

Ezekiel 38-39

Israel is the epicenter for all end times Bible prophecy. The reason we must pay close attention to Israel and Bible prophecy is that is what the Bible tells us to do, and we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. There are 3 prerequisites for the Bible prophecy of Ezekiel chapter 38 to occur. (1) Israel must be a sovereign nation in their own territory. In Ezekiel chapter 37 God reveals through Ezekiel how Israel will be restored to their land from many parts of the world...this became true May 14, 1948 as Israel with a stroke of a pen became a nation state...and then in a miraculous way Israel in the 1967 6-day War regained Jerusalem. (2) Israel must be a prospering nation with riches and resources that this coalition would want to take from them. Israel has the largest natural gas resource in the world, they could supply all of Europe with natural gas, they have discovered oil, they have weapons of mass destruction, they have some of the most fertile farmland, they have technological prowess coveted, the list goes on and on. (3) Israel must dwell in safety in the land. Most people would say Israel is not living in safety and security right now, but I will talk about more specifics about this when I get to **vs. 8**.

Israel was attacked by Iran from Iranian soil, one of the nations mentioned in this future End Times War. Israel's war cabinet has already announced it will militarily respond to Iran's unprecedented strike from Iran against Israel. It is unknown whether they will be striking Iran's nuclear facilities or military bases. Russia the major player of the Ezekiel 38-39 end times war has joined Iran's side and has threatened that if Israel strikes back at Iran, then Russian forces will come to Iran's aid. The United States has said it will not help Israel with any retaliation with Iran. So, the birth pangs of this prophetic prophecy is coming into vision for the first time ever. The Bible is about one-third prophecy, so studying prophecy is essential. And studying Bible prophecy should not make you afraid, but rather, prepared and focused on doing God's will. Benefits of studying Bible prophecy are:

1. Cleanness of lifestyle – nothing purifies you like living with the awareness that the Lord could come back at any moment. Read **1 John 3:3** regarding what the Apostle John said about the coming of the Lord.

Think about growing up when you were a youth and were acting up and you heard your mother say, you wait until your dad comes home, I will tell him what you did. That statement had great impact on how you acted the rest of that day as you awaited your dad coming home.

2. Comfort in Times of sorrow (Read **John 14:1-3** and **Luke 21:28**). God want us to prepared not scared.
3. Conviction for service – when we study and receive what the Word says about Bible prophecy it should motivate us to serve the Lord passionately and earnestly. We should all desire to hear Jesus say, “Well done my good and faithful servant.” We should not be afraid to truth an unknown future into the hands of a known God. And that which we know about the future are those things Bible prophecy foretell in the Bible. We know in the end of times the love of many will grow cold, many will depart the faith (apostacy) and we know what is written in **Luke chapter 21** and **Matthew chapter 24-25** will occur because God said it. And we know a coalition or alliance of nations will come up against Israel and we know God will supernaturally defeat them...it’s **Ezekiel chapter 38-39**.

EZEKIEL 38 – THE DEFEAT OF GOG AND DEFENSE OF ISRAEL

Vs. 1-6 – in these verses God draws Gog to attack Israel. The phrase “*Set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog*” - In this general context of God’s restoration of Israel, Ezekiel prophesied against Gog (a ruler) and Magog (the place of Gog). All of the names we just read are proper nouns and they speak of places where the people who originally had these names settled...so they are places, well, all of them except the word Gog...this is a title of a ruler like Caesar of Pharaoh. And most Bible scholars believe Gog is some kind of

military leader...In **vs. 2** Gog is called the prince of Magog or the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal and he builds a coalition or an alliance of nations listed in these verses. The word Rosh is a linguistic root whereby we get the term “Russia” from Meshech is a linguistic root whereby we get the term “Moscow, and Tubal is a river in Russian and there is city by the Tubal River called Tobolsk...both Moscow and Tobolsk are present day Russian cities. And for the rest of these nations, they are lifted out of what is called the table of Nations found in **Genesis chapter 10** that records the genealogical record of Noah and his sons: Shem Ham, Japheth, and their offspring who settled in different geographical regions. Magog is mentioned as a descendant of Japheth, his second son in **Genesis 10:2**. Matter of fact let me read **Genesis 10:1-2**. Now Magog Jewish Historian Josephus tells us he settled in the land of the Scythians, a mountainous region around the Black and Caspian seas. **Vs. 3** tells us that Gog is not in *God’s* favor, the *Lord God* says, “*Behold, I am against you, O Gog the prince of Rosh.*” So in **vs. 1-3** we know this ruler Gog rules over more than one people (including Meshech and Tubal), and that Gog’s territory is found in the far north in respect to Jerusalem, Israel (Russia) and God is not please with him. There are many people who think the current the Russian President Vladimir Putin is the “Gog” of this chapter based on present day events that are lining up with this prophecy...time will

tell if that is the case but we do know Putin is “Gogesque”...he certainly fits the bill and he is leaning in that direction to be this type of leader if things don’t quickly simmer down in the Middle East. If Putin wins the present-day war with Ukraine then who will his next target next...could it be Israel?

