

# Ezekiel 38 - Gog & Magog; Confederacy of Invading Nations; Purpose of the Invasion; Destruction of the Invaders

## III. Restoration of Israel (Ezek 33:1—48:45)

### (6) Protection from Gog and Magog (Ezek 38:1—39:29)

#### (A) The invasion planned (38:1-13)

##### (a) Intent of God (38:1-9)

##### (b) Intent of Gog (38:10-13)

#### (B) The invasion executed (38:14-16)

#### (C) Gog defeated (38:17—39:20)

##### (a) Armies destroyed (38:17—39:8)

## Ezekiel 38

### (6) Protection from Gog and Magog (Ezek 38:1—39:29)

One of the most fascinating two chapters in Scripture, scholars have debated the timing of these prophecies for centuries. The prophecy concerning Gog is between chapters that describe Israel's restoration (Ezek 35-37) and those that reveal God's vision for a restored Jewish community (Ezek 40-48), including God's plans for the millennial Temple and the city of Jerusalem.

#### (A) The invasion planned (38:1-13)

##### (a) Intent of God (38:1-9)

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

1 This message from the LORD came to me:

1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

- A structural marker that Ezekiel uses to denote a new vision. What will be described in this vision is the tool that God will use to bring an unbelieving Israel to faith.

— God is going to put Israel into a situation where they have no one to help them. Their back will be completely against the wall, and the only one who can help them is God.

2 "Son of man, **set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,**

2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of **Rosh**, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him

2 "Son of Man, turn your attention toward Gog, from the land of Magog, leader of the head of Meshech, and of Tubal. Prophesy this against him:

2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

- "...set your face toward" - more directly translated as "prophesy in opposition to"; this indicates that Ezekiel was to address his prophecy toward a specific individual: Gog.

- "...Gog" - the leader of this 14-nation coalition and planner of the invasion. Gog is not a personal name, but rather a title such as "Pharaoh" (Cf. Num 24:7; Amos 7:1).

- "...of" - indicates origin; this leader, Gog, came from the land of Magog. He is a "Magogite."

- "...the land of Magog" - central Asian countries (the "stans"): Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan

- Josephus tells us that Magog originated from those who were called the Magogites, who are by the Greeks called Scythians

- According to Gen 10:2, Magog was a son of Japheth, whose descendants are believed to have settled in the region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, an area now part of modern-day Russia.

- "...chief prince" - *nasiy'*, also means "leader" or "captain". While Gog is not necessarily the king of these regions—his primary rulership is over Magog—he may be regarded as their military leader.

- "...Rosh" [NASB95] - Russia

- The reason why the NASB20 & KJV translations (and others: ESV, RSB, NAB, NLT, NIV) do not translate "Rosh" in this verse is because they've decided to treat "Rosh" as a common noun and not a proper noun designating a specific person or place.

- However, "Rosh" is not just a common noun that means "head," "top," "chief," "summit"; it refers to a specific location and specific group of people (see reasons below).

- The Hebrew grammar clearly supports the interpretation of Rosh as a proper noun [Cf. Fruchtenbaum, Randall Price], which means that the term is the first in a series of place names (the NASB95 gets this correct).

- Randall Price, a biblical archaeologist and former Distinguished Research Professor of Biblical and Judaic Studies at Liberty University, argues that Rosh appears as the geographical name *Rash* in ancient Egyptian records as early as 2600 BC, with another reference from 1500 BC mentioning *Reshu*, a land located north of Egypt. Furthermore, Rosh, or a similar form, appears more than 20x across various ancient texts, including 10x in the inscriptions of Sargon, once in the record of Ashurbanipal, once in the annals of Sennacherib, and 5x in the Ugaritic tables of ancient Syria.

— Clyde Billington, president of the Near East Archaeological Society, conducted extensive research on the origin and history of the Rosh people. Based on historical, archaeological, and ethnological evidence, he concluded that the Rosh people mentioned in Ezek 38-39 were the ancestors of the modern Russian people.

— So if Rosh is indeed a place name, where was it located? One perspective, drawn from Josephus, asserted that Magog was "the territory from central Asia across the southern steppes of modern Russia" inhabited by the ancient Scythian tribes.

— So Magog corresponds to the southern part of Russia, primarily the area between the Black and Caspian Seas, Rosh refers to northern European Russia.

— Beside the exegetical, lexical, and academic reasons for taking Rosh as a proper noun referring to Russia, there is also a geographical argument: Ezek 38:6,15.

- Ezek 38:6: Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah **from the remote parts of the north** with all its troops—many peoples with you.
- Ezek 38:15: You will come from your place **out of the remote parts of the north**, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding horses, a large assembly and a mighty army;
- Ezek 39:2: and I will turn you around, lead you on a rope, take you up **from the remotest parts of the north**, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

— The starting points to determine the "remote parts of the north" is always Israel in Bible prophecy (Cf. 5:5; 38:12)

- Ezek 5:5: "This is what the Lord GOD says: 'This is Jerusalem; I have placed her at **the center of the nations**, with lands around her.
- Ezek 38:12: to capture spoils and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the ruins that are *now* inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who live at **the center of the world**.'

- "...Meshech" - Turkey; Josephus identifies Meshech (the Mosocheni) with the Cappadocians [Josephus, *Antiquities*, 1.6.1]

— In 1 Peter 1:1, Peter identifies Cappadocia with other areas of Asia Minor (present day Turkey)

— Heroditus, within a century of Ezekiel's prophecies (450 BC), refers to the Euxine Sea (called the Black Sea today), as well as the "Moschi" and "Tibareni" which refer to Meshech and Tubal, and associates them with living southeast of the Black Sea. This area is modern day Turkey.

- "...Tubal" - also modern day Turkey

— Meshech and Tubal are often mentioned together (Cf. 27:13; 32:26), and both are descendants of Japheth (Gen 10:2).

- "...prophecy against him [Gog]" - God wants Ezekiel to prophesy against Gog and this invasion because God is against him and what he will plan to do (further illustrated in v3)

## Ancient Names From Ezekiel 38:1-9

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Magog (Central Asia)</li> <li>2. Rosh (Russia)</li> <li>3. <u>Meshec</u> (Turkey)</li> <li>4. Tubal (Turkey)</li> <li>5. Persia (Iran)</li> <li>6. Put (Libya)</li> <li>7. Cush (Sudan)</li> <li>8. Gomer (Turkey)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. <u>Togarmah</u> (Turkey)</li> <li>10. Sheba (Saudi Arabia)</li> <li>11. <u>Dedan</u> (Saudi Arabia or Yemen)</li> <li>12. Tarshish (Spain)</li> <li>13. Merchants of Tarshish<br/>(Conglomeration of Western powers including Europe)</li> <li>14. Israel</li> </ol> |
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Mark Hitchcock (who did his master's thesis on this subject) gives 5 reasons why would should understand Rosh as a proper name:

