptures showing there are no burials of those slain in Armageddon or Jacob's Trouble.

Zeph. 1:17,18

- 17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.
- 18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be **devoured by the fire** of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Isa 24:6

Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are **burned, and few men left.**

Ps 97:3

A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.

2Pe 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth

also and the works that are therein **shall be burned up.**

Zeph. 3:8,9

- 8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be **devoured with the fire of my jealousy.**
- 9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

In all these texts we note again there were no burials referred to, but rather all were consumed by fowls, beasts or fire.

Burials imply memorials so that one would not be forgotten. But God's memory never fails, he needs no memorial.

And as Zeph. 3:9 shows after the destruction all would be resurrected so that all could call upon the name of the Lord.

This brings us back to our theme texts that referred to burials. But first let's consider verses 4-10.

Read 4 thru 6

EZEK. 39:4-10 (RSV)

- 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.
- 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.
- 8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this *is* the day whereof I have spoken.
- 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.

Notice how Gog's forces fall on the mountains of Israel and are consumed by the fowl, beasts, and fire.

Just like in all our scriptures that described those who were slain in Armageddon or Jacob's Trouble.

It is for this reason we believe the following verses which describe the burying of Gog, are referring to Gog antitypically, as everything that is in opposition to God and his principals.

Notice how verses 7 & 8 bring to a close this first scene and set the stage for the next which is referring to the Mediatorial phase of the Kingdom. Read 7,8

Now verse 9,10 go on to describe symbolically future events of the Kingdom. Read 9,10.

We believe the weapons here are symbolic of the effects of sin of this present evil world.

Notice how they burn these weapons as fuel. Such as burning wood in a stove to provide warmth and comfort, or for cooking to provide nourishment.

This seems to be picturing profitable lessons gained from the experiences of this present evil world.

And then notice these profitable lessons are in such abundance as to provide fuel for 7 years.

Seven we realize is symbolic of perfection and completeness. In these scriptures we believe it is referring to all eternity. Perfection lasting to its full completeness, which will never end.

Thus these scriptures seem to be picturing to us that the lessons gained from the Permission of Evil, is what in reality will help make it possible for mankind to pass their test in the Little Season, and go on to live forever with all their needs of comfort and nourishment being provided.

This is very similar to the churches experiences at the present time. For truly it is the lessons gained thru pain, trial, and sorrow that help to develop and crystallize our characters.

So in a similar way mankind will be benefited from their experience with the exceeding sinfulness of sin that comes from disobedience. They in turn will be able to develop their characters thru the kingdom processes.

As they walk up the highway of holiness they will need to repent of all their previous wrong doings. They will need to seek forgiveness of all they had previously injured.

They will need to make amends we believe for all willful sin they had committed. There will chastenings just as the church is chastened now.

Thus when all is said and down, their characters will be changed, transformed, crystallized, made possible in part, because of the experiences of evil and disobedience of this present life.

In addition, these present experiences will be contrasted with the joy, comfort and blessings of a life of perfection. The final result will be that the vast majority will be rightly exercised, will pass their test, -- and will live forever.

Thus the weapons (effects of evil) will be burned as fuel, that is, they will help provide warmth, comfort, and nourishment for all eternity.

Notice how the lessons gained from this present reign of sin is portrayed in other scriptures as lasting for all eternity.

* Isa. 34:6,8-10 NAS

6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, *and* with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.

- 8 For *it is* the day of the LORD'S vengeance, *and* the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.
- 9 And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.
- 10 It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

(6) Slaughter in Edom = Destruction of Christendom

(9) Streams turned to burning pitch = Counterfeit sources of truth, destroyed.

(10) Smoke rise forever = Remembrance of the lessons from the time of the Permission OF EVIL, will Last Forever.

Rev. 20:10

- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Tormented = Touchstone on which they tested metals.

Better to translate = They will be examined day and night forever.

That is mankind will never forget the lessons of the permission of evil.

