

BCYC 2020 – Understanding Latter Day Prophecy

Class 1 – Ezek 38 and Dan 11:40-45

Ezekiel 38 – a foundation prophecy

Ezekiel 38 is a foundation latter day prophecy because of its simplicity and clarity in describing the events of Israel's invasion by hostile nations, and because much of the interpretation is embedded within the prophecy.

1. It is worth having the key factors coloured. Using 9 colours, read through the chapter and colour:
 - a) it is Israel who is invaded
 - b) the latter day timeframe
 - c) the invading nations
 - d) the direction of the attack;
 - e) the size/strength of the invaders
 - f) Israel is dwelling safely
 - g) the invader's motivation
 - h) Israel's allies
 - i) God's involvement – both in initiating the attack and in saving Israel.
2. Many of the invading nations are listed in Gen 10. Which sons of Noah did they descend from and (see Attachment 1: The MacMillan Bible Atlas), which continents did these descendants eventually inhabit?
3. Using the pages provided from John Alfree's book on Ezekiel, give a brief description of the latter day identity of each of the invading nations. From what directions will Israel be invaded based upon the location of the invaders?
4. Using the same reference pages, give a brief description of the latter day identity of each of Israel's allies. Where are they listed in Gen 10?
5. Research the following historians, providing a one sentence description of each, and when they lived:
Herodotus:
Diodorus Siculus:
Strabo:
Josephus:
6. Briefly describe the size and strength of the invading army.
7. The invaders are motivated by two things in v12 – “to take a *spoil*, and to take a *prey*” (also v13). Read Ezek 34:8,22,28, where the same Hebrew word for “prey” appears. What (or who) is the “prey” in these 3 verses and how does this reveal that the invaders of Ezek 38 are looking to do more than just capture wealth?

8. How many times does the text refer to Israel dwelling safely/securely at the time of the invasion? Write down each of the phrases listed.
9. Is Israel dwelling safely a sign of her strength or weakness? Does she enjoy a true or pseudo peace? (explain)
10. There are at least 6 descriptive phrases in v8 and v12 regarding the young nation that is invaded (eg: “brought back from the sword”). These phrases are worth identifying as they help to pinpoint Israel’s unique restoration in recent years. What are the additional 5 phrases (some are duplicates)?
11. How does the invasion impact God, what phrases describe His involvement in the invader’s destruction and how do His actions impact the rest of the world?
12. Read Ezek 39:1-16 and note: i) the points echoed from the invasion of ch 38; and ii) any new details provided.

Current events areas to watch for based upon Ezek 38

- 1) Russia to develop a strong military
- 2) Russia to develop alliances with Europe (especially Germany and France), Turkey, Iran, Libya and Ethiopia/Sudan
- 3) Israel to be a wealthy nation
- 4) Israel to be dwelling in (pseudo) peace, without walls, bars or gates; she will be caught off guard when invaded
- 5) Israel to develop alliances with the USA, UK (and Commonwealth nations), and the Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Yemen)
- 6) the Tarshish powers (including the USA) to diminish in their willingness/ability to save Israel from an invasion
- 7) the UK to make a full departure from the EU (Brexit to reach fruition)

Daniel 11:40-45 – reiteration of the invasion of Ezek 38

In vv1-39, the historical events from the Medo/Persians (v1) through to the rise of the Roman Empire and Papacy (vv36-39) are detailed. “At the time of the end” (v40) the king of the north invades Israel, who though not mentioned by name, is referred to as “the glorious land” (v41). Daniel 11:40-45 is a companion prophecy to Ezek 38 as Attachment #2 shows, only in Daniel 11 the invader is called “the king of the north”.

1. Look at a Bible atlas. What country today comprises the land of ancient Edom, Moab and Ammon?
2. Read over the 6 verses. What additional information is listed in the Dan 11 account, not contained in Ezek 38, including the invader’s ultimate destination?

3. Where is the king of the north when he is troubled in v44?

4. For what purpose does he make a return visit to Israel?

Current events areas to watch for based upon Daniel 11:40-45

1) Russia to develop a strong navy, to aid in the invasion

2) Jordan to remain neutral in the Middle East, she will be a haven for fleeing Jews (Isa 16:4)

3) Egypt to remain an ally of Israel and the Sheba/Dedan nations as she is the final destination of the invaders

Class 2 – Joel 2-3, Micah 4 and Habakkuk 3

The latter day invasion of Israel (described in Ezek 38 and Dan 11:40-45), is called “Armageddon” in Rev 16:16: “*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*” Bro Thomas rightly defined Armageddon in 3 parts: *arma*: sheaves (Neh 13:15); *gai*: a valley, as in Ge-henna; and *don/dan*: judgment, resulting in the translation: “*a heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment*”. God repeatedly uses the metaphor of a harvest in describing this battle in which He gathers the nations to thresh them, i.e. to judge them for their mistreatment of Israel and to defeat them. It all occurs in a valley of judgment. Armageddon is portrayed as a cataclysmic event in scripture and watershed moment. It is THE turning point at which the Kingdom of Men is replaced by the Kingdom of God. All latter day entities participate; it’s how/when the Dan 2 Image comes into existence; it’s how Israel’s enemies are exposed for their hatred of Jews, and then eliminated as God pours out His judgments on those seeking to destroy His people. Joel and Micah use this same imagery of the nations likened to sheaves, gathered by God, to be threshed in a valley of judgment.