1. Eminent Hebrew scholars C.F. Keil and Wilhelm Gesenius (see quote below) both hold that a proper noun is the better translation of Rosh in 38:2-3 and 39:1, referring to a specific geographical location.
2. The Greek translation of the OT (Septuagint or LXX) translates Rosh as the proper name *Ros*. This translation is especially significant since the Septuagint was translated only three centuries after Ezekiel was written—obviously much closer to the original than any modern translation. The modern translations of Rosh as an adjective can be traced to the corrupted Latin Vulgate of Jerome.
3. In their articles on Rosh, many Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias (New Bible Dictionary, Wycliffe Bible Dictionary, and the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia) support taking it as a proper name in Ezek 38.
4. Rosh is mentioned the first time in Ezek 38:2 and then repeated in Ezek 38:3 and 39:1. If Rosh were simply a title (meaning "chief," "head," or "top"), it would be dropped in these latter two places because when titles are repeated in Hebrew, they are generally abbreviated.
5. The most impressive evidence in favor of taking Rosh as a proper name is simply that this translation in this context is the most natural. G.A. Cooke translates Ezek 38:2, "the chief of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal." He calls this "the most natural way of rendering the Hebrew."

The compelling evidence of biblical scholarship indicates that Rosh be understood as a proper name—the name of a specific geographic area.

Gesenius is the father of lexicography, the art and science of compiling dictionaries. He compiled the first Hebrew dictionary. Gesenius made this statement when Russia was a Christian Orthodox country.

Gesenius' dictionary entry for Rosh: **pr. n. (proper noun)** of a norther nation, mentioned with Tubal and Meshech; **undoubtedly the Russians**, who are mentioned by the Byzantine writers of the 10th century, under the name *theRos*, dwelling to the north of Taurus...as dwelling on the river Rha (*Volga*). [Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon (Samuel Bagster and Sons, 1847; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987), 752.]

So if it's established that Rosh is a proper noun referring to a geographic location, how do we know that Rosh refers to Russia?

### Let's Talk Turkey

- Turkey used to be a vacation spot for Israelis
- It joined NATO in 1952, but has since turned hard toward Islamic extremism

- Frank Gaffney, formerly of the Reagan Administration, says that Turkey is transitioning from "a secular democracy with a Muslim society into a state governed by a radical Islamic ideology hostile to Western values and freedoms." [*War Footing* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2006), 164.]

3 and say, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Behold, I **am against you**, Gog, chief prince of [Rosh], Meshech and Tubal.

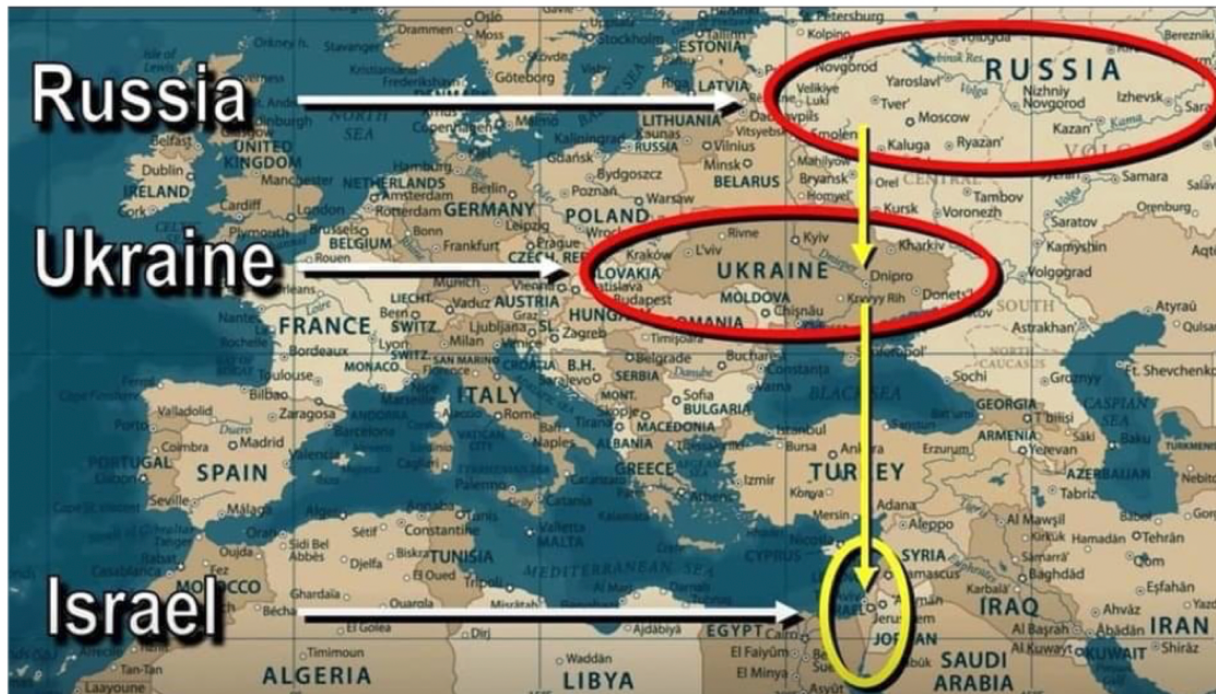
3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

3 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Watch out! I'm coming after you, Gog, leader of the head of Meshech, and of Tubal.

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

- "...I am against you" - God makes it clear in His Word that He is against this attack (Cf. v2)

- A good translation of this verse is: and say, 'This is what the LORD God says: "Behold, I am against you, Gog, prince of Russia and Turkey."



4 So I will turn you around and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them magnificently dressed, a great contingent *with* shield and buckler, all of them wielding swords;

4 I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company *with* buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;

4 I'm going to turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and bring you out—you and your whole army—along with your horses and cavalry riders, all of them richly attired, a magnificent company replete with buckler and shield, and all of them wielding battle swords.

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

- This verse gives the divine perspective of this invasion (v12 gives the human perspective)

- "...I will turn you around" - refers to moving in an opposite direction from that which one previously moved. The imagery suggests that while Gog may plan an attack in one direction, say from the north, he will be abruptly turned around to move in a different direction (perhaps from the south).

- So Gog will prepare to strike in one direction, but God will sovereignly intervene and redirect Gog's attack toward Israel.

- "...put hooks into your jaws" - although the leaders of this invasion are completely unaware of it, God will be directing their timing for this invasion. They are coming against Israel because God is dragging them to do so.

- The reasons for God will orchestrate this invasion are found in 39:1-6.

- The second half of this verse poses a problem for literal interpretation...will Russia and these other nations really invade Israel on horseback, with shields, and all carrying a sword?

- There are two options: Ezekiel's description is accurate and the invasion will take place on horseback, with shields and swords, or Ezekiel is doing his best to describe the methods of modern warfare because he knew nothing of planes or guns.

- "...horses and horseman" - will the invading nations actually ride horses with shields and swords to invade a nuclear powered nation?

