

God's Last Days' Debut!

Ezekiel 39:21 (NKJV)

21 **"I will set My glory among the nations**; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them.

God's glory in Ezekiel is associated with His demonstrated presence. In fact, the last real emphasis in Ezekiel regarding God's glory is back in chapters 8-11. That is where Ezekiel chronicled God's glory departing from the temple prior to its destruction in 586 BC (cf. 8:4, 9:3, 10:4, 18-19, 11:22-23).

God's covenant relationship with Israel remained intact, but God now allowed His people Israel to be taken advantage of and to be abused by the Gentiles as a matter of discipline. Note the double emphases in verses 23 and 24 that during this time – that is, The Times of the Gentiles, God **hides His face** from Israel. During this time, they did not know His miraculous intervening presence – that is, His glory as they had previously known it.

Through all the intervening years since the Babylonian Captivity, PROVIDENTIAL working has defined God's activity in relation to the nation of Israel as whole – in contrast to His glorious firsthand miraculous, intervening presence.

This pattern will continue until suddenly, IN THE DAY OF THE LORD, God's glory – that is, His miraculous, intervening presence on behalf of His people Israel will again be seen in the event of Gog and Magog, as described in Ezek. 38-39.

Note the specific language here in verse 21, where God says that He will set His glory **"among the nations;"**.

There are two passages in Ezekiel that speak of Jerusalem and Israel as being set in the center of the nations, as seen in Ezek. 5:5 and 38:12, respectively.

In other words, God is going to reveal His glory in connection with Israel which is set among the nations – which is to say, in the center of the nations. God's glory is going to be revealed in connection with the centerpiece nation of Israel.

And God's glory is going to be revealed specifically in His judgment of Gog and Magog. All the nations will see the presence of His divine intervention

on behalf of Israel. The intervening hand of God will be so clear that all will see it. It will therefore bring Him great glory (cf. Ex. 9:16, Isa. 37:20).

Ezekiel 39:23–24 (NKJV)

23 The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, **therefore I hid My face from them.** I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and **hidden My face from them.**”

Not only will Israel understand that YHWH as their covenant God is watching out for them, but the Gentile nations will also now understand that Israel’s prolonged time out of the land and their great affliction was due to God’s discipline of His unfaithful people. It wasn’t a bad reflection upon God. The CAUSE was the sin of Israel.

The world, prior to this point of Gog and Magog, misreads the Jews’ plight. They either write the God of Israel off as not real, or they believe that He doesn’t really care about Israel. They either see God as UNABLE to protect Israel, or that He has NOT BEEN FAITHFUL to deliver them. But the event of Gog and Magog changes everything. God will no longer be HIDING His face from Israel, but rather will directly and supernaturally intervene on her behalf.

The coming war of Gog and Magog is about God restoring His reputation as the covenant God of Israel. The supreme lesson to be learned by Israel and the world is that Israel’s captivity and the destruction of Gog and Magog both show the holiness of God and His covenant faithfulness to Israel. Israel’s exile shows God’s **holiness**. Her preservation shows His **faithfulness**.

God’s got something to say to the whole world concerning His glory – as YHWH, the covenant-keeping God of Israel. And the forum that He is going to use to break through and manifest it to the world in the Last Days is the war of Gog and Magog.

The theme of Ezekiel is “The LORDSHIP of the God of Israel”. The title **“Lord GOD”** is Ezekiel’s favorite designation for God. Lord is “*Adonai*”, meaning Master – the One with sovereign authority.

And GOD is “YHWH”, which is God’s covenant Name, referring to God as eternal in an everlasting covenant relationship with Israel (cf. Ex. 6:1-7). **“Lord GOD”** literally means “*Master YHWH*”. Ezekiel uses this title a total

of 217 times in the book. Elsewhere in the whole of the Old Testament, this designation is found only 103 times. Some variation of the phrase **“shall know that I am the LORD”** is found 63 times in the book of Ezekiel. God wants Israel and the whole world to know WHO He is as YHWH – Israel’s faithful covenant-keeping God (cf. Mal. 3:6, Joel 3:2, Ezek. 36:22).

In various parts of the world, a young girl from an upper class family may be hidden and essentially unknown for years. However, when she comes of age, she has a **“coming out party”**. At this time, she is introduced as an adult and makes her formal debut into society.

According to Ezekiel 39:23-24, for thousands of years God’s face has been hidden from Israel because of her sin. God providentially continues to preserve Israel as a people as He did in the days of Esther, but His overt supernatural intervention on her behalf has not been seen. This silence has been misunderstood; and consequently, God’s covenant Name (YHWH) has been profaned among the nations (cf. Ezek. 36:20-23).

However, in the future, God is going to again supernaturally reveal Himself on behalf of Israel to the entire world. I submit to you that **this is “God’s Last Days’ Debut”!** This coming out manifestation will happen during the Day of the Lord in relation to the war of Gog and Magog, as found in Ezekiel 38-39. God will supernaturally intervene to save Israel as He destroys a great northern military coalition led by Russia that will attack the Holy Land in the Last Days. In this action, God will take back His reputation as the covenant-keeping God of Israel.

From that day forward, Israel will know YHWH as their God, and the nations will know that YHWH is still “to be reckoned with” as the supernatural God Who acts on behalf of His covenant people Israel!

The challenge will then be in place: Will the world embrace the revealed God of Israel for Who He is, or will they accept the counter claims of Antichrist, who will also claim to be God? It appears that the stage is even now being set for “God’s Last Days’ Debut”, which is revealed in Ezekiel 38-39.

The next big event on God’s prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church. That, in effect, is the curtain going up that will shortly usher in Israel’s Last Days’ events and God’s revelation of Himself in supernatural ways in the Day of the Lord. The stage is even now being set – our salvation is nearer than when we first believed (cf. Rom. 13:11)!