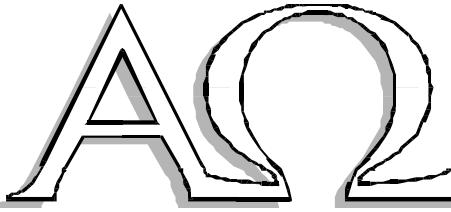


Creation Revelation



God is in the details

Volume 5, Issue 4

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In Memory of
Jack o'keefe
Patriot and
friend
1932 - 2001

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one
of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

R3

Psalm 119:160

THE RED HORSE

{Revised and Updated - 2009}

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. (Revelation 6:1-4)

In what concerns war, their customs are the following. The Scythian soldier drinks the blood of the first man he overthrows in battle. Whatever number he slays, he cuts off all their heads, and carries them to the king; since he is thus entitled to a share of the booty, whereto he forfeits all claim if he does not produce a head. In order to strip the skull of its covering, he makes a cut round the head above the ears, and, laying hold of the scalp, shakes the skull out; then with the rib of an ox he scrapes the scalp clean of flesh, and softening it by rubbing between the hands, uses it thenceforth as a napkin. The Scyth is proud of these scalps, and hangs them from his bridle-rein; the greater the number of such napkins that a man can show, the more highly he is esteemed among them. Many make themselves cloaks, like the capotes of our peasants, by sewing a quantity of these scalps together. Others flay the right arms of their dead enemies, and make of the skin, which is stripped off with the nails hanging to it, a covering for their quivers. Now the skin of a man is thick and glossy, and would in whiteness surpass almost all other hides. Some even flay the entire body of their enemy, and stretching it upon a frame carry it about with them wherever they ride. Such are the Scythian customs with respect to scalps and skins.

The skulls of their enemies, not indeed of all, but of those whom they most detest, they treat as follows. Having sawn off the portion below the eyebrows, and cleaned out the inside, they cover the outside with leather. When a man is poor, this is all that he does; but if he is rich, he also lines the inside with gold: in either case the skull is used as a drinking-cup. They do the same with the skulls of their own kith and kin if they have been at feud with them, and have vanquished them in the presence of the king. When strangers whom they deem of any account come to visit them, these skulls are handed round, and the host tells how that these were his relations who made war upon him, and how he got the better of them; all this being looked upon as proof of bravery. (Herodotus, *The Histories*)¹

The Battle of Gog and Magog

In the last days, according to the prophet Ezekiel, a number of nations will come against Israel dwelling safely in its own land. This battle is known as the battle of Gog and Magog. This prophecy seemed unlikely to be fulfilled until the United Nations voted to set aside a portion of Palestine as the Jewish homeland. Israel reclaimed a portion of their original heritage in 1948. The table of nations found in Genesis chapter 10 lists the genealogy of the sons of Noah, including the roots of

Israel, and also of the people that would come against Israel at the time of the Gog and Magog war. Interestingly, the enemies of Israel, listed by Ezekiel, are the same as Israel's enemies today. Let's begin in Genesis chapter 10. The highlighted names are the ones that, as we shall see later, are significant to our understanding of Ezekiel's prophecy.

Now these are the generations of the sons of
Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto

them were sons born after the flood. The sons of **Japheth**; **Gomer**, and **Magog**, and **Madai**, and Javan, and **Tubal**, and **Meshech**, and Tiras. And the sons of **Gomer**; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and **Togarmah**. And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and **Tarshish**, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations. And the sons of **Ham**; **Cush**, and **Mizraim**, and **Phut**, and Canaan. And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtechah: and the sons of Raamah; **Sheba**, and **Dedan**.... Unto **Shem** also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born. The children of **Shem**; **Elam**, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram. (Genesis 10:1-7, 21-22)

The genealogy continues with additional generations of Ham and Shem. All of the nations that are currently arrayed against Israel (Shem) are of each of Noah's sons. In the broad sense, the sons of Japheth include Indians (Aryans), Persians, Greeks, Romans, and other Europeans. The sons of Ham include Canaanites, Egyptians (Mizraim), Phoenicians, Sumerians, Orientals, and Africans. The sons of Shem would normally include Jews, Arabs, Syrians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians. The Persians (Iran) are a mixture of the Medes, from Japheth's son Madai, and of Shem's son Elam (Elamites).² Simply put, Shem originally settled in Mesopotamia, but a family moved into the land of Canaan with the migration of Abraham. Japheth migrated north, populating Asia, Asia Minor, and Europe. Ham moved south into Arabia, Canaan, and Africa.³