- Evidently yes (Cf. v15; 39:20; Zech 12:4). One reason for this could be the nature of the mountainous regions in which the invaders must enter Israel; another could be Israel's robust air defenses and air superiority, which would preclude enemy nations from wanting to invade with air support.

- "...shield and buckler, all of them wielding swords" - commentator Charles F. Feinberg notes, regarding the difficulty of believability of this passage, that even in today's age of advanced weapons, it is interesting that in some parts of the world, conflict is going on with primitive weapons.

## The Mountains of Israel

One possibility to the interpretive challenges of 38:4-5 are the numerous references to the "mountains of Israel" in Ezekiel (Ezek 36:8,21; 39:2,4,17; see notes on 36:1). These mountainous terrains came into Israel after June 5, 1967 (the Six-Day War). Later, President Trump, in his first term, recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, which is made up of mainly of mountainous terrain.

5 **Persia, Cush, and Put** with them, all of them *with* buckler and helmet;

5 Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet;

5 Persia, Cush, and Libya will be accompanying them, all of them equipped with shields and helmets.

5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

- "Persia" - Iran; this would've been a tough prophecy for Ezekiel to make because at that time, Persia was an ally to the Jews.

— Cyrus, a Persian king, released the Jews from their Babylonian Captivity, even funding some of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple.

— It's also one of the easiest nations to identify out of Ezekiel's list, because it was called Persia until 1935, when it's name was changed to Iran.

— Iran was one of the first nations to recognize Israel in 1948

— It was an ally of Israel and the west until the Islamic Revolution in 1979, which deposed the Shah of Iran and installed an extremist Islamic regime in his place. They've been a problem for the entire world, but primarily Israel, ever since.

- "...Cush" - the Sudan

— Cush is sometimes referred to as Ethiopia, but that designation is misleading as it did not refer to the modern state of Ethiopia. Cush bordered Egypt on the south, which is modern day Sudan.

— Sudan is dominated by a brutal Arab Islamic fundamentalist government that murders, rapes, and enslaves Christians and animists and is slaughtering the black Muslims in Darfur in an attempt to establish a pure Islamic state.

- "...Put" - Libya; Phut, or Put, was the founder of Libya, and called the inhabitants Phutites [Josephus, *Antiquities*, 1.6.2]. Put is also associated in literature with modern-day Somalia.

6 **Gomer** with all its troops; **Beth-togarmah** *from* the remote parts of the north with all its troops—**many peoples with you**.

6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah *from* the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you.

6 Gomer with all its troops, and the household of Togarmah from the remotest parts of the north with all its troops—many people will accompany you.

6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

- "Gomer" - some translations state that Gomer = Germany, but that is incorrect

- Josephus tells us that Gomer founded those whom the Greeks called the Galatians in the 1st century, so Gomer refers to a region in Turkey

- "...Beth" = house of

- "...togarmah" - Josephus tells us that Togarmah are who the Greeks named the Phrygians. Phrygia is an area in west-central Turkey that Paul the Apostle went through (Cf. Acts 16:6).

- It's interesting the the Holy Spirit gives us four names/regions for modern day Turkey: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah. This is important to note because evidently Turkey will play a key role in this invasion.

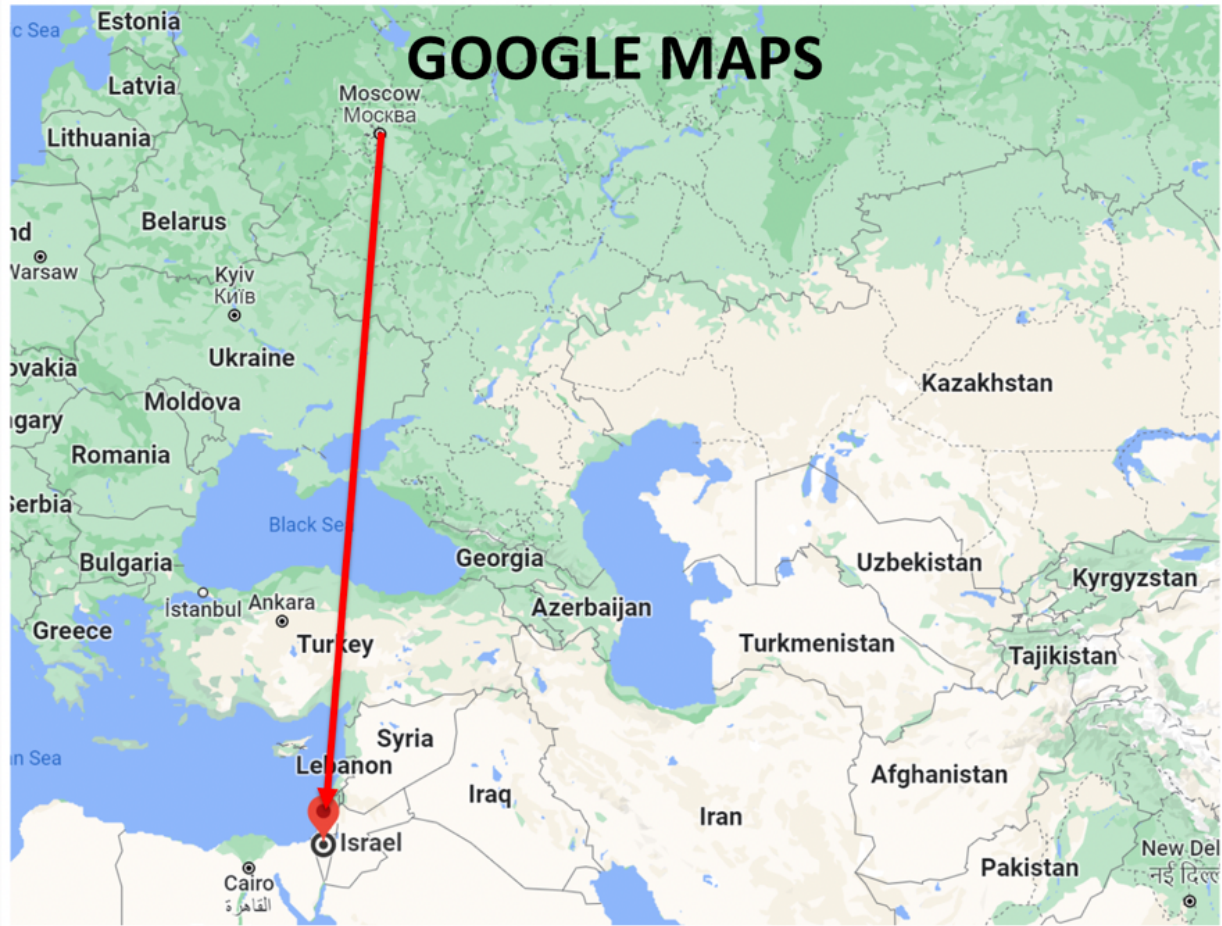
- "...from the remote parts of the north" - "the uttermost part of the north" (Ezek 38:15; 39:2). In the Hebrew, the word "north" has been modified to imply the extreme or uttermost parts of the north.