Re 19:2,3

- 2 For true and righteous [are] his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.
- 3 And again they said, Alleluia. **And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.**

(Babylons smoke rose forever) Same lesson.

Ezek.39:9,10 RSV

- 9 "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go forth and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, handpikes and spears, and they will make fires of them for seven years;
- 10 so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they will make their fires of the weapons; they will despoil those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, says the Lord GOD.

Thus the picture of Israel never again needing wood for fuel is pictorial saying, the lessons learned from sin and evil, is what will help sustain them forever.

For those lessons are what will enable them to transform their characters, and pass their final test in the little season. And once having past the test God has promised they will live forever, there will be no more death. Mankind will never forget the lessons of the PERMISSION OF EVIL. It will be an everlasting object lesson, for their eternal well being.

Eze. 39:10 (Combination Translation)

(10) so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, For they will make their fires of the weapons. They will despoil those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, says the Lord God.

What's meant by - Spoil and plunder those who spoiled and plundered them ?

Previous injuries designed to hurt others or to steal from them will be turned around. What was designed to injure will result in blessings, as we just considered.

Permission of evil was permitted for man's ultimate good to be a stepping stone to gain eternal life. As we consider this lesson we realize how mankind will be forever thankful, for all the hardships, pain, and sorrow of this life, for they will realize they were actually the stepping stones needful to attain to the joys and glories of an eternity of blessings.

How much more should we be thankful for every hurt, injury, difficulty, for every reversal of our plans and desires, for every heartache, sorrow, and trial. For they are for us the stepping stones we need to ever reach higher and higher to attain the heavens and the eternal glories that await the faithful.

Oh may we strive ever harder to thus be able to accept all our trials. Whether its with our relationships with our neighbors, workers, family or brethren, if we are hurt may we view it in the light of eternity and be thankful. Realizing each one is a stepping stone to bring us a bit higher to our eventual goal.

Eze. 39:11-13 (Combination Translation)

(11) And it shall come to pass in that day that I will give to Gog a place of memorial for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers east of the (dead) sea. It will block the travellers, for their Gog and all his multitude will be buried; it will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. (Multitude of Gog)

12) For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.

(13) All the people of the land will bury them, and it will redound to their honor on the day that I show my glory, says the Lord GOD.

Previously we made the point that there were no burials of those slain in Armageddon, because burials were Memorials so others would not forget the deceased.

And we realize God did not need to have a memorial so as not to forget. All are retained in his memory and will be resurrected. So why do we now have a burial of Gog with it specifically being referred to as a memorial?

May we suggest that this is a very similar lesson as the burning of weapons for fuel for all eternity.

What mankind will be burying in the kingdom is everything that Gog personified. They will be burying the REMAINS OF ALL THE EFFECTS OF SIN.

Notice verse 12! "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land."

Here again we have the number 7 picturing completeness. The word for MONTHS is literally the word meaning MOON. We all realize that MOON in the scriptures symbolically refers to the Law.

So we believe verse 12 is referring to the total complete time of the Inauguration of the New Law Covenant. In other words to the time of the Mediatorial Reign.

Notice how verse 13 refers to this time. "All the people of the land will bury them, and it will redound to their honor on the day that I show my glory, says the Lord GOD."

During the Mediatorial reign ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND WILL BE BURYING THE EFFECTS OF SIN.

Each and everyone will be raised with a measure of the symbolic Gog within them. Sin will need to be erased, gotten rid of and buried for all time. This will be done not only in themselves, but each one rightly exercised, will be helping all they come in contact with to bury Gog within themselves. Yes, "All the people of the land" everyone will be busy burying SIN and all its effects.

And then notice how it further co-operates that this is the Mediatorial reign when it says, "it will redound to their honor on the day that I show my glory, says the Lord God."

Verses 14-16 go on to describe events after the 7 months are over. Or in other words, events of the Little Season which follows the Mediatorial reign.

We'll come back to this shortly.

Lets go back to verse 11.

