

How can I understand Ezekiel's parable of burying bones (39:1-16)?

In this section, Ezekiel is delivering a message of judgment that involves Gog and his attack against the land of Israel.

1. What do we know about the people involved in the battle being discussed?

Ezekiel **39:1-6**

2 Peter **2:9**

2 Corinthians **10:3-5**

Romans **8:33-39**

Philippians **1:6**

The battle that is being fought is between Gog and his army and against God Himself. The people of Israel are not identified as a particular party of interest. The battle itself takes place upon the mountains of Israel. During the battle, the people of Gog and his armies are nearly completely destroyed. According to verse 2, only 1/6 of the army survives the rest are killed on the mountains, the fields and even beyond the actual battle sight. The arm of God's power and destruction reaches even to various islands that belong to the nation of Magog under the authority of Gog. In the life of the Christian, this battle demonstrates that it is God who preserves and protects us. The battle that is fought on a daily basis is not fought with the weapons of this world but with the weapon that is the Lord Himself. He carries out the battle plan.

2. What is the purpose behind God's destroying hand over the armies of Gog?

Ezekiel **39:7-10**

Matthew **5:13-16**

Romans **9:18-24**

Romans **1:3-5**

Romans **6:15-18**

After the battle is soundly won by God, it will become clear to the nation of Israel as well as all of the gentile nations around that the battle was won by God and by His might and power. It demonstrates to Israel that God really is their God and that they need to return to Him and serve Him. The destruction will be so great that the assurance of the memory of the battle will be permanently seared into the historical memories of the people of Israel. The army was so large and the destruction so severe that it will take more than seven years for the nation of Israel to burn up all of the wood from the military weapons and instruments of warfare alone. There will be no need for firewood due to the abundance of wood instruments ready to burn. Since God completely and utterly destroyed the enemy of God's people, it is an illustration of the assurance that Christians have that God has effectively destroyed Satan and his power that leads to death. The power of the Lord brings life and in the Lord all of our sins are beaten and destroyed. We have power to now live the life that Christ desires for us to live.

3. What happens to the defeated army?

Ezekiel **39:11-16**

Hebrews **12:1-2**

Matthew **13:41-43**

Hebrews **2:14-15**

Revelation **20:12-15**

The destroyed army was so large that it will take the nation of Israel more than 7 months to bury all of the bodies. There will be so many dead that there will be two special teams of people from Israel commissioned to deal with all of the bodies. One of the teams will do nothing else but identify the location of all of the bodies. The second team will follow along behind and bury the bodies that have been found. The enemies of God are completely destroyed. We continue to have the reminders in this world that any defeat over sin that we have is because the Lord has defeated the enemy, which is sin and death.