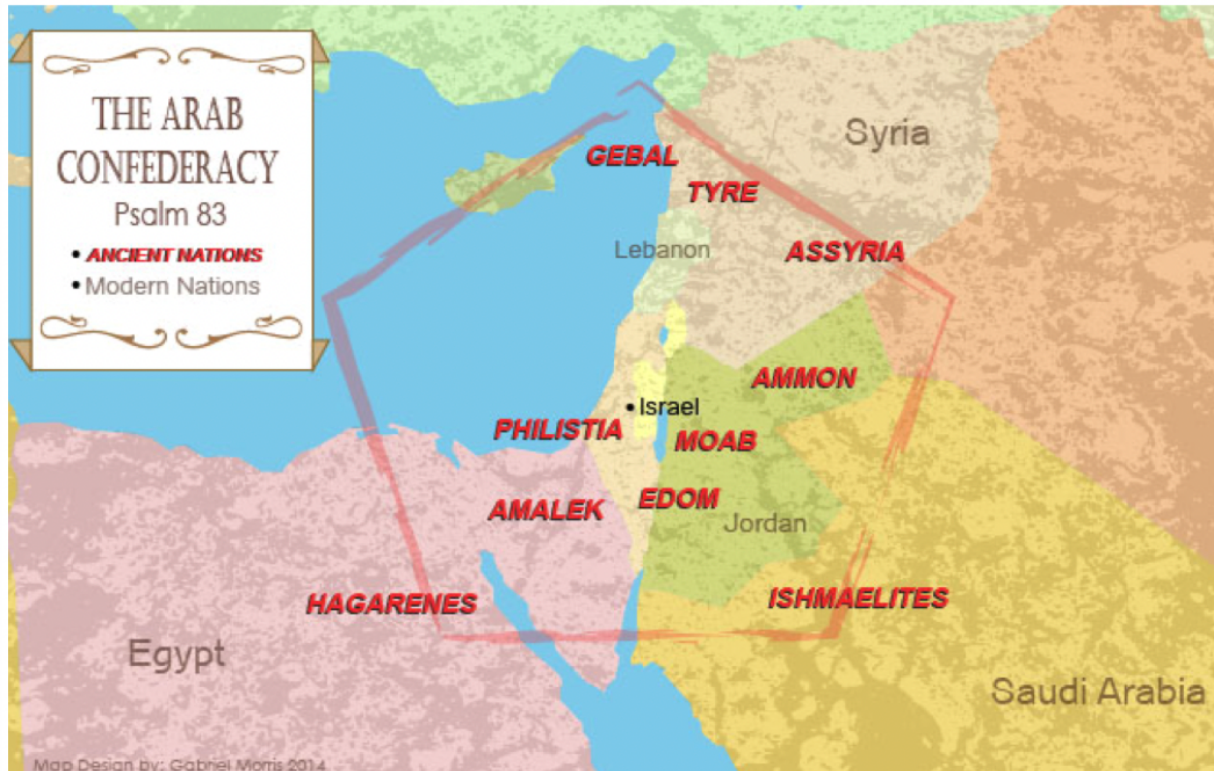
- "...many peoples with you" - this phrase is repeated in v9,15,22; 39:4; Ezekiel is saying that his list of nations that will come against Israel is not complete or exhaustive.

- One line of thought on this is that Ezekiel lists the "outer ring" nations that will come against Israel in this invasion, and Ps 83 lists the "inner ring" nations. However, they believe that there will be two separate wars, a Ps 83 war, which will likely precede the Magog invasion.

- However, if you read Ps 83, there is no talk of a war such as there is in Ezek 38-39. It is simply Asaph's imprecatory prayer to God that He will one day wipe out Israel's perennial enemies. There is no prophecy about a war.

- Many believe that the "inner ring" nations described in Ps 83 are included in the "many peoples with you" mentions in Ezek 38-39, and thus Ezek 38-39 will be an answer to Asaph's prayer in Ps 83.





7 **"Be ready, and be prepared, you and all your contingents that are assembled around you, and be a guard for them.**

7 **"Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.**

7 **Be prepared. Yes, prepare yourself—you and all of your many battalions that have gathered together around you to protect you.**

7 **Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.**

- "Be ready, and be prepared" - *kun kun*, the command is to "Prepare, prepare!" Gog and his allies must ensure they are fully prepared to attack Israel because this assault is a direct challenge to the God of Israel—a confrontation that humanity can never be truly prepared for.

— The invaders think they are doing their own will, but they are actually doing God's will. In the end, this invasion and the invaders utter defeat at the hands of God will bring the nation of Israel into a right relationship with God.

— It is God's right to use ignorant non-believers to achieve His purposes because God's purpose in history is "doxological": the doxological purpose of God is to glorify Himself in history.

- "...be a guard for them" - *mishmar*, implies that Gog will be the primary protector of his allies, bearing responsibility for the entire confederated army and the security of its forces.

8 After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, *whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel* which had been a continual place of ruins; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are **living securely**, all of them.

8 After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, *whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel* which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.

8 ""Many days from now—in the latter years—you will be summoned to a land that has been restored from violence. You will be gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which formerly had been a continuous waste, but which will be populated with people who have been brought back from the nations. All of them will be living there securely.

8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

- "After many days...in the latter years" - the most debated question about the Magog invasion is when on the eschatology chart will this event happen...before the Rapture, after the Rapture but before the Tribulation, during the Tribulation, at the end of the Tribulation, or after the millennium.

— Based on this verse, we know that this invasion will occur within the eschatological period of the last days, but it's not specific enough to pinpoint exactly when.

- "...the land" - *eretz*, specifically refers to Israel

— The inhabitants of this land are described as having returned from many peoples and having begun to rebuild formerly desolate areas. This is important because it presupposes an end of dispersion. It envisions the Jewish people as having returned, settled, and begun the process of rebuilding their land.

— This return, however, is characterized by unbelief. It is foreshadowed in 36:24-27 and the vision of dry bones (37:1-14), which form the backdrop to the events described in 38:1—39:16.

- "...restored from the sword" - signifies Israel's resurgence through warfare. This refers to the first regathering of Israel, which began in 1948.

— Interestingly, the symbol for Islam is the sword. After the *Diaspora* began in 70 AD, the muslims inhabited Israel around 700-800 BC for about 1000 years. Since 1948, there has been significant tensions over land ownership between Jews and muslims.

- "...whose *inhabitants* have been gathered from many nations" - speaking of the first regathering of Israel back into the land, which began in 1948. Since that date, Jews from over 90 countries have returned to Israel from dispersion.

— God is putting a condition on the timing of this invasion until after He has brought His people back into their land (after the *Diaspora* is over)

— This is why you cannot put this invasion during the time of Esther like the preterists do; Israel was not even fully occupying the Promise Land during the time of Esther. In addition, v8 says "many nations" and the return from the Babylonian Captivity was a return from *one* nation.