Joel 3 – The invading nations are as sheaves being harvested in a valley, incurring God’s judgments

The chapter begins with Israel’s political restoration when Judah (Israel) is restored (1948), then Jerusalem (1967). We are living in the period between v1 and v2.

1. Read and explain v2. What does God do to the nations, where, and why? Be sure to check the Strong’s meaning of “plead” (it does not mean to appeal to or to make a request). Where does it appear in Ezek 38?

2. What crimes does God charge the nations with having committed against His people in v2-8?

3. In v4, what nations comprise “Tyre, Sidon and all the coasts of Palestine” today?

4. In vv2-8, does God have a favourable or unfavourable view of the nations? (explain) What actions does He take?

5. The metaphor of a harvest is used in vv9-16. List the harvest phrases.

6. Why does God judge the nations (v13)?

7. See AV margin in v14 for “decision” – what does the Hebrew word mean? What was a threshing sledge?

8. What is the Hebrew word for “multitudes” in v14 and where does this word appear in Ezek 39?

9. What does the word “prepare” mean in v9 (check Strong’s and Vine’s). What is Rotherham’s translation? How does this reveal the nations will have a religious motivation for the invasion?

10. Where would you place v16 in the events described in Ezek 38? In the events of Dan 11?

Joel 2: the same 2-battle pattern seen in Ezek 38 & Dan 11: battle 1 = Israel overrun; battle 2 = invader defeated

The pattern could also be described as one battle with 2 distinct phases/stages. Battle 1 begins with the first roaring of God in 2:11; battle 2 begins with the second roaring of God in 3:16. Joel 2 tells the same latter day story as the other 2 prophets, but adds an important element – *Israel’s repentance and conversion*.

In vv 1-2 God warns Israel invaders are coming; vv3-11 describe their overwhelming power and destructive nature. In v11 the invaders are called “the LORD’s army” because they do His work and will in invading Israel.

1. What phrases in vv3-11 describe the unstoppable power of the invaders? Which are echoes from Ezek 38?

2. Who are the people of v6 whose face is “much pained”? In what city do the invaders run to and fro in v9?

3. What does God call His people to do in vv12-14 (in light of the invasion) and for what purpose?

4. Describe the people’s response (vv15-17) to God’s counsel in vv12-14. What do the priests pray for in v17?

5. In vv18-21, what is God’s response (to the peoples’ response in vv15-17)?

6. Where does v20 fit into Ezek 38? Into Ezek 39? Into Dan 11?

7. Why does God accept Israel’s repentance? (reread v13)

8. Vv 22-32 are a description of the Kingdom, come to Israel. Identify the Kingdom phrases. Which of the Jews will be saved in that day?

9. In reflecting upon the events identified in Joel 2 and 3, why would it be illogical for Christ and the saints to already be in Israel at the time of Gog’s invasion?

10. Complete this chart which reveals the parallel events described in Joel 2/3 with Ezek 38/39 and Dan 11/12

<u>Event</u>	<u>Joel 2/3</u>	<u>Ezek38/39; Dan 11/12</u>
1) Israel is invaded	_____	38:8,14,16,18; 39:2,4; 11:41
2) God brings the invader into Israel	_____	38:4
3) A time of trouble for Israel	_____	12:2
4) The invader comes from the north	_____	38:5,15; 39:2; 11:40
5) Invasion likened to darkness and storm	_____	38:9,16
6) Invader has crushing strength, unstoppable	_____	38:9,15,16,22; 39:4; 11:40
7) Invader has horses and war horses	_____	38:4,15
8) Invader moves with great speed	_____	38:9; 11:40
9) 2 battles: Israel defeated, then victorious	① _____ ② _____	①38:8-12, 14-16; ②38:18-23; 39:10
10) An earthquake at invader’s defeat	_____	38:19-20
11) Invader’s end is between the 2 seas	_____	11:45
12) God destroys the invader	_____	38:21-22; 12:1-2
13) When defeated, invader has a stench	_____	39:11-12
14) When delivered, Israel knows God	_____	39:7,22
15) God jealous for His people	_____	38:19

11. List the new latter day details provided by Joel 2 and 3 not revealed in Ezek 38 or Dan 11

Current events areas to watch for based upon Joel 2 and 3

1) As the invasion will involve a holy war (3:9), Muslim and Catholic solidarity/opposition will arise against Israel.