(11) And it shall come to pass in that day that I will give to Gog a place of memorial for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers east of the (dead) sea. It will block the travellers, for their Gog and all his multitude will be buried; it will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. (Multitude of Gog)

Why a Memorial East of dead sea ?

Notice the memorial is to be in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Dead Sea .Dead Sea Pictures the ultimate effect of sin, - death. East is where the Sun rises and is thus symbolic of healing - life - resurrection. As in:

Mal 4:2

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Re 16:12

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Eze. 41:1,8,9

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house **eastward: for the forefront of the house**

stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south *side* of the altar.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the **east country**, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: *which being* brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, **that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.**

Water flowed from the Temple = (The Christ)

Temple faced East, Water flowed East = Life comes from the Eastern Sun.

The healing of the Dead Sea Waters will be by the Kings of the East, who will arise with healing in their beams of sunlight.

Eze 39:11 RSV

"On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers east of the sea; it will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried; it will be called the Valley of Hamongog.

Thus we have the picture of all mankind raised from the dead sea condition and Traveling on a highway East of the dead sea.

There was a literal highway East of the Dead Sea called The Kings Highway. On Israel's journey to the promised land they come to Edom.

Nu 20:17

'Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or through vineyard; we will not even drink water from a well. We will go along the **king's highway**, not turning to the right or left, until we pass through your territory.'

Then Israel comes to the Amorites:

Num. 21:21,22 NAS

21 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites, saying,

22 "Let me pass through your land. We will not turn off into field or vineyard; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the **king's highway** until we have passed through your border."

* Map --

The King's Highway was the main route thru the desert that united Egypt and Assyria. It was on the east side of the dead sea.

The KINGS HIGHWAY is symbolic of the Highway of Holiness of the KING OF KINGS.

This same typical King's Highway that united Egypt and Assyria, is brought to our attention in the prophecy of the 19th chapter of Isaiah.

In a previous discourse we considered how Egypt in the entire 19th chapter of Isaiah is prophetic of the Western world of Christendom and Assyria pictures the Non-Christian Eastern World.

Notice how this highway will unite all people of the world.

Isa.19:23-25 (Highway Egypt to Assyria)

- 23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.
- 24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, *even* a blessing in the midst of the land:
- 25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed *be* Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

This Highway that will unite Egypt (Christian world) and Assyria (Non-Christian World), will be the Highway of Holiness, the King's Highway.

It will symbolically circumvent the entire world, bringing all people together from East and West to Jerusalem, to be united together as one in Christ with all becoming Israelites indeed.

Same highway as in:

Isa. 40:3-5

- 3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
- 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

The King's highway literally goes thru a wilderness desert, picturing how Highway of Holiness will provide easy access for all humanity, regardless of their mental or moral condition.

All will have an equal opportunity even though their moral character may be as a dry wilderness desert.

Isa 40:4

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

(the poor, the lowly, the humble, the discouraged, the down trodden, will all be lifted up.) "and every mountain and hill shall be made low" (all the proud, the haughty, the mighty, the arrogant, will be brought down)"and the crooked (perverse aspects of society) "shall be made straight, and the rough places plain" (all the stumbling stones of error, false doctrines, inconsistencies, will be removed and paved over with truth and honesty).

Isa. 40:5

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Yes a highway of holiness will bring all mankind to Jerusalem, uniting them together in a oneness of spirit with the Lord.

* Isa. 62:2,3,10 tells us who will be the builders of this highway.

Isa. 62:2,3,10

2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

3 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

10 Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

The true church is referred to as "Going thru the gates" that is the 1st & 2nd veils - of Consecration and faithfulness unto death.

They "Gather out the stones" - All stumbling stones, -- anything and everything that may hinder progress will be removed.

"Lift up a standard" --

The goal of perfection of character.

Isa. 35:8-10

8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

9 No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

"No lion shall be there or any ravenous beast" -- nothing to hurt or injure.

Thus we have the King's Highway of Holiness beautifully described for us in these scriptures.

Now we come back to our theme text of Ezek. 39.