- "...the mountains of Israel" - Mark Hitchcock says, "According to 39:2,4, Israel must possess the 'mountains of Israel' when this invasion occurs. The Six-Day War (1967) helped set the stage for this to be fulfilled. Before that war, all the mountains of Israel, with the exception of a small strip west of Jerusalem, were in the hands of the Jordanian Arabs. Only since 1967 have the mountains of Israel been in Israel, setting the stage for the fulfillment of this prophecy." [Mark Hitchcock, *The Amazing Claims of Bible Prophecy: What You Need to Know in These Uncertain Times* (Harvest House: Eugene, OR, 2010), 211.]

— For more on the "mountains of Israel," see notes on 36:1.

- "...had been a continual place of ruins" - God has designed the land of Israel to only be prosperous when His people inhabit it (Cf. Lev 26:43)

— Mark Twain described his trip to Israel in 1869 and said, "A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds...a silent mournful expanse...a desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action...we never saw a human being on the whole route...there was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country." [*The Innocents Abroad, Complete*, 1st Ed (A Public Domain Book, 1869), 267, 285, 302]

— The muslims couldn't care less about the land of Israel before 1948, when the land was a desolate wasteland. It wasn't until after 1948, when the Jews began returning to the land and God began to prosper it, that all of a sudden they became very interested.

- "...living securely" - another timing passage (see list below); there are only two times in the Bible that describe when Israel will be living securely: during the millennial kingdom, and during the first half of the Tribulation just after the Antichrist signs a peace treaty with them (Cf. Dan 9:24; Is 28:15,18).

— This peace treaty will give Israel what she wants at the time: political peace without Jesus. So the timing of this invasion is likely between the 1st and 2nd Seal judgments (the transition from peace to war) (Cf. Rev 6:1-4).

## Six Timing Clues for the Magog Invasion

1. Restoration section (Ezek 33-48)
2. **Latter times (38:8a)**
3. **After Israel's regathering in unbelief but before her final restoration (38:8b; 39:22,29)**
4. **While Israel is living securely and peacefully (38:8,11,14)**
5. Last days (38:16)
6. During God's wrath (38:18-19)

9 And **you will go up, you will come like** a storm; **you will be like** a cloud covering the land, you and **all your troops, and many peoples with you.**"

9 You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you."

9 You'll arise suddenly, like a tornado, coming like a windstorm to cover the land, you and all your soldiers with you, along with many nations.""

9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

- This verse describes the extent—or massiveness—of the invasion.

- "...you" [4x] - refers to Gog and his country, Magog

- "...you will go up" - some interpret this as an aerial attack, but the Hebrew term for "go up" (or ascend), *alah*, simply means to "go up." Scripture consistently describes approaching Israel as "going up" to the land, and departing as "going down."

- "...like" [2x] - similes are used to describe the extent of the invasion (Cf. v16)

— A "storm" refers to desolation; just as a "cloud" casts a vast shadow over the land when it blocks sunlight, Gog's army will cast a massive shadow from the north, covering the entire land.

- "...all your troops" - the numerous allies mentioned earlier

- "...many peoples with you" - see notes on v6 (Cf. v15,22; 39:4). These are likely the "inner circle" nations/people groups outlined in Ps 83.

### (b) Intent of Gog (38:10-13)

**10 'This is what the Lord GOD says:** "It will come about on that day, that **thoughts** will come into **your** mind and **you will devise an evil plan,**

**10 'Thus says the Lord GOD,** "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan,

**10 "This is what the Lord GOD says:** 'This is what's going to happen on the very day that you begin your invasion: You'll be thinking, making evil plans,

10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

- "This is what the Lord GOD says" - marks the beginning of a new section, focusing on Gog's plans instead of God's plans

- "...thoughts" - *davar*, means "speech" or "words"; certain unspoken words will enter Gog's mind, leading him to devise an evil plan.

- "...your...you" - Gog, the leader Magog and the coalition of nations who will invade Israel — This is the supernatural motivation for this invasion; these thoughts are implanted into Gog's mind by Satan (Cf. 1 Chr 21:1)

- "...devise an evil plan" - the invasion will be premeditated; there is nothing haphazard in Gog's actions. He will meticulously plan and carefully orchestrate this invasion.

11 and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwallled villages. I will go against those who are **at rest**, who **livesecurely**, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates,

11 and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwallled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates,

11 and boasting, "I'm going to invade a land comprised of open country that is at rest, its people living confidently, all of whose inhabitants will be living securely, with neither fortification nor bars on their doors.

11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

- "...at rest" - *shacat*, quiet, settled, undisturbed

- "...live securely" - *batach*, safely, with confidence, carelessly

— Gog's intent is to invade Israel when she is confident in her security and when her villages lack protective walls.

— These two Hebrew words show that this invasion cannot happen before the Tribulation begins (as many great scholars believe: Fruchtenbaum, Randall Price, Thomas Ice, et al). Israel must be both "at rest" and "living securely" when this invasion occurs.

— It's difficult from Israel's standpoint today to see how they could have both *shacat* and *batach* without some sort of peace treaty in place, which is exactly what the Antichrist will do for them.

12 to **capturespoils** and to **seizeplunder**, to turn your hand against the ruins that are *now* inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and **goods**, who live at the center of the world.'

12 to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are *now* inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.'

12 I'm going to confiscate anything I can put my hands on. I'll attack the restored ruins and the people who have been gathered together from the nations, who are acquiring livestock and other goods, and who live at the center of the world's attention."

12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

- This verse gives Gog's viewpoint for this invasion: they are looking to tap into Israel's riches and resources.

— God's viewpoint is that He is going to back His people against a wall where they have nowhere to turn and no one to help them except God. God will use this invasion and subsequent victory as a hook in the jaw of Israel to bring them into a right relationship with Him.

— Satan's viewpoint on this invasion is that he wants to destroy Israel because it is the nation who will bring the kingdom to the earth

- "...capture spoils" - *lishlol shalal*, a Hebrew play on words that literally means "to spoil the spoil".

- "...seize plunder" - *lavoz baz*, another Hebrew play on words that means "to prey the prey"

- "...goods" - refers to broadly to material wealth

— The Bible doesn't just predict the regathering of Israel into the land in unbelief, it also predicts that they will become phenomenally wealthy in the process.

— Moses made some predictions about Israel just before he died. One of those, of Asher, said: "More blessed than sons is Asher; May he be favored by his brothers, And may he dip his foot in oil." (Deut 33:24).

— A plausible scenario is that at this time, just before and after the beginning of the Tribulation, Israel will be one of the (main) nations standing in the way of the

- "...who live at the center of the world" - we see the mind of man and Satan, but the only way to see and understand the mind of God is to study His Word. From God's viewpoint, Israel is the "center of the earth"...everything God does on a macro level revolves around Israel (Cf. 5:5).