Without American aide to Ukraine, they have virtually no chance to win that war, and Ukraine is not a country that God has said in the Bible He would

defend like Israel. Now look closely at [vs. 4-6](#) – in these verses God promises to turn and pull Gog to attack Israel. Notice the phrase *“I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out”* - God promised to bring

Gog with all his army against Israel. Whatever Gog’s own motivations for attack and invasion might be, there would be an overriding Divine purpose in

this. Those who see Gog as a leader of Russia have offered many ideas as to

why Russia would lead this coalition to invade Israel (a desire for a warm water port, a desire to intervene in the Middle East for the sake of oil and

natural gas, a desire for the Dead Sea minerals; and since Israel has

discovered the largest natural gas field in the world, what if they try to sell to

natural gas to Europe and creating even greater financial problems for

Russia. There is an active & current Russian military involvement in Syria, in

support of a Syrian government that is hostile towards Israel and Russia may

be called upon to help Syria who is already dealing with Israel’s retaliatory

attacks there. Russian has just deployed over 2,000 troops near the Golan Heights (the mountainous region from where this chapter says will be the invading area of this coalition army and Russia has moved a supersonic missile warship to the Middle East in the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal after the Iranian attack on Israel – Russia and Iran are close allies). The phrase “*with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed*” you must know Ezekiel described the army with the terms that made sense to him in his era...the real essence is that the collaborating army will be a large, fast, well-equipped army, ready for conquest. In [vs. 5](#) - “*Persia (present day Iran), Ethiopia (many believe they are referring to North Sudan), and Libya are with them*”- coming from the far north, Gog also had allies to the west (Persia (present day Iran) to the south (Ethiopia – North Sudan) – and to the east (Libya) all joining this coalition against Israel. Russia has helped Iran build their nuclear site, a great alliance has just been formed with Iran and Russia. Iran is the worst state sponsored terrorist nation in the world...the Yemen (Who Twos in Yemen), Hezbollah (Lebanon) and Hamas (Gaza) are all backed and supported by Iran – they are Iran’s proxies. How do you think the Russians will feel if Israel attacked the nuclear sites in Iran...Russia has thousands of its citizens living in Iran as they continue to learn how to develop a nuclear bomb (all potential hooks in the jaw of Gog and Magog). In [vs. 6](#)

when it says, “*Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north*”- Most regard Gomer as a people from Cappadocia, in modern Turkey. The house of Togarmah is often regarded as the Armenian people to the north of Israel.

Key facts Israel will be invaded by a coalition of 5 countries led by a military leader called Gog – who is from Russia and based on Genesis 10 the Table of Nations we can identify the other countries based on where these sons of Noah settled...Gog’s primary country of alliance is Persia (present day Iran) along with other countries Turkey, Libya, the Sudan (although the text says Ethiopia...Ethiopia was formerly Cush and it’s land mass area was far greater than present day Ethiopia, it included present day Sudan. This would be similar to the state of Louisiana is a small portion of what was known at the Louisiana Purchase). The global stage is being set up for the fulfilment of end times Bible prophecy. And I stress Bible prophecy is not intended to scare us but to prepare us to live more faithfully, boldly, and knowledgeably for Jesus Christ in these last days...they are intended to help stir up the gifts inside us to go share the Gospel.

Read Isaiah 60:13-14

Vs. 7-9 – in these verses Ezekiel tells us Magog’s armies come into the land of Israel. And you must know there was no military connection 2600 years ago when this inspired text was written with these nations, but, there is now, for the first time in history – all of the nations mentioned in this prophetic text are now a part of a coalition for the first time in history. Regarding the phrase in **vs. 7** - “*prepare yourself and be ready*” – God appears to be charging Gog to assume leadership over the vast forces allied with him by serving as their guardian, in keeping with his role as their leader. Look closely at the word “*guard*” – the Hebrew word for “*guard*” means to bear arms or to supply weapons to...so whomever “*Gog*” is, he will supply weapons to the Muslim nation coalition that comes with him to invade/attack Israel. **Vs. 8** – proves this is an end times prophecy when it says, “*latter years*” – this war event being described and coalition of nations coming up against Israel has never occurred in history until the “end of times.” Regarding the phrase, “*Now all of them dwell safely*” - Gog would come against Israel when they enjoyed security in their land. The Hebrew word for *safely* carries the idea of an “assumed security” Now most people would say Israel does not currently dwell safely in their land. They have a terrorist wall all around them because every Muslim nation surrounding them want to destroy them...and now most countries non-Muslim are not great supporters of Israel anymore with all that has occurred