In Revelation chapter 6 a white horse rider going forth "conquering, and to conquer" seems to occur during a period of peace. The white horse rider's method of conquering is political manipulation. The white horse rider first brings deception, including a deceptive peace - he has a bow, but no arrows - but is followed by a red horse rider bringing war. The unfulfilled Gog and Magog invasion is said to take place when there is "peace in the land," and Israel is dwelling there.⁴ The only period of peace may be the peace of the white horse rider (the Antichrist). This "peace" is the subject of a seven-year covenant, which will be broken, as a result of this invasion, in the middle of the seven-year period.⁵ We see this period of peace and war unfolding in the persons of the white and red horse riders of Revelation 6:1-4, and the prophecy of the seventieth week of Daniel found in Daniel 9:27.

And he [Antichrist] shall confirm the

covenant with many for one week....
(Daniel 9:27)

As we shall see later, the condition of Israel dwelling "safely" in her land may be exactly the condition we see today, and the red horse rider may have nothing to do with the battle known as Gog and Magog.

Today, Russia is strengthening her alliance with China and the Muslim nations north of Israel. In 1888 Walter Scott wrote the following:

Russia has for ages meditated on the conquest of Asia, and India and China. Great Britain and the United States stand face to face with this Russian power; and these two sides will come into one final, awful struggle. We judge that the tide of Russian conquest will flow on to the frontiers of China. The ascendance (sic) of Russia in the East and the revival of the old Roman Empire in the West necessitates the meeting of these two dominating, opposing powers; and the great Jewish question must be settled at Jerusalem, the city of the Great King, leading to millennial triumph in Israel and her headship over the nations of the world.

We believe from the place assigned to Russia in the Word of God that her legions will sweep over the plains and mountains of Asia, and become the dominant power over all the east until she falls forever on the mountains of Judah. Thus she will command for a time the powers north of Palestine and east of the Euphrates.⁶

Walter Scott wrote these words in 1888, before Israel was returned to her land as a nation. About 2500 years ago Ezekiel prophesied that Israel would return into the land after a time of scattering. Let's sample what Ezekiel had to say about Israel's return.

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, **I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon

you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.... Then he said unto me, Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel**: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, **I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel**. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, **And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land**: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.... And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms** any more at all. (Ezekiel 37:1-6, 11-14, 21-22)

Ezekiel continued the prophecy showing that a future attack would be made on Israel once she was back in her land as a single, rather than the previously divided kingdom. Israel returned to the land in 1948, but the prophecy of the future attack has not yet been fulfilled, and it is separate from the future Battle of Armageddon. This invasion is to be known as the Battle of Gog and Magog.

The evidence of the biblical names for the end time enemies of Israel indicate that those coming against Israel will be Russia and her Muslim allies. The collapse of the former Soviet Union has created a number of independent, cash poor, Muslim states, each armed with the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet republic. The new Muslim nations are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia (Kyrgyzstan), Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Kazakhstan may rank as the fourth greatest nuclear power in the world today. As the Muslim alliance solidifies, their lack of hard currency and hatred of Israel will entice them to share their nuclear weapons with other nations of their Islamic brotherhood, particularly Iran, Syria, Libya, and Turkey, for the ultimate destruction of Israel, their common enemy.⁷ Ezekiel continues with a prophecy identifying the nations that will invade Israel in the future.

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against **Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 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: **Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them**; all of them with shield and helmet: **Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee**. (Ezekiel 38:1-6)

Who are these nations today?

The Enemies of Israel

Magog, a son of Japheth, was identified by Josephus as Magogites, called Scythians by the Greeks, whose land lay in the Caucasus between Armenia and Media.⁸ The major group of Scythians lived near the Black and Caspian Seas from north of the Caucasus Mountains to the Danube, in the general area of what is now the southern part of twentieth century Russia.⁹ Hesiod, a contemporary with Ezekiel, in the 7th century BC, identified Magog with the Scythians and southern Russia.¹⁰ The Scythians are the ancestors of the present day Russians.¹¹ The Scythians are identified as a number of northern nomadic tribes, whose territory ranged from central Asia all across the southern part of ancient Russia. In the narrow sense, they were the people who lived north of the Black Sea. In the broader sense, they represented the many tribes in the vast steppes of Russia from the Ukraine in the west to Siberia in the east. The former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and the Ukraine represent the territory of the ancient Scythian today; all are Moslem, except the Ukraine. The Magogites divided into two distinct races, one Japhetic, or European, and the other Turanian, or Asiatic. The Turanian were the Scythians who dwelt on the great plateau of central Asia, and spread out over northern Asia and Europe. Their descendants are known today as the Tartars, Cossacks, Finns, Kalmuks, and Mongols.¹²