— We can look at all types of biblical prophecies, but until Israel returned to the land, back to the center of the earth, none of them meant anything. Now that Israel is back in the land in the first regathering, which is ongoing even today, we can now look at all the other biblical prophecies and begin to put the jigsaw puzzle together.

— Charles L. Feinberg quotes the *Midrash* and says that God lives in the Most Holy Place, which is at the center of the temple, which is in the center of Jerusalem, which is in the center of Israel...which is at the center of the world (Cf. Deut 32:8).

— God's attention and focus on the nation of Israel is not something that will enter into Gog's mind as he plans this invasion.

We can decipher the hour we are in history by looking at Israel (God's "timepiece") and how and what the world (UN) is talking about in relation to them. If they are talking about Israel as a nation, that is the hour hand of the clock; if they are talking about Jerusalem, that is the minute hand; if they are talking about the Temple Mount, that is the second hand.

13 **Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish** with all its villages will say to **you**, 'Have you come to capture spoils? Have you assembled your contingent to seize plunder, to carry away **silver and gold**, to take away livestock and goods, to capture great spoils?'"

13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?'"

13 'Businessmen based in Sheba, Dedan, Tarshish, and all of its growling lions will ask you, "Are you coming for war spoils? Have you assembled your armies to carry off silver and gold, and to gather lots of war booty?'"

13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all **the young lions** thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

- Another group of nations is mentioned here. While the nations of v1-6 for the alliance against Israel, the nations in v13 protest this particular invasion.

— Not every nation or group will be pleased with this invasion, notably Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish with its villages. This is called the "lame protest" because it's all talk, no action.

— These nations will clearly see the impetus for this invasion and call it out directly, express their opposition, but they will not get militarily involved in helping Israel repel the invasion.

- "...Sheba" - Saudi Arabia, maybe including Dubai (Gen 25:3)

- "...Dedan" - Saudi Arabia, maybe including Yemen (Gen 25:3)

- "...merchants of Tarshish" - Tarshish = Spain, more specifically the south edge of Spain near Gibraltar; the "merchants of Tarshish" refers to a conglomeration of Western nations, including Europe.

— The last (as of June 2022) nation to join the Abraham Accords was Morocco, which is just south of Spain. Morocco has a trade relationship with Spain. The Abraham Accords are

helping Morocco become wealthy, which because of their trade relationship with Spain, benefits them as well.

- "...the young lions" [KJV] - often used in Scripture to refer to energetic rulers. Therefore, the young lions who verbally oppose Gog's invasion are strong military and political leaders who act with Tarshish (Spain). Tarshish, or modern day Spain, could be used by Ezekiel to represent all of the western nations, primarily in Central and South America, whom Saudi Arabia will join with in denouncing this invasion. [Hitchcock]

- "...you" - the coalition of invaders

- "...silver and gold" - if you look at Israel's zenith at the end of Solomon's reign and read passages that speak of the huge amount of gold and silver in the temple and elsewhere (we're never told exactly how much silver and gold), and you cross-reference these passages with the amount of silver and gold that the Jews took with them to Babylon and brought back from Babylon, the implied amounts are not even close.

— Israel, based on certain biblical passages, had a huge amount of gold and silver at the end of Solomon's reign, and brought relatively little to and from Babylon.

— One of the primary reasons given for the coalition's invasion of Israel is silver and gold. However, Israel at the moment doesn't possess a notable amount of silver and gold, or at least enough to give reason for a mass invasion.

— So the working theory is that the Jews, knowing the impending invasion and destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, hid all of the gold and silver, which has not yet been found. It's possible that this large amount of silver and gold will be found at some point in the near future, which would justify obtaining it as a reason for this mass invasion.

Why would Saudi Arabia, a muslim country, oppose an invasion of Israel? Maybe due to the Abraham Accords, created by Jared Kushner during the Trump Administration. The nations in the Abraham Accords are smaller nations in the Persian Gulf region that historically have not been at war with Israel. However, they reside in very close proximity to Iran.

This wasn't a peace treaty, but rather a "normalization agreement, where Israel says if you acknowledge our right to exist, we will open up the "four T's":

- Trade
- Travel
- Tourism
- Technology

All of these benefit both Israel and the Gulf states in these accords and align them with Israel against Russia and Iran. So when this invasion occurs, we don't have to wonder why Saudi Arabia and these Gulf states will speak up against the invasion.

(B) The invasion executed (38:14-16)

14 "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "On that day when **My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it?**"

14 "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "On that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know *it*?"

14 "Therefore, Son of Man, prophesy to Gog and tell him, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "When the day comes when my people are living securely, won't you be aware of it?"

14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

- "...My people Israel" - *'ammî Yîsrâ'êl*, God calls the people of Israel "My people" (v14,16) and the land of Israel "My land" (v16). This is a warning that God is giving to Gog, through Ezekiel.

— This completely negates Replacement Theology, which believes that God has abandoned Israel because of their unbelief, and transferred all of Israel's OT promises to the Church. Here, Israel is residing in the land in unbelief, yet 2x God calls them "My people."

— The godless nations who will invade Israel have no idea how involved God is in the concerns of His people and His land. This has been true throughout their national existence, but will be even more evident when God finally intervenes in the affairs of Israel in the consummation of His prophetic program for the earth.

- "...living securely" - *batach*, at this time, Israel is not only living securely, she's living at peace and at rest; it's a time when Israel is not just winning wars or skirmishes, but she's living in a time where she doesn't need to fight anymore (Cf. v8,11).

— No more terrorist attacks, no more suicide bombers, no more nuclear threats from Iran, etc.

— This will happen once Israel enters into the "covenant" with the Antichrist (Dan 9:27; Is 28:15,18). This "peace treaty" will likely involve Israel giving up part of her land in order to achieve peace. If the land given away is the "West Bank" (Judea & Samaria), the width of Israel at its narrowest point would be less than 10 miles. This puts Israel in an indefensible posture, which will put Israel into a position where they need someone to broker a peace treaty to ensure their security.

- "...will you not know *it*?" - the image here is that Gog has studied Israel's situation closely, recognizing that the nation has become relatively secure—and thus somewhat complacent. Gog then calculates that Israel is vulnerable to invasion.

15 You will come from your place out of the **remote parts of the north**, you and **many peoples with you, all of them riding horses, a large assembly and a mighty army;**

15 You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a mighty army;

15 You'll come in from your home in the remotest parts of the north. You'll come with many nations, all of them riding along on horses. You'll be a huge, combined army.

15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

- "...remote parts of the north" - not only includes Togarmah (v6), but the entire territory under Gog's authority (Cf. v6,15; 39:2).

- "...many peoples with you" - Ezekiel mentions the major players of the invasion, but then is less specific with this phrase, likely describing the "inner ring" (Ps 83) nations (Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinians, etc.) (Cf. v6,9,15,22; 39:4)

- "...all of them riding horses" - see notes on v4

16 and you will come up against **My people Israel like a cloud** to cover the land. It shall come about in the **last days** that **I will bring you** against **My land, so that the nations may know Me** when I show Myself holy through you before their eyes, Gog."