Eze 39:11 RSV

"On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers east of the sea; it will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried; it will be called the Valley of Hamongog.

On this Highway of Holiness here called the Valley of Travelers will be a Memorial burial ground of all that was contrary to God.

Then notice it BLOCKS the "travelers.

All of mankind will have to stop and reflect at this memorial, that is they will have engrained within them for all time, the memory of what disobedience to God brought.

Sin with it's pain sorrow sickness and death. Another picture of the everlasting lesson gained from the permission of evil, as its contrasted with the results of the blessings of perfection.

The BURIAL GROUND IS CALLED THE Valley of Hamon-Gog, - OR MULTITUDE OF GOG.

Mankind will remember the multitude of painful effects caused by disobedience of GOD. And as a result they will praise God in appreciation for all the glories of perfection in a way that they could never have done without the contrast.

We all realize how we seldom appreciate our blessing fully until we have the contrast of their being removed.

So the Permission of Evil is what will help make everlasting life possible and blessed beyond comprehension.

Now we come back to our Theme texts. (Don't read)

Eze. 39:12-16 (Combination translation)

12) For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.

(13) All the people of the land will bury them, and it will redound to their honor on the day that I show my glory, says the Lord GOD.

(14) At the end of seven months, they will appoint men to search the land systematically; going through the country and searching for any left above ground that remain on the face of the earth, so as to cleanse it.

(15) And when these pass through the land and any one sees a man's bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (The multitude of Gog)

(16) A city named Hamonah (Multitude) is there! And so the land will finally be cleansed.

We saw earlier how verses 12 & 13 referred to the Mediatorial reign.

Let's read them again and then notice the differences in vss.14 -16 that we believe refers to the Little Season.

Read all!

1. Notice in 12-13 the events are during the 7 months of the Mediatorial reign.

In 14-16 The events are after the 7 months are over, thus depicting the time of the little season.

2. In 13 All the people of the land are engaged in the work of burying.

During the Mediatorail Reign everyone will be performing the work of burying, or ridding

themselves of sin as well as helping others.

But when the 7 months are over, that is the Mediatorial reign comes to a close, obvious outward sin has in essence been removed.

No longer are all the people of the land engaged in the work of burial or removing sin because that work has been finished.

Now they must pass their final test to see if there is any secret sin of the heart still lingering that has not been removed and buried.

No longer does Mediatorial leniency apply.

"The Christ's" roll changes from that of Mediator to administrating mankind's final test. Then absolute perfection will be required.

Notice how verses 14-15 portray this final searching for the last hidden bone of sin, and it's final burial.

Read 14 & 15.

"At the end of the 7 months or moons," = That is, - the time for the inauguration of the new law covenant, is now over.

The Mediatorial reign has come to an end.

"they will appoint men to search the land systematically." = Now that all outward sin has been removed, there will begin a slow deliberate systematic search of the entire land, to find the last few remaining bones of sin that still lie in the hidden secrets of the heart.

The men that will be especially appointed to do this final searching we believe would be the Ancient Worthies, who no doubt would be guided in turn by "The Christ."

Vs.15 "And when these pass through the land and any one sees a man's bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog."

We notice the men especially appointed to do this final searching (the Ancient Worthies) do not do the actual burying.

They merely put a large sign by it so it won't be overlooked by the buriers.

"The buriers," we believe is referring to "The Christ's" final judgment and removal of all deserving eternal destruction.

Why the sign? One reason is to give us a word picture to show that not even the tiniest bone fragment of sin will be overlooked.

The second reason is to symbolize for us the fact that all secret sins of the heart will be outwardly manifested for all to see before one will be put to death.

The outward manifestations of these last secret sins of the heart is brought to our attention in Rev.20.

- 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.
- 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.
- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

"The number of them is like the sand of the sea," must be referring to mankind in general, not to the number of the opponents of God. In other places we realize "all the families of the earth," are likened to the sands of the sea.

As in:

Ho 2:23

And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to [them which were] not my people, Thou [art] my people; and they shall say, [Thou art] my God.