in the Hamas war. But “*dwell safely*” can be deemed a relative term. Israel has the Iron Dome and in Jerusalem they still have a wall around the city to keep out terrorist; but unlike in the old days where every city in Israel had walls, that is not the case in Israel anymore. It is more dangerous in downtown Dallas, Houston, NYC, LA than it is in Israel even though war goes on. Crime is low, unemployment is low, they have one of, if not, the fastest growing economy in the world. Israel has the most advanced Air Force in the Region – Israel has built bomb shelters in all regions of the nation - Israel has nuclear weapons and nuclear submarines – Israel has new alliances with Egypt and Saudi Arabia former enemy nations – Israel has as a strategic/military alliance (although its wavering a little bit) with the world’s only super-power – USA. And we (USA) are a major reason no one has successfully attacked Israel militarily. So, there are some Bible scholars who would say, Israel is living in safety and security right now. We in the USA feel safe and secure yet, we had 9/11 and many other terrorists attacks external and internal like Oklahoma City Bombing. So, *dwell in security* can be a relative term. And with Israel about to completely eradicate the Hamas factor in Gaza and in Rafa and Hezbollah (North of Israel in Lebanon)...and they are not going to allow Hamas to govern in Gaza, Israel will be much safer. So this war could occur in 2024 – it could occur before the Rapture and without a

doubt, it will occur before the 7 year Tribulation because in chapter 39 after God supernaturally defends Israel and defeats this coalition without any nation coming to Israel's aid...Chapter 39 says it will take Israel 7 months to bury the dead in battle (**Ezekiel 39:12**), and 7 years burning the implements of war (**Ezekiel 39:9**). So, most likely this war cannot occur during the 7-year Tribulation period. It most likely will occur before the 7-year Tribulation, and probably before the Rapture of the church. Because once God supernaturally defends Israel, it will lead to a great revival and Israel is going to begin turning back to God. So again, I say to you, the prophetic chess pieces are on the board. Regarding the phrase, "*You will ascend, coming like a storm*" - The armies of Gog would come against Israel as a great destructive power, something like a plague. Also, note this great coalition will come against Israel coming from the North through a mountainous region. Currently (and this happened just two weeks ago, for the first time ever, Russia has over 2,000 troops stationed in the area called the Golan Heights – the mountainous northern region Israel near the border of Syria. If ever an invasion could succeed because of superior numbers, this will be it. But the entire story has not been told."

Vs. 10-13 in these verses we see the evil plan of Gog. Regarding the phrase "*You will make an evil plan*"- God deliberately pulled Gog and his allies to

come against Israel. But at the same time, Gog was prompted by his own evil plan, by the thoughts in his own mind. God did not drag an unwilling Gog to come against Israel. The phrase “I will go up against a land of unwalled villages” - let this be clearly noted. The invasion of Gog and his allies was an invasion not of a land desolated, but of the land in which the people of God were seen dwelling in peace and prosperity. In vs. 13 – the merchants of “*Sheba and Dedan* are generally believed to be the great trading posts or centers in Arabia (present day Saudi Arabia) and they do not want their trade centers upended so they will join this coalition of nations against Israel. Remember the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon in 1 Kings 10:1-13. Now the *merchants of Tarshish* is greatly debated as to who they represent our day. Some scholars say the reference is Spain, some say Germany, some say England. It really does not matter, you could say Europe and you’d be 100% correct. You do remember Tarshish was the place Jonah tried to run from the Lord’s calling on him to go to Nineveh...it was the leading trade center, and many believe it was in Spain –and/or Great Britian (the national symbol of Great Britian are lions and the *young lions scholars believe this represents English colonies which could be a veiled reference to the USA*). But again they only object to this coalition invading but do not come to Israel’s aid. They could also perhaps benefit from Gog’s conquest and plunder of Israel. So,

there will be some countries who object to this invasion, maybe going to the UN Security Council to condemn the invasion, but that is all they will do.