16 and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog."

16 You'll come up to invade my people Israel like a storm cloud to cover the land. In the last days, Gog, I'll bring you up to invade my land so that the world will learn to know me when I show them how holy I am before their very eyes."'"

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

- This verse implies that the invasion will have some very early success, as the invaders will enter the land of Israel. This success will be short-lived.

- "...My people" - see note & quote on v14

- "...like a cloud" - v9 uses similar allegorical language to describe the sheer number of troops who will invade and overshadow Israel from every direction

- This is God's way of saying to Israel, "You have no hope for survival except for Me" (Jer 30:7)

- "...last days" - every time the Bible uses this term, it's not talking about the same thing (time period); you have to determine the referent based on the context of the passage in which it's used.

- In 2 Tim 3:1, Paul uses "last days" to talk about the final days of the Church Age. Ezekiel is not referring to the final days of the Church Age in Ezek 38 because he could not see the Church Age...it's not the context in which the term is used.

- Ezekiel is referring to the last days of the nation of Israel. When you track this term through the prophets, it always refers to Israel's discipline and restoration (Is 2:2; Jer 23:20)

30:24; Hosea 3:1; Micah 4:1).

— Thus, this invasion must occur during the Tribulation period because that is what is meant by "last days" in every other usage within the prophets.

- "...I will bring you" - emphasizes the fact that God Himself will orchestrate this invasion

- "...My land" - reiterates God's ownership; as the rightful Owner, God has the authority to give the land to whomever He chooses, and He has chosen to give it to Israel as a possession and an inheritance.

— For Gog and his allied nations to attack and invade this land is a challenge to God's power and authority.

- "...so that the nations may know Me" - we learned of Gog's purpose for this invasion in v11-12. Now we learn God's purpose for the invasion: "that the nations (Gentiles) may know Him."

— Through this invasion, God intends for the Gentiles to recognize Him as the One True God. They will come to this realization when He "shows Himself holy" right before their eyes. What God does to Gog and his allies will set Him apart in holiness.

### Six Timing Clues for the Magog Invasion

1. Restoration section (Ezek 33-48)
2. Latter times (38:8a)
3. After Israel's regathering in unbelief but before her final restoration (38:8b; 39:22,29)
4. While Israel is living securely and peacefully (38:8,11,14)
5. **Last days (38:16)**
6. During God's wrath (38:18-19)

(C) Gog defeated (38:17—39:20)

(a) Armies destroyed (38:17—39:8)

17 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for *many* years that I would bring you against them?"

17 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for *many* years that I would bring you against them?"

17 "This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Surely you're the one about whom I spoke years ago in the writings of my servants, Israel's prophets, aren't you? They predicted back then that I would bring you up after many years, didn't they?"

17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?"

- God asks a question that challenges Gog's self-perception: Do you consider yourself the fulfillment of earlier prophecies?

— Apparently, there were prophets in Israel who revealed "in those days for many years" that God would bring Gog and his allies against Israel. However, nowhere else in the prophetic writings is there mention of such an invasion from the land of Magog. So, who were these prophets of old?

— These prophets are referred to as "My servants" which distinguishes them from the false prophets described earlier (12:21—13:23). Combined with the phrase "in those days for many years," this suggests that the prophecy regarding Gog's invasion of Israel predated Ezekiel's time by a considerable period.

— It excludes contemporaries, such as Jeremiah and Daniel, as well as more recent prophets, like Isaiah. Thus, God's "servants" referred to in v17 are likely the earlier, non-writing prophets who delivered their revelations verbally rather than recording them (possibly Elijah, 1 Kings 17-21; 2 Kings 1-2; Elisha, 1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 2-9; 13; and Nathan, 2 Sam 7; 12; 1 Kings 1; 1 Chr 17; 2 Chr 29:25).

*Through the centuries Israel has time and again been the prey of one nation after another. Yet in every case the visitation of God in wrath has been unmistakable upon the ones involved. But the nations have not fully learned their lesson as far as hatred of Israel is concerned and will try yet once more. Satan will urge them on yet again to their doom so that all may see that God curses those who curse Abraham's seed. Let us be among those seeking their good and their blessing...It will be seen that serious and fatal weakness of the enemies of Israel will be their reliance on numbers, and their confidence that Israel's weaknesses means their strength and ultimate victory. They fail, as always, to take God into account. [Feinberg, The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord, 223,228]*

18 It will come about **on that day**, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "that **My fury** will mount up in **My anger**.

18 It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "that My fury will mount up in My anger.

18 So it will be that on that day, when Gog invades the land of Israel,' declares the Lord GOD, 'my zeal will ignite my anger.

**18** And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

- Russia's cup of iniquity is full, the apple of God's eye is touched, the Wife of Jehovah is violated, arousing God's anger so that He moves out in judgment to destroy the invading army.

- "...on that day" - the day the confederated armies enter the land of Israel
- "...My fury...My anger" - God has twice before displayed His "fury" and "anger": the Noahic Flood and the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah. See also "My blazing wrath" (v19).
- In Sodom & Gomorrah, a destroying angel was dispatched to deal with them; in Ezek 38-39, there is no angel...God will unleash His fury and anger directly.
- This pinpoints the timing of this invasion to the Tribulation (see: **Six Timing Clues for the Magog Invasion** below). It's likely that the beginning of this invasion happens early on in the Tribulation, likely with the 2nd Seal (Rev 6:3-4).
- However, the timing of the invasion, defeat, and mop-up described in Ezek 38-39 spans throughout the entire Tribulation period, and the mop-up possibly extends into the millennial kingdom.
- Gog's actions bring into effect the principle outlined in Gen 12:3, where God promised to curse those who curse the Jewish people. This is why this invasion arouses His fury and anger.

## Overview of the Rest of Ezek 38-39

1. Divine annihilation of the coalition (38:19-22)
2. Birds and beasts feast on the carnage (39:4-5,17-20)
3. Seven-month burying of the dead (39:11-12,14-16)
4. Seven-year burning of weapons (39:9-10)
5. Israel's salvation and restoration (39:22,29)

### 1. Divine annihilation of the coalition (v19-22)

19 In **My zeal** and in **My blazing wrath** I declare *that* on that day there will certainly be a **great earthquake in the land of Israel**.

19 In **My zeal** and in **My blazing wrath** I declare *that* on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.

19 Because of my zeal and burning anger, at that time there will be a massive earthquake throughout the land of Israel.

19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

- The invasion of His land and the attack on His people prompt God to act for two reasons:
- "...My zeal" - His jealousy; Gog's invasion represents a violation against Israel, the wife of Yahweh, which causes God's jealousy to burn. In Scripture, jealousy can be positive or negative, and when it speaks of God's zeal/jealousy, it's always positive, arising from His right to safeguard His exclusive ownership.