The Scythians were cruel, fierce fighters, who could shoot their arrows while riding horseback at a full gallop. They were such skilled archers that they could use either their right or left hands to load and draw the bow, while on horseback, shooting in any direction, including behind them.¹³

The word "Rosh" ("Rhos" in the *Septuagint*), rendered "chief" in the *King James Version*, but translated as a place in the *New American Standard Bible*, may identify the river Araxes (modern Araks) which separates Armenia and Azerbaijan from Iran. However, "Rosh" may instead be a reference to the people identified as "Rus," who became Russia.¹⁴ The word "Rosh," that the King James Version translates as "chief," is considered by some to be a proper noun and a direct reference to Russia.¹⁵ Rosh (or Ras, Rash, Rasapu, Rashu, Rukhs-As, Rus) were a fierce, northerly, Iranian nomadic people, called the Sarmatians. The Sarmatians were a mixture of Medes and Scythians, who are known today as Slavs and Russians. They inhabited the area around the Caspian Sea about 900 BC, known today as the former Soviet republics of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.¹⁶ In 200 BC, the Sarmatians invaded the southern Russian steppes in the area of the modern Russian Ukraine, and the former Russian republics. It is therefore most likely that "Rosh" is Russia. The *New American Standard Bible* agrees that "Rosh" is a place, and renders Ezekiel 38 verses 2 and 3 as:

"Son of man, set thy face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of **Rosh**, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of **Rosh**, Meshech and Tubal....'" (Ezekiel 38:2 NASB)

Other allies are to be with Russia. Besides Ethiopia, Persia (Iran), and Libya, there are Gomer and Togarmah, both located in modern Turkey. Gomer may also refer to the peoples of Eastern Europe, Bulgaria, and possibly Germany.¹⁷ Gomer, known as the Cimmerians, was pushed across the Caucasus by the Scythians, who displaced them from the steppes of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper River, driving them into modern Turkey about 700 BC.¹⁸ Gomer, in the Babylonian Talmud, is rendered "Germania," and is associated with the Cimmerians, who established themselves in the Rhine and Danube valleys.¹⁹

Togarmah may be Armenia, Turkey, and Turkestan.²⁰ Only Josephus identified Togarmah, as the Phrygians, who settled in Cappadocia, now eastern Turkey.²¹ Togarmah is usually associated with the ancient Hittite city of Tegarma in eastern Cappadocia (modern Turkey). Whatever the location, all scholars point to the location of Togarmah as being within the boundaries of modern Turkey.²²

Some prophecy students believe that the name "Moscow" was derived from the name "Meshech." While this may be true, there is little support for this view other than by the sound relation of the associated names.²³

Meshech has been identified with the Mushki of the Assyrians, which inhabited Phrygia in Turkey. Herodotus identifies the Muski with the mountains southwest of the Black Sea, and Josephus says the descendants of Meshech dwelt in eastern Turkey. Some believe that those called "Mushki" by the Greeks, or "Mushkoi" by the Assyrians are the same as "Mushkovi," the ancient name for Russia.²⁴ The Mushki, or Musku, are first found in the twelfth century BC in northern Mesopotamia, and in the ninth century BC they are found inhabiting Phrygia (modern Turkey). At that time, their king was Mitaa, who is believed to be the fabled King Midas of the "golden touch." In the fifth century BC they are known as the "Moscheni," located in the eastern part of modern Turkey. In the first century AD, Josephus identifies Meshech as the "Mosocheni," who lived in ancient Cappadocia. All other ancient sources place Meshech in modern eastern Turkey.²⁵