Ho 1:10

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, [that] in the place where it was said unto them, Ye [are] not my people, [there] it shall be said unto them, [Ye are] the sons of the living God.

Israel will be sowed as a farmer sows seed, which in turn will produce more seed, that is most of mankind will become "Israelites Indeed," resulting in Israelites indeed being "As the sand of the sea."

Psalm 107 is a brief over view of the entire plan. It ends with the following verses that refer to the Little Season.

Psa. 107:40,39 Rotherham

Ps 107:40 He poureth contempt upon nobles, and causeth them to wander in a pathless waste;

Ps 107:39 So have they become few and been brought low, By oppression, misfortune, and sorrow;

"poureth contempt upon nobles" == refers to the Goat Class. They are called Nobles no doubt because they will profess to have superior leadership and authoritative qualities as the Nobles of old.

These Nobles are the goat class leaders "who will surrounded the camp of the saints." That is they will besiege the Ancient Worthies questioning perhaps their continued ruling authority wanting to get the right to Rule for themselves.

But we notice they become few in number. Their lot will be one of "misfortune and sorrow", - they will "wander in a pathless waste." That is 2nd death, it will lead to no return or resurrection.

Eze. 39:14-16 (Combination translation)

(14) At the end of seven months, they will appoint men to search the land systematically; going through the country and searching for any left above ground that remain on the face of the earth, so as to cleanse it.

(15) And when these pass through the land and any one sees a man's bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (The multitude of Gog)

(16) A city named Hamonah (Multitude) is there! And so the land will finally be cleansed.

Thus we see that the Little Season is not only for the purpose of a final test of all God's intelligent creatures, -- but it is also to provide the circumstances (by the releasing of Satan) to bring about an outward manifestation of any sin yet remaining in the hearts of any.

The Ancient Worthies will place a large sign by each bone fragment of sin.

Picturing how everyone will know the reason why Divine Justice removes and buries those unworthy of further life.

Those who die in the Little Season will also be buried in the Memorial Burial Ground, as an everlasting reminder of the effects of sin and disobedience.

Then we're told that this same memorial valley of graves which was called the Valley of Hamon-gog, meaning Multitude of Gog, will also be called a city, named Hamonah, which means "Multitude".

Why would this Valley of graves be called a city?

We puzzled over this for many days, until we remembered the meaning of the word city.

Strong's For City - 5892

5892. עִיר *æiyr eer*; or (in the plural) עָר *æar awr*, or עִיָּר *æayar* ([#Jud 10:4](#)) *aw-yar*'; from [05782](#) a city (a place guarded by waking or a watch) in the widest sense (even of a mere encampment or post:

A place guarded by a watch or as Gesenius says, a watchtower.

We realize that in reality this memorial burial ground, is emblematic of sin and all its effects that have existed throughout this universe.

For everything that was sinful and in opposition to God will ultimately be buried there as a memorial.

It is a similar picture as:

Rev. 20:14,15

[14](#) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

[15](#) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Death, Hell, 2nd death class, the beast, the false prophet, Satan and his fallen angels, all not written in the book of life will go into the lake of fire, picturing everlasting destruction.

All these will also be buried in Memorial Burial ground together with every thing emblematic with sin.

So if we substitute for the word "city" the basic meaning of the Hebrew word, and paraphrase our scripture, it would read:

Eze. 39:15,16 (with 16 paraphrased)

(15) And when these pass through the land and any one sees a man's bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (The multitude of Gog)

(16) ***The Memorial Burying Ground will be guarded by Watchtowers, and it will be called the Multitude.***

The Memorial Burial Ground will be guarded by Watchtowers, and it will be called, "The Multitude."

Referring to the multitude of evil effects that were caused by sin and disobedience to God.

The lesson of this Memorial Burial Ground being guarded by watchtowers seems to be telling us that that which is represented here will never again be allowed to raise its ugly influence throughout eternity. Not on earth nor in this entire universe.