Vs. 14-17 - in these verses Gog will come upon God's people Israel. Again, these verses highlight it will be an end of times event. The allied nations will come from every point on the compass, including Persia (modern Iran), and peoples from the lands of modern Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, and perhaps Armenia and Germany, Russia, and Syria. Exactly when this battle will occur no one knows...we just know it will happen and we know He will be victorious. In **vs. 17** the rhetorical question "*Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets?*" The assumed answer of "yes" means that this attack and God's action in it was prophesied by previous appointed messengers in Israel. The former prophets foretold this invasion ***Joel 2:20; 3:9-21; Zechariah 12:1; 14:2-3***). Why are all these nations coming against little ole Israel – the size of New Jersey? They are Islamic Nations with an Atheist leader (Gog)...they are tired of seeing Israel grow, prosper, (2) Israel has natural resources and wealth to be coveted, there is hatred towards Israel and its alliance with the USA. USA is called the Great Satan and Israel the Little Satan – Death to Israel and to the USA banners flourish in radical Muslim nations. (3) They want to control the Middle East...Israel geographically sits in a perfect position for a leader to control the

flow of goods to Africa, Asia, and Europe. In **vs. 15** because Israel is God's epicenter...direction in the Bible is the direction from Jerusalem, Israel...thus far north cannot be nowhere but Russia. *Now what is missing is just as important as what is said about the coalition of nations coming against Israel.*

There are three nations missing from this coalition that were major enemies of Israel seemingly since Israel became a nation in 1948. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Matter of fact Jordan and Saudi Arabia publicly stated they helped in the defense of Israel with the recent Iranian drone and ballistic missile attack. The State of Israel and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have never had formal diplomatic relations before but a basic framework of normalize relations has been completed with the US the mediator. Prior to this agreement Saudi Arabia had never even recognized Israel as a nation state. Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher al Khasawaneh has said that peace with Israel remained a strategic choice. Syria is not mentioned most likely because something happens in Israel – Isaiah 17:1 (The burden against Damascus. “Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap).” Syria is not mentioned because it no longer exists as a nation state.

Vs. 18-20 - in these verses there is a promise of judgment against Gog; God's fury against Gog was seen in a great earthquake. God vowed that though Gog thought Israel would be an easy conquest, God's fury would rise against Gog

and his allies. God's patience would be exhausted with the repeated attempts of Israel's enemies to annihilate her." (Read **Jeremiah 31:35-36** - it would have been more beneficial for Gog and his alliance to aim their weapons at the sun, moon, and stars and attempt to put them out than think they could annihilate Israel). In **vs. 19** – "*Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel*" - One way that God would defend Israel and come against Gog was to send a great earthquake. Israel sits on active fault line. Israel was formed largely by the movement of tectonic plates and it is called the Syrian African Rift. Israel has an unusual topography on one side of the country there is Mt. Hermon about 10,000 feet tall and just a few miles away you the Dead Sea – the lowest place on the face of the Earth – 1,290 feet below sea level. The whole Jordan Valley is below sea level, you have this unusual geographic formation due to the Syrian African Rift fault line. At some point...in this conflict that fault will become active again and it will result in this prophetic great earthquake. It isn't immediately apparent how this earthquake would harm only the hostile attacking armies, but that is apparently the case. But all we have to do is look at how God did the same thing in Exodus with the plagues (i.e. **Exodus 10:22-23**).

Vs. 20-23 – Regarding the phrase, "*I will call for a sword against Gog*" - because Gog was arrogant enough to invade God's own land (My mountains)

God would come against Gog and his allies. In all the confusion and the chaos of this great earthquake the allied nations will begin to attack one another (every man's sword will be against his brother). In **vs. 22** - *"I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed"* - God would also send disease and death against attacking armies. Pestilence could come as a result of biological the alliance may come to battle carrying. Other means of God's righteous judgments to defeat God and his alliance will be *"flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone"*- The instruments of previous judgment would all be sent against Gog and his allies. In **Revelation 16:21** talks about hailstones weighing a talent (75 – 100 pounds) will kill people in the end times. So, the invaders are destroyed by earthquake (**Zechariah 14:4-5**), by violent distrust of one another (**Zechariah 14:13**), by pestilence (**Zechariah 14:12**), and by torrential rain and fire from heaven (**Revelation 20:9**). Finally, **vs. 23** says, *"I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself"* - this overwhelming and obviously divine defeat of Gog and his allies would testify to the whole world of God's character and power. This will bring many Jewish people to saving faith as they see how God supernatural defended Israel. Based on how world events are shaping up regarding Bible prophecy, I believe we are in the early stages of the Ezekiel 38-39 War occurring either in our lifetime or right before the Rapture.

Supplemental info:

Read Ezekiel chapter 39 to read the specific details of what happens once this multi-nation coalition comes against Israel.

In Matthew 24:14, Jesus says, “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come”

***(NASB).* We also know from Ezekiel that God will use the War of Gog and Magog to display his glory to all nations and to pour out his Holy Spirit, particularly on the nation of Israel. As a result of the entire world seeing God defend Israel from the onslaught of the Russian-Iranian coalition, a dramatic spiritual awakening will occur around the globe. It would certainly be consistent with God’s heart for humanity that he would cause this cataclysmic moment to occur before the Rapture in order to shake people out of their spiritual apathy and/or rebellion and give them at least one more chance to receive Christ as their Savior before the terrible events of the Tribulation occur.**