Some say that the name for the Russian city of Tobolsk is derived from the name "Tubal," but again, there is little support other than the sound of the names.²⁶ Tubal is identified in Assyrian inscriptions as Tabal, west of Meshech and Togarmah, in Turkey. Tubal is also identified as the Tibareni, a nation in Asia Minor dwelling by the Black Sea to the west of the Moschi (Meshech).²⁷ According to John Phillips, Meshech and Tubal are names that stand for Russia in Europe and Asia. Also, Phillips further states that, L. Sale-Harrison in his book, *The Coming Great Northern Confederacy*, has corroborated the names Meshech and Tubal, on linguistic grounds, as names standing for Russia to Europeans and Asians.²⁸

If Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah are modern Turkey, then it is interesting to note that after years of converting Turkey to western democratic social and political principles, including membership in the United Nations (1945), NATO (1951), and associate membership in the European Community (1963), their rejection as full members of the European Union (1987) has driven them in the direction of Islam. Turkey shares linguistic and/or ethnic ties with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizian, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Turkey desires to be the leader of a new "Turkic" world.²⁹

Persia did not change its name until it became Iran in March of 1935.³⁰ Iran is the leader in "Islamic Fundamentalism." Iran, like Turkey, is today courting the former southern Soviet Republics of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kirgyzstan.³¹

Ethiopia, or Cush, refers to a land south of Egypt. Cush later came to be known as Nubia. Broadly speaking, it generally refers to "Black Africa," including Zaire and South Africa. Islam is dominant in this area rich in strategic materials essential to any modern military and industry.³² The biblical Ethiopia (Cush),

known later as Nubia, is today known as Sudan. Sudan has an Islamic fundamentalist government that is attempting to establish a pure, Islamic state by brutal means, including crucifixion of their Christian population.³³ One must wonder where is the public outcry? Sudan (Sunni Muslim) and Iran (Shiite Muslim) have formed an alliance that may include training camps for Palestinian and militant Islamic terrorist groups. Iran (Persia) and Sudan (Ethiopia, Cush) are even placed side by side in Ezekiel's prophecy of Ezekiel 38:5, in prophetic anticipation of their future alliance.³⁴

Libya (Put or Phut) too is dominated by Islamic influence. Broadly speaking, Phut encompasses more than just modern Libya. It includes Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco.³⁵ The clearest ancient description of the location of Phut is by Josephus, who says "Phut also was the founder of Libya, and called the inhabitants Phutites, from himself." The Septuagint translates Phut as Libues. It is fairly certain that modern Libya is Phut.³⁶ As a Muslim (Sunni) nation, supplied by Russia, and both North and South Korea, Libya would have no qualms deciding to join a Russian-Muslim attack against Israel.³⁷

What is clear is that there is to be a future attack on Israel by an alliance of nations, probably Muslim, allied with Russia. The word translated "horses," in the following verses, literally means "leaper," and can also mean "bird" or "chariot-rider."³⁸ Could this be the modern equivalent of airplanes and tanks? This attack upon Israel dwelling in safety can be seen from the following verses of Ezekiel 38:

Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. 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. 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.... And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled 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, 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.... Therefore, son of man,

prophecy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day **when my people of Israel dwelleth safely**, shalt thou not know it? 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: **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. (Ezekiel 38:7-9, 11-12, 14-16)

Verse 7 of Ezekiel chapter 38 intimates that Magog is both leader and provider of supplies to its allies. It is true today that Russia is, and has been, the provider of weapons to nations depicted in Ezekiel as being allied to Magog.³⁹ This invasion will not be without protests, as we will soon see.

The Nations That Protest

In Ezekiel 38:13 we see that a number of nations are on the sideline protesting what Gog is doing.

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? (Ezekiel 38:13)

This prophecy is even more exciting when we realize just who these nations are. Sheba and Dedan are located in modern Saudi Arabia. Of this fact there is no doubt. It is significant that Saudi Arabia is the only Arab nation that continually sides with the West.⁴⁰

Tarshish, most likely, is ancient Tartessus, located in modern day Spain, at the most westerly edge of the known world. All its "young lions" may refer to the western nations allied with Saudi Arabia in denouncing Gog's invasion.⁴¹

A question that needs to be addressed now is, "When will all this take place?"

The Time of Gog and Magog

That the Gog and Magog invasion is an event that may follow the Rapture may be seen in the placement of the words "peace" and "safety" in the verses which follow those describing the Rapture of the Church beginning in 1 Thessalonians 4:13:

For when they shall say, **Peace and safety;**

then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

These verses, however, follow a clear reference to the Tribulation in 1 Thessalonians 5:2 with the words "day of the Lord." This makes it doubtful that 1 Thessalonians 5:3 refers to the onset of the Gog and Magog war assuming as we shall soon see, that Gog and Magog occurs before the Tribulation.

