

Verses	Status of the bones
1-3	Very dry
4-6	No tendons, no flesh, no skin, no life
7-8	Came together, tendons and flesh and skin, but still no life
9-10	Breath entered them, they stood up, a vast army

○ How might God use a threatening situation in our lives to display His power and bring glory to His name?

○ What should we do when we are faced with a threat?

Wrapping It Up

● **There will always be those who threaten us, who storm in upon us, who capitalize on our weaknesses. We cannot possibly defend ourselves against every eventuality. But we can depend upon God to protect us and make us secure, even in a very frightening world. When we place our faith in Him and commit to serve Him and honor Him with our lives, we can be sure that He will watch over us when threats come our way. Crises and even tragedies may come in our lives, but we know that God will have the final and eternal word.**

- Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.



Faith at Home

Ask your family to tell about some figurative "Gogs" they are facing right now and how their trust in God can enable them to deal with the threat.

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Ezekiel 36-39

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Catchy sign

- Display Item 3, which says, "Gog vs. God."
- Ask for volunteers to tell what the sign is about. After several have shared their ideas, give the following information.
- **Today we are going to study the story of a dramatic battle: Gog vs. God. We will find out who Gog was, what he was like, and how he ended up in a battle against the Sovereign of the Universe.**
- **But first we will study a famous passage in Ezekiel about a valley full of dry bones.**



Exploring God's Word

Following a progression

- Have learners turn to Ezekiel 37.

- **One of the best-known and most significant visions given to Ezekiel was the vision of the val-**

ley of dry bones, found in Ezekiel 37.

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the chart on page 4, but without the information filled in (duplicate Item 1).
- As someone reads aloud Ezekiel 37:1-10, have learners follow along and jot down on their charts the status of the bones in each group of verses.
- Then review the information, asking volunteers to tell how they filled in their charts.

Summarizing

- **In Ezekiel 37:11-14, God explained the vision to the prophet.**
- Have someone read the passage aloud.
- Then ask for volunteers to summarize the point of the vision.
- **Because of the poor shepherding done by the leaders of the people, they had become like dry bones, needing a new breath of life from God.**

Listening sheets

- Have someone read aloud Ezekiel 38:1-2.
- Distribute pencils and the following listening sheets, without the blanks filled (duplicate Item 2).

Listening Sheets

1. Ezekiel 38-39 contains a prophecy about a man named (Gog) who was

from Magog, which means (place) of Gog.

2. A person by the same name is also mentioned in the Book of (Revelation).
3. Some think Gog was another name for Gyges, a powerful (king) of Lydia, or that the name was used to refer to any powerful ruler who (threatened) Israel.
4. Perhaps the prophecy refers to a king who will oppose God in the (end-times).
5. Or Gog may be symbolic of all nations (opposed) to God.
6. Some believe Magog refers to the geographical area known today as (Russia).

- Share the following background information, asking learners to complete their listening sheets as you talk.

Our study today centers around a prophecy against a person named Gog, of the land of Magog (which means, simply, "place of Gog"). This person is mentioned only here in Ezekiel 38 and 39, and in Revelation 20:8. (1 Chronicles 5:6 mentions a Gog who was a descendant of Reuben, but that individual lived and died long before Ezekiel prophesied.)

Some have identified Gog as Gyges, king of Lydia, a powerful king who about a century earlier had first formed an alliance with Assyria and then joined Egypt in

attacking Assyria. Why did Ezekiel speak of a past king in present tense? Perhaps he was using that Gog as a symbol of another, unnamed northern king who was about to threaten Israel, as we might use the term "Hitler" to describe a rising ruler who threatened our freedom.

Others consider this passage to be apocalyptic and see Gog as a future enemy of Israel. In this view, Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 20:8 refer to the same end-times battle launched by Satan against God. (Jewish rabbinic writers have identified Gog and Magog as the final enemy who would attack Israel in the messianic age.)

Some believe Magog is symbolic of nations opposed to God, used in much the same way as Babylon is used sometimes as a symbol of human decadence and ungodliness.

If Magog refers to a specific political entity that exists today, what would it be? Any Western or Eastern European nation or coalition could fit the description. Some have suggested Russia as a possibility.

Regardless of the exact designation of Gog and Magog, Ezekiel 38 and 39 tell the story of a dramatic battle: "Gog vs. God." Read Ezekiel 38:1-9. Notice that Gog, from the north,

will gather allies from the south (Cush and Put would correspond to Egypt and Libya in Africa) and east (Persia, which would be Iran today).

Multiple choice

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the multiple choice activity (duplicate Item 3). Have them work with one or two other persons to complete the sheet.
- Allow ten minutes. Then go over the activity with the whole class. Correct answers are:

- 1: C
- 2: D
- 3: A
- 4: C
- 5: B
- 6: D
- 7: C
- 8: A

Making It Personal

Group discussion

- Lead the class in a group discussion, using the following questions to guide their thoughts.
 - What are the "Gogs and Magogs" we face in our personal lives? What are the things that threaten us, that scare us?
 - Although Gog thought he was in control, he was really under the control of God, even when he attacked Israel. What does that say to us about the threats we face?

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Listening Sheets

1. Ezekiel 38-39 contains a prophecy about a man named _____ who was from Magog, which means _____ of Gog.
2. A person by the same name is also mentioned in the Book of _____.
3. Some think Gog was another name for Gyges, a powerful _____ of Lydia, or that the name was used to refer to any powerful ruler who _____ Israel.
4. Perhaps the prophecy refers to a king who will oppose God in the _____.
5. Or Gog may be symbolic of all nations _____ to God.
6. Some believe Magog refers to the geographical area known today as _____.

Multiple Choice

Read each section of Scripture and mark the correct answer.

Ezekiel 38:1-6

- ___ 1. According to the prophecy, the one in control of Gog's military maneuver was:
- A. Gog
 - B. Ezekiel
 - C. Gog
 - D. Gomer

Ezekiel 38:7-9

- ___ 2. Gog's attack would be against:
- A. a land recovered from war
 - B. a land that had long been desolate
 - C. a people brought out from many nations
 - D. all of the above

Ezekiel 38:10-13

- ___ 3. Gog would attack that city because it was:
- A. unwalled, unsuspecting and rich
 - B. small, defenseless and unarmed
 - C. large, powerful and important
 - D. nearby, easy to reach and great climate

Ezekiel 38:14-16

- ___ 4. God's purpose in bringing Gog's troops against Israel was to:
- A. punish Israel once and for all
 - B. reward Gog for his faithfulness
 - C. show Himself holy to all nations
 - D. give Israel practice in battle

Ezekiel 38:17-23

- ___ 5. God promised an earthquake, plague and bloodshed in judgment upon
- A. the fish, birds and beasts
 - B. Gog and his troops
 - C. the mountains and cliffs
 - D. the people of Israel

Ezekiel 39:1-8

- ___ 6. Gog's attack of Israel will result in
- A. the defeat of Gog
 - B. the burning of Magog
 - C. the nations honoring God's name
 - D. all of the above

Ezekiel 39:9-16

- ___ 7. One of the following will not be a byproduct of the defeat of Gog. Which one?
- A. abundance of fuel
 - B. through traffic blocked
 - C. amusement parks built
 - D. new jobs created

Ezekiel 39:17-29

- ___ 8. God promised Israel:
- A. He would bring them back to their homeland
 - B. they would never be attacked again
 - C. all their problems were over
 - D. milk and honey would flow in their rivers