- "...My blazing wrath" - His wrath is inseparable from His jealousy. God's jealousy is always followed by His wrath.
- "...a great earthquake in the land of Israel" - Rev 6:12 describes "a great earthquake" as part of the cosmic disturbances of the 6th Seal judgment. Whether or not these two earthquakes are one-and-the-same is unknown, but it's plausible if the actual timing of this invasion is during the 2nd Seal judgment.

### **Six Timing Clues for the Magog Invasion**

1. Restoration section (Ezek 33-48)
2. Latter times (38:8a)
3. After Israel's regathering in unbelief but before her final restoration (38:8b; 39:22,29)
4. While Israel is living securely and peacefully (38:8,11,14)
5. Last days (38:16)
6. **During God's wrath (38:18-19)**

20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, all the crawling things that crawl on the **earth**, and all mankind who are on the face of the **earth** will shake at My presence; and the mountains will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every **wall** will fall to the ground.

20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground.

20 I'm going to shake the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the wild beasts, all the creatures that crawl on the earth, and every single human being who lives on the surface of the earth. Mountains will collapse, as will their mountain passages, and every wall will fall to the ground.

20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

- This massive, localized earthquake will be one of the means that God will use to destroy the invading armies. The second method of destruction, mutual slaughter (friendly fire), is described in v21.

- "...earth" [2x] - *'ādāmâ*, means "land," indicating that this earthquake will specifically affect Israel, not the entire planet

- "...wall" - *hômâ*, refers specifically to city walls, not walls of individual buildings (Cf. Deut 28:52; Joshua 2:15; 1 Sam 31:10). The walls around Jerusalem will collapse, as will any

remnants of ancient city walls.

21 And I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord GOD.

**"Every man's sword will be against his brother.**

21 I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother.

21 Then I'll call for war against Gog on top of every mountain,' declares the Lord GOD, 'and every weapon of war will be turned against their fellow soldier.

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

- "...Every man's sword will be against his brother" - the second way God will destroy the invading armies will be to make the enemy fight against themselves. This will be a massive "friendly fire" incident where the enemies will be thrown into chaos and confusion take out each other. This won't be the first time God has used this strategy while fighting for Israel:

- Gideon against the Midianites and Amalekites (Judges 7:19-22)
- Philistines panicked after Jonathan's attack (1 Sam 14:15-23)
- Jehoshaphat against Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir (2 Chr 20:22-24)

— There are also numerous indirect examples of Israel's enemy being destroyed without Israel fighting:

- Egyptian army confused before drowning in Red Sea (Ex 14:24-28)
- God wiped out Amorites with hailstones (Joshua 10:10-11)
- Philistines and the Ark (1 Sam 5-6)
- God sent thunder to cause Philistines to panic (1 Sam 7:10-11)
- Assyrian army before Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:35-37; Cf. Is 37)
- A prophecy that God would set Egyptians against Egyptians (Is 19:2)

— Given the multi-national coalition of forces, this internal chaos will lead to mutual slaughter.

**22 With plague and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone.**

22 With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and **I will rain on him** and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone.

22 I'll judge them with disease and bloodshed. I'll shower him, his soldiers, and the vast army that accompanies him with a torrential flood, hailstones, fire, and sulfur.

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great

hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

- "With plague and with blood" - the third way that God will destroy the invading armies, over and above the earthquake and the friendly fire, is through plagues and diseases that will claim more soldier's lives.

- "...I will enter into judgment" - this defeat of Gog's armies will be a direct judgment from God; God will not use an angel or other intermediary to execute His judgment in this situation, He will take care of it Himself.

- "...I will rain on him...a torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone" - an unexpected deluge will be the fourth means that God will use to defeat the invading enemies. Coupled with the storm are hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

- All of these are supernatural elements that unmistakably represent divine intervention.

- It's possible that as the armies enter Israel, the earthquake and the huge, unexpected storm stall out the invading troops, who then while dodging and protecting themselves against the hail, fire, and brimstone, are thrown into a state of panic and confusion and begin accidentally killing each other.

23 So I will prove Myself great, show Myself holy, and make Myself known **in the sight of many nations**; and they will know that I am the LORD."

23 I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD."

23 I will exalt myself and demonstrate my holiness, making myself known to many people, who will learn that I am the LORD."

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

- God's purpose for the invasion and destruction is complete and successful (Cf. v16)

- There are two main reasons why God drags these invaders into Israel, then defeats them:

1. The physical protection and spiritual regeneration of Israel
2. But God's ultimate purpose is to glorify Himself. His ultimate purpose in history is doxological: God acts in history to bring glory to Himself.

- The safety and salvation of Israel brings God glory, however the ultimate goal of God is not soteriological (the salvation of man), it is doxological (the glorification of God) (Eph 1:6,12,14). Just so happens that God's doxological purpose is fulfilled through the salvation of every person., but the salvation of every person is not God's highest purpose.

- The reason we know that God's purpose is doxological rather than soteriological is because if it was soteriological, you have no category or purpose for God's dealings with angels (good angels and fallen angels). The plan of salvation is not available to the angels. If His greater purpose is to glorify Himself, then His dealings with angels makes perfect sense.

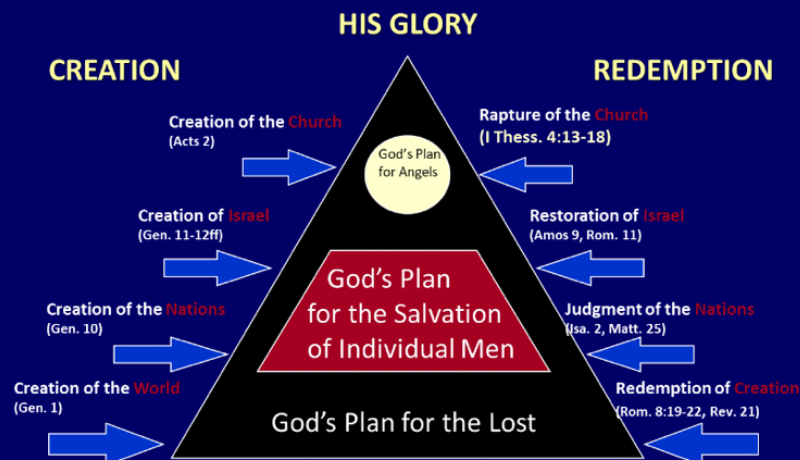
- "...in the sight of many nations"- God's name and power will be justified and glorified throughout all the Gentile nations by His overwhelming victory over this invasion

## Doxological Purpose

- A. God's ultimate purpose for the ages is to glorify Himself. Scripture is not human-centered, as though salvation were the principle point, but God-centered, because His glory is at the center.
- B. The glory of God is the primary principle that unifies all dispensations, the program of salvation being just one of the means by which God glorifies Himself. Each successive revelation of God's plan for the ages, as well as His dealing with the elect, non-elect, angels, and nations all manifest His glory.

*Dictionary of Premillennial Theology, Charles Ryrie, p. 94*

## THE FOCUS ON THE GLORY OF GOD IN DISPENSATIONALISM



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