Ezekiel 38:1 – 48:35

**Outline: (From New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary)**

38:1-39:29, The Final Battle: Yahweh Defeats Gog and His Hordes

40:1-48:35, Ezekiel’s Vision of an All New, Thoroughly Improved Israel

1. 40:1-43:12, A Purified and Perfectly Ordered Temple
2. 43:13-46:24, The Torah of Ezekiel’s Temple
3. 47:1-48:35, Yahweh’s Land is Made Fruitful and Is Distributed

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**38:1-39:29, The Final Battle: Yahweh Defeats God and His Hordes**

“With graphic, mysterious, and sometimes gruesome language, Ezekiel 38-39 describes the battel to end all battles. The opponents will be Yahweh, the Divine Warrior of Israel, whose just punishment of Judah has damaged Yahweh’s reputation among the nations, and Gog of Magog, chief prince of Meschech and Tubal, along with vast hordes of his allies.” (New Interpreter’s Bible, 1512)

**Read Ezekiel 38:1-23** – Discuss: What is going on here?

**Read Ezekiel 39:1-16** – Discuss: What is going on here?

See Also: **Revelation 20:7-9**  7 ¶ When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea. 9 They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

**40:1-43:12, A Purified and Perfectly Ordered Temple**

“Human geography shows that every society is organized in space,” Stevenson writes. “Changing the spatial organization of the society changes the society. Ezekiel 40-48 is a vision of a new society organized according to a new set of spatial rules. It is a temple society with controlled access to sacred space, based on a spatial theology of holiness.” (NIB, 1533)

“I agree with Stevenson that the issue in these chapters is not the proper building of structures, but the creation of spaces and even more importantly, keeping these spaces separate. Nothing is said in the text to the effect that the exiles should actually build such a complex after returning to their homeland. And, indeed, the Temple built in 520-515 BCE did not conform to Ezekiel’s measurements. The author of this material undoubtedly assumed that a second temple would be constructed in Israel. But what is offered here is a vision and an ideal society, the purity of which is ensured by the hierarchical priesthood which carries out the perfectly ordered Temple’s sacrificial system.” (NIB, 1536)

**47:1-48:35, Yahweh’s Land is Made Fruitful and Is Distributed**

**Read Ezekiel 47:1-12**

See Also: **Revelation 22:1-5**  Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**Read Ezekiel 47:21-23**

What does this say about God’s grace to the foreigner?

**Read Ezekiel 48:30-35**

See Also: **Revelation 21:9-14**  Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

What do you find hopeful about these visions?

What do you find confusing about these visions?