Micah's prophecy of Armageddon (4:11-13) also uses the imagery of God threshing the nations as sheaves

1. Micah 4 opens (vv1-8) with a picture of the Kingdom; list the phrases describing the Kingdom setting

Vv9-10 describe the distress of Micah's day; vv11-13 jump to the future time of the latter day invasion. Read the verses and note: ① the nations being gathered to Israel; ② it is God who does the gathering; and ③ the nations are "harvested". Note these 3 similarities with the description of Armageddon in Rev 16:16.

2. What is the threshing language in these verses?

3. What is the meaning of the word "defile" in v11? How will the invaders look upon Israel in that day?

4. Recall in Joel 3, God brought judgment upon the invaders for their mistreatment of Israel. How does Micah reflect this same situation?

5. What phrase indicates the nations are unaware they are being gathered for judgment by God?

6. What phrase indicates God will use natural Israel (Jews to be converted) to help defeat the invaders?

7. Micah 5:4-8 add further details. Vv1-2 describe the Messiah's birthplace; v3 the long interval of his absence when God "will give them up" for a time. Read through vv4-8 and mentally replace every pronoun (he/his/they etc.) with the identity of the pronoun (eg. v4: "and he (Christ) shall stand and feed..." In vv4-8 how is Christ referred to and what title is given to the invader? What verse describes Israel's involvement in the eventual destruction of the invader?

8. Ezek 38 spoke of a pseudo peace. When does real/genuine peace come to Israel according to Micah?

9. Micah 5:6-9 refers to the time after Armageddon, when the battle is taken to the land of the invaders. What phrases show the location of the battle is outside Israel?

10. What details did Micah add to the latter day invasion not found previously in Ezek 38/39; Dan 11 or Joel 2/3?

Habakkuk's Armageddon vision (ch3) also describes God threshing the nations for mistreating His people

Chapter 3 is a prayer and prophecy primarily describing Christ and the saints (following the Marriage of the Lamb in Rev 19:7-9) going forth from Mt. Sinai, to Teman, Paran, Cushan and Midian, on their way to Zion; conquering as they go and establishing the Kingdom. God places Habakkuk in the midst of the March of the Rainbow Angel (Rev 10). While the entire chapter is worth studying, our focus is on vv12-14.

1. What phrase in v12 ties these verses to Armageddon?
2. Look up the Hebrew words for "wound" and "head" in v13/14 and provide their meaning. How do they tie back to Ezek 38? How do they tie back to Gen 3:15?
3. For what 3 reasons does God go forth to act in v13?
4. The word for "villages" in v14 is better rendered chief or warriors. How would these warriors die? How does this tie back to Ezek 38?
5. How had the invaders come in v14? How does this tie back to Ezek 38 and Dan 11? What was their intent? In what did they rejoice?

Class 3 – Armageddon needed to bring about Israel's conversion – Zechariah 12-14

Zechariah's prophecy of Armageddon (ch's 12-14) tells the same story as Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Micah and Habakkuk. The details of these three chapters reveal the recurring themes, common characteristics and identical details found in the other prophets. Though "*the last/latter days*" is not used, "*in/at that day*" is found 18 times; this must be latter day as God destroys the nations who come against Jerusalem, Christ stands on the Mt of Olives, and the LORD is king over the earth. The prophecy opens with Jerusalem under siege, suffering a devastating defeat, and concludes with Zion at the centre of worship. It is clearly Israel who is invaded; the focus of the invasion is Jerusalem (12:3,9); God saves Judah 1st (v7) & defends Jerusalem (v8). Once again, we see 2 battles depicted – 1st: invaders temporarily succeed in conquering Israel (14:1-2); 2nd: invaders ultimately destroyed (14:3). It's helpful to recognize up front that the 3 chapters are not in chronological order.

Our study will follow the chronological events: 1) Israel invaded and suffers heavy defeat; 2) Israel saved by Christ and the saint's intervention; 3) Israel converted; 4) Kingdom established. Refer to Attachment 3: Zech 12-14 arranged by key events.

Israel invaded and suffers heavy defeat

1. What 2 verses show the invaders seek to conquer Jerusalem?
2. How many Jews will be killed by the invaders (there are roughly 7 million Jews living in Israel today)?
3. Where does Zechariah say (as did Joel/Habakkuk) the Jews will be severely mistreated by the invaders?