Ezekiel does though describes a time when Israel will dwell safely.

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? (Ezekiel 38:14)

Then, in the very next two verses, we do see the equivalent of the words "sudden destruction."

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:** **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. (Ezekiel 38:15-16)

The attack will be at a time when Israel dwells in "safety", and has been re-gathered back into their land, a "land of unwalled villages," as we saw earlier in Ezekiel 38:8. In Ezekiel's time, walls protected villages. Only today are villages unwalled. The attack will come "in the latter years," or just prior to the "day of the Lord" (the Great Tribulation). The temptation of easy spoil prods Gog to invade Israel. God provides the temptation by the "hook" in Gog's jaw. Some believe this invasion may be the catalyst for the Antichrist to move to occupy Israel, much as our United Nations Peacekeeping Forces today.⁴² Many believe that it is for these reasons that the most likely time frame for the Gog and Magog invasion will be during the red horse rider's ride at the conclusion of the false peace of the Antichrist's white horse ride of Revelation 6:2, during the first half of the seven-year tribulation, and perhaps shortly before its midpoint. Therefore, this invasion, some say, may take place in the middle of the seven-year covenant, which causes Israel to dwell in safety, but which, in reality, is an agreement with hell.⁴³ The invasion thus breaks the covenant, and the defeat of Gog eliminates the Russian-Muslim world threat, facilitates the Antichrist's worldwide

leadership power-grab, and begins the second half, or Great Tribulation period.

However, there are good reasons to believe that this Gog and Magog invasions will occur at least 3-1/2 years prior to the onset of the Tribulation. Previously we subscribed to the view that this war occurred as late as mid-tribulation. It is now our view that the Gog and Magog war takes place at least 3-1/2 years before the Tribulation because Ezekiel's prophecy requires that Israel take seven years to burn the weapons in addition to seven months to bury the dead (Eze 39:9, 11, 12). The burning of the weapons must be complete by mid-Tribulation because Israel flees Antichrist at that point and will prevent their burning the weapons for a full seven years (Dan 9:27); Mat 24:15-22; Rev 12:14).⁴⁴

Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, **We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement;** when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for **we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:**... **And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand;** when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. (Isaiah 28:14-15, 18)

And he shall confirm **the covenant** with many for one week: **and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate,** even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. (Daniel 9:27)

In Ezekiel 38:14 we see that Israel is dwelling "safely" in her land at the time of the invasion. This has caused many to assume that this war must occur during the first half of the Tribulation. However, this is not what the word translated "safely" implies. The word is "betach" which means "securely", without a feeling of trust. It also means "confident" and as such "can mean unsuspecting or overconfident." In fact, this same word is translated by the KJV as "carelessly" in Ezekiel 39:6, and therefore could be so rendered "carelessly" instead of "safely" in Ezekiel 38:8, 11, and 14. The condition of Israel dwelling in her land today fits the meaning of "betach" (confident, careless, secure). The war of Gog and Magog may occur at any moment.⁴⁵

As a result of this war Russia and her allies will be utterly defeated. For those that do not see Russia

referenced in Ezekiel's verses, the invaders are still unavoidably identified as consisting of predominantly Muslim countries who will ultimately fail in their invasion attempt. Why would Russia attempt such an invasion?

The Hook

What would prod Russia to attack Israel? To the west of Russia lies the German dominated European Union, and to the south and east are China and Japan. Each of these are traditional enemies of Russia. With a hopeless economy, Russia is dependent on the export of arms and raw material. Russia has been exporting technology and raw material to China, who in turn has been strengthening their alliance with technologically superior Japan. The European Union and the China-Japanese alliance threaten the security of Russia, who sees their best hope in developing a power base to the south with the Muslim nations. Through these alliances, Russia may be forcibly drawn into conflict with Israel on the side of the Muslim nations, as predicted by Ezekiel.⁴⁶

The Muslims have no middle ground where Christians and Jews are concerned. To the militant Muslim, the world is divided into two camps, either *dar al-islam* (believers) or *dar al-harb* (unbelievers, or infidels). To the Muslim, one is either a follower of Islam or a follower of Satan. In the mind of the militant Muslim, both the United States and Israel are partners in a conspiracy against Islam and the Muslim world.⁴⁷