Sin and death will be no more! It will be vanquished forever.

God has promised it! He places His guards as it were, to assure us it will never rise again.

As a memorial however, the Burial Ground will last forever. Yea it will be guarded and remain intact for all eternity, to be an everlasting lesson of what sin brought, to all the future generations of intelligent beings that will be brought into being in the millenniums of time.

Notice how the 102nd Psalm refers to these future generations.

Psa. 102:15-18 NIV

15 The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.

16 For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory.

17 He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

18 Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet **created** may praise the LORD:

This scripture is obviously referring to the kingdom when all the Kings of the earth will revere God's glory. Then notice it says "Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet CREATED may praise the LORD." Notice it does not say "for a future generation not yet born or reawakened. Not yet CREATED is the correct thought of the Hebrew. It is translated created 49 times in the Old Testament.

Thus the history of this entire time of the permission of evil and kingdom trial is being celestially recorded so that it will never need to be repeated again

Eze. 39:16

(16) The Memorial Burying Ground will be guarded by Watchtowers, and it will be called the Multitude.

And so the land will finally be cleansed.

Thus our Memorial Burial Ground will remain and be guarded for all eternity as the repository of the lessons of sin for "a people yet unborn."

Then notice how our picture ends.

"And so the land will finally be cleansed."

Yes when every vestige of sin is finally removed and buried forever, the land will be cleansed.

Then Col.1:20 will be fulfilled.

Col.1:20 NE

"Through him God chose to reconcile the whole universe to himself... to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, through Him alone."

Then Eph. 1:9,10 will be fulfilled.

Eph. 1:9,10 NE

"He has made known to us his hidden purpose... namely that the Universe, all in heaven and on the earth, might be brought into a Unity in Christ."

This hidden purpose, the reconciling, the uniting all beings in the universe into a oneness of Christ, is the purpose of the kingdom and our Lord's Reign.

Then 1 Cor. 15:24-28 will be fulfilled.

1 Cor. 15:24-28 RSV

- 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
27 "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection under him," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him.
28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

Our Lord will reign until he has destroyed every opposing rule, authority and power,.

Yes in the Little Season Gog and Magog will come up against the camp of the Ancient Worthies. No doubt demanding to be given the power and authority to rule.

But our Lord reigns until these are all destroyed. Yes he will reign until every opposing element of rule, power and authority in this universe are destroyed.

Every enemy in heaven and earth will be conquered including the fear of death, for it will be swallowed up in victory and we are promised there will be no more death.

Then all these enemies, anything and everything identified with sin will be removed and buried in the Memorial Burial Ground.

To thus be an everlasting witness to the countless future creations that will be brought into existence throughout eternity.

Then the kingdom will be turned over to God it's mission accomplished.

Notice how beautifully this translation expresses this thought in verse 28.

Quote verse 28. (that God may be everything to every one.)

Wha's meant by, "that God may be everything to every one?"

Psm.73:24-26 helps to bring out the meaning.

Psa. 73:24-26

24 Thou dost guide me with thy counsel, and afterward thou wilt receive me to glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides thee.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

Read 24 now

(Church to celestial glory, and faithful of the world to Terrestrial Glory) Read 25 & 26.

Yes then God will be their portion forever.

Yes He will be EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE, -- why? Because at the time the kingdom is turned over, everyone and everything in the universe, in heaven and in earth, will be reconciled to God.

The atonement work will be finished.

All beings in the universe will finally be in At-one-ment with God.

The praising of God will be the motivation, of their every thought word and deed throughout eternity.

Re 5:13NAS

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, [be] blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Eze. 39:15,16

(15) And when these pass through the land and any one sees a man's bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (The multitude of Gog)

(16) The Memorial Burying Ground will be guarded by Watchtowers, and it will be called the Multitude.

And so the land will finally be cleansed

Thus when the very last fragments of these bones of sin have been buried in God's Memorial Burial Ground.

"THE LAND WILL FINALLY BE CLEANSED."

"And God will truly be everything to everyone"