**Signs of the Times – Part Five – Ezekiel 36-39**

**Review**

* Days of Noah
* 10 Trends to Watch for Regarding the End of Days
* The Rapture and the 70th Week of Daniel
* The Antichrist

E**zekiel 36 – Israel’s Return to the Land as a Nation**

* In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar – King of Babylon destroyed the city and temple of Jerusalem.
* The Jews were in captivity for 70 years.
* Cyrus, King of Persia, allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, only about 50,000 returned.
* For 2600 years the Jewish people were not a sovereign nation.
* The were dominated by the:
	+ Babylonians
	+ Persians
	+ Greeks
	+ Romans
	+ Ottomans
	+ British
* Their land was desolate, barren, forsaken and infertile.
* In 1917 the Balfour Declaration placed Palestine (middle east) under the control of the British Empire.
* That Declaration was ending in 1948.
* On May 14, 1948, Harry Truman, the US President recognized the Nation of Israel as a sovereign state.

**Ezekiel 36: 1-15 - The restoration of the land**

* VS 8 – 12
	+ Land will yield fruit.
	+ Cities that were in ruins will be rebuilt and inhabited.
	+ The waste lands will be restored.
	+ Population will increase.
	+ Flocks and herds will increase.
	+ You will possess the land as an inheritance.

**Ezekiel 36: 22-32 – The Restoration of Israel.**

* I will take you from the heathens and gather you out of all the countries back to your own land.
* I will sprinkle you with clean water to be cleansed from your filthiness and idolatry.
* I will give you a new heart and a new spirit within.
* I will take away the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
* I will cause you to walk in my statutes and keep my judgments.

**Ezekiel 36: 28 – 32**

* Permanent occupation of the land.
* Covenant relationship with God.
* Protection from relapse into idolatry.
* Abundant provision for all needs.
* Self-examination with repentance for past sins and dissilience.

This restoration of the land and the Nation is “for my sake” and so that, “you may know I am the Lord.

**Ezekiel 36:33-36 – The Prosperity of Israel.**

* Cities and waste places restored.
* The land will become abundantly fruitful.
* What was desolate will become as the Garden of Eden.
* Cities will be filled with people and flocks.

**Ezekiel 37 – The Valley of Dry Bones**

* Can these bones live?
* Breathe of God is the ***ruah*** – the Spirit of God. That which gives life – born anew.
* Ezekiel prophecies as the Lord commands and the bones come to life with flesh on them.
* God will bring them forth out of their graves – Ephesians 2:1-8 – dead in trespasses and sin.
* The Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdoms are reunited (VS 15-28)
* A reunited nation results in:
	+ People brought back home.
	+ Purified from idolatry.
	+ David, my servant, will be installed as King over them.
	+ A Covenant of peace will be established.
	+ God will dwell in their midst.

**Ezekiel 38 and 39 – the Gog and Magog Invasion.**

These two chapters detail how God, through divine intervention, defeats a coalition of allies wanting to destroy the Nation of Israel.

**Gog and Magog Coalition of Nations**

* Gog – Russia – the far north.
* Magog – Persia/Iran – the north.
* Persia - Iran
* Cush - Ethiopia
* Phut – North Africa
* Libya
* Gomer – Danube and Rhine River area. (Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia)
* Togarmah – Armenians, Turkey, Turkestan
* Meshech – Eastern Turkey
* Tubal – Eastern Turkey

**This invasion is in the “latter days” – but not the final Battle of Armageddon.**

* To plunder and take spoil from Israel.
* To make Israel desolate again.
* To carry away silver, gold, cattle, and goods.
* God’s wrath will be severe – everything is affected – animals, birds, fish, mountains, etc.
* God rains upon this coalition, hailstones, fire, brimstone.
* The God of Israel will be magnified and sanctified.
* And “they” will know that I am the LORD. (Both Israel and Gog/Magog.)

**Ezekiel Chapter 39**

* God will decimate the invaders.
* The birds and the beasts will feed on the dead.
* Fire will fall on them (nuclear weapons?).
* Israel will have a seven year clean up after their victory.
* The dead are identified and buried by professional (hazmat suits?).
* The dead are buried east of the Dead Sea (downwind).
* Israel will have a seven-year source of energy.
* Both the heathen and Israel will know the “I am the LORD.”

**Armageddon**

* Worldwide/global effort to irradicate Israel from the Earth.
* Ushers in the Return of Christ and Millenium Kingdom with His angels and saints.
* There is no seven-year recovery.
* It involves the antichrist, the binding of Satan in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.
* The Beast and the False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire.