



Correspondence

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How will Israel dwell safely?

Dwelling safely without walls, bars or gates is how Ezekiel 38 describes the state of affairs in the land of Israel before Gog invades (v. 11). Yahweh then puts the question to Gog, "In that day when My people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?" (v. 14). We are told in Ezekiel 39:26 that Israel trespasses against the Almighty during this time when "none made them afraid". This rules out any idea of Christ being in Jerusalem prior to Gog's invasion, for they surely could not trespass against God then.

How then does Israel dwell safely? Surely the answer must be found in the prophets. In Obadiah we read: "upon mount Zion shall be deliverance . . . the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions" (v. 17). This will be brought about by Christ and the saints, the "saviours" of verse 21, and, following this, "the kingdom shall be the LORD'S [Yahweh's]".

But before this is fulfilled, verses 18-20 must be fulfilled. Israel in the land is "the house of Jacob" and "the house of Joseph" of verse 18, and verses 19 and 20 indicate that they must occupy such areas as the territory of the Philistines (the Gaza Strip) and territory extending to Zarephath (southern Lebanon). In doing this "the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame".

In Zechariah 12:2 we read: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about [the Palestinians and their supporters], when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem". It is interesting to note what Al Qaeda said to Israel: "You have cast a siege of hunger around the Palestinians, we will cast a siege of fear over you".

Let us now take note of verse 6: "In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about". Notice the similarity between this verse and Obadiah verse 18 quoted above, and notice that this happens before they look on him "whom they have pierced" (v. 10). Israel is prepared to go out of their borders to secure peace, and have also formulated a plan to drive out the

Palestinians. If this happens, Israel will dwell safely, during which time Christ will return, raise the dead and judge his saints, a process which will be unknown to the world.

In the meantime Russia will take control of Europe, and build up her image empire, which will be the greatest empire ever to have existed upon the earth, occupying all the territory of the Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman empires. This empire will be the complete image of Daniel 2, the "many people" of Ezekiel 38:6, the "great company" and "mighty army" of Ezekiel 38:15, the "all nations" of Joel 3:2. This vast host overflows the land like a river, going down into Egypt (Dan. 11:40-42), until "tidings out of the east and out of the north" will cause it to return to the land and meet its end (vv. 44,45), being destroyed by earthquake and other judgements (Ezek. 38:18-20), after which "the LORD shall be king over all the earth" (Zech. 14:9).

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