Israel saved by Christ and the saint's intervention

4. Paraphrase 12:3-4.

5. Paraphrase 14:3-5.

6. Paraphrase 14:12-15.

Israel converted

Israel's conversion was first noted in Joel 2. Zechariah gives additional details. A key to understanding Zechariah's insights is to recognize 13:6 occurs as the first event in the conversion process, prior to 12:10-14. Ch 13 reveals: a) Israel will be genuine in their conversion and devotion to the Truth; b) they reject idolatry; c) how they will be reconciled to their Messiah; and d) how the latter day events, as painful as they will be for Israel, are all necessary to bring about their conversion.

7. Who are the 2 parties of the conversation that takes place in 13:6? Who comprise "the house of my friends"? Do the Jews know the identity of he who saved them from the invader at this point?
8. 13:7 is a parenthetical explanation, providing the historical credentials from whence the wounds in v6 were received. When was this? When and where does Jesus quote v7 in the gospels? Note how the Jews become fully aware of the events referred to in 13:7 and their significance.
9. Next, turn to ch12:10-14, where the story of Israel's conversion is also described. We know v10 must occur after 13:6, because in v10 the Jews break out in mourning over their recognition of the Messiah's past crucifixion. (Jn 19:37 provides the divine exposition that "they shall look upon *me*" should be read "they shall look upon *him*".) Describe Israel's spiritual state of mind in v10.
10. Describe the mourning that will occur throughout Israel in the day of their conversion (vv11-14). What are the Jews mourning over? Is it the recent holocaust that claimed the lives of 2/3's of their countrymen?
11. Ch 13:1-5 continues to a description of Israel's conversion. What added details are provided?
12. If there is joy in heaven over a single sinner who repents (Lk 15:7), describe the joy that will exist in heaven that day when the entire nation repents.

Current events areas to watch for based upon Zechariah 12-14

- 1) A rise in anti-Semitism among the invading nations – only great hatred could generate so many Jewish deaths.
- 2) Jerusalem to be at the centre of world attention

Class 4 – The Dragon, Beast and False Prophet (Daniel 2, 7, 8 and 11:36-39)

Daniel 2

1. Read through the chapter and list the verses that pertain to the latter days
2. Describe the 2 stage destruction of the Image when the Kingdom is established

Daniel 7

3. Read through the chapter and list the verses that pertain to the latter days
4. What happens to the 3 beasts at the time when Christ (Ancient of Days) comes and establishes the Kingdom?
5. What happens to the 4th beast and little horn when Christ establishes the Kingdom?

Daniel 8

6. Read through the chapter and list the verses that pertain to the latter days
7. Given what we have learned in Ezek 38 about the pseudo peace that exists in Israel at the time of the invasion, what do you think the phrase “by peace shall destroy many” means?

Daniel 11

In Dan 11:36-39, the rise of the Roman Empire (the legs of iron (ch2), the 4th beast (ch7) and the little horn of the goat, aka: the king of fierce countenance (ch8) is depicted as a willful king (who does according to his will).

8. Who is the second power alongside the willful king, what are its strange attributes, and what power does it represent?

Rev 16-19

We will not have opportunity to study these 4 chapters in detail, only to see how the latter day symbols and events portrayed complement and further elaborate upon the events revealed in the Old Testament prophets. If you have never studied this section of Revelation, you may find these questions a bit challenging. All are encouraged to use a sound Christadelphian reference book (eg: Apocalypse Epitomized, 13 Lectures on the Apocalypse, etc) to help in the development of your answers

1. In Rev 16:13-16, who are the key (anti-God) powers noted and who/what does each symbolize? By way of help, the 3 frog-like spirits, likened to devils (grk: demonic) cause lunacy among those influenced by them because they incite the latter day powers to rise up against God and His people, culminating in Armageddon. Being frog-like, they are linked to France (frogs have been a national symbol) and the French Revolution, out of which the humanistic philosophy of liberty, equality and fraternity arose to permeate the world today.
2. Explain the principle warning to believers living in the latter days and watching these events unfold in 16:13-16?
3. Ch17:1-14 occur during the 7th vial, likely some 40 years after the events of Armageddon. What nations are represented by the Beast, and who is the Great Whore? Who has the dominant position of influence in their relationship, and what do they decide to do?
4. Who/what is Babylon that falls in ch18 and who/what are the powers that mourn her falling?
5. The Marriage of the Lamb is described in 19:1-10 when Christ and the saints unite for the first time. Vv11-21 jump many years to the same time period as 17:14. Who are the key players/symbols noted in these verses and who/what do they represent? Note the end of the beast and false prophet and how this ties to Dan 7:11.

Class 5 – Why Brexit is a significant latter day prophetic fulfillment

Summarize what the Tarshish power is noted for in each of the following latter day references:

1. Isaiah 2:12, 16
2. Psalm 48:7
3. Isaiah 60:9
4. Ps 72:10