The principal ally of Russia will be Persia (Iran), whose former president, Hasamir Rafsanjani, in 1991, clearly stated to his High Command, "The objective is to eliminate the West from the Middle East and to liberate Jerusalem." Russia has a signed military assistance treaty with Iran. Current President Ahmadinejad is leading Iran to become the dominant nuclear power in the middle east and has call for Israel to be wiped off the map. Iran is emerging as the dominant leader in the world of Islam. Iran, now becoming a nuclear power, is well supplied with military capability by Russia, North Korea, China, and Kazakhstan.⁴⁸ In 1992, Iran took advantage of the collapse of the Soviet Union by purchasing nuclear warheads from Kazakhstan. If Israel attacks Iran's nuclear facilities, Russia's agreements with Iran may spark an excuse for Russia to devise an attack against Israel at a time Israel is most confident and unsuspecting. These conditions may exist as a result of Israel neutralizing her immediate neighbors, Gaza (Hamas), Syria, Lebanon (Hezbollah), Egypt, and Iran. Rivaling Turkey, Iran's goal is to control the Middle East and spread their Shiite form of Islamic fundamentalism.⁴⁹ God has a purpose too.

God's Purpose

God will use Gog.

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 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: (Ezekiel 38:3-4)

God is in control. He will put the "hook" into the jaw of Gog and pull him against Israel. God's purpose is to demonstrate that He is Lord, to bring glory unto himself, to redeem sinful men (a sign to the nations), and to begin the final restoration of Israel.⁵⁰ We see God's purpose expressed in the following verses of Ezekiel:

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; **I do not this for your sakes**, O house of Israel, **but for mine holy name's sake**, which **ye have profaned among the heathen**, whither ye went. And **I will sanctify my great name**, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and **the heathen shall know that I am the LORD**, saith the Lord GOD, **when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes**. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.... **Not for your sakes do I this**, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. (Ezekiel 36:22-24, 32)

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**.... 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**. (Ezekiel 38:16, 23)

And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and **they shall know that I am the LORD**. **So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel**; and I will not let

them pollute my holy name any more: and **the heathen shall know that I am the LORD**, the Holy One in Israel.... And **I will set my glory among the heathen**, and **all the heathen shall see my judgment** that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So **the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God** from that day and forward.... Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will **I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;** (Ezekiel 39:6-7, 21-22, 25)

God's ultimate purpose is to save His people. We are told that not only the Jews, but Gentiles will also be saved during the "last days" Tribulation.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of **all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands... And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** (Revelation 7:9, 14)

God has a purpose, but He also has a plan.

God's Battle Plan

God will use several means to destroy Gog and his invading armies. He first will send a great earthquake.

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**. 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**; 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.** (Ezekiel 38:18-20)

Next, God will confuse men's minds so that every man's sword will turn against his brother. Gog's armies will fight against each other. This may be because of the multi-national, multi-language coalition.

Anyone not speaking the same language will be considered the enemy.⁵¹ It could also be that serious disputes will occur between each of the nations of the coalition, so that they end up choosing sides.

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.** (Ezekiel 38:21)

After this, God will send a pestilence (a plague) to decimate Gog's armies. And finally, God will use fire and brimstone to destroy completely Gog's armies.

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.** (Ezekiel 38:22)

We can speculate a bit about the language of Ezekiel 38:21 and 22 in light of the current war in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the threat of terrorist attacks at home. Notice that, "everyman's sword is against his brother." The world is choosing sides in this conflict. "Pestilence and blood" conjures images of terrorist attacks ranging from hijacking and crashing airplanes, to anthrax attacks. "Great hailstones, fire, and brimstones," in modern terminology, may be missiles and jet aircraft raining devastation ("an overflowing rain"), or possibly a nuclear attack. Will Russia's move against Israel spark a nuclear exchange between Russia and the United States? Will the United States be thus neutralized? Once God defeats the attacking armies, He will send His fire against Gog's homeland.

Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And **I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel**: And **I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel**, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. And **I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am**

the LORD. So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. (Ezekiel 39:1-7)

God will so utterly destroy Gog and his armies that it will take Israel seven months to bury the dead.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the **east of the sea**: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: **and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude**: and they shall call it **The valley of Hamongog**. And **seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them**, that they may cleanse the land. (Ezekiel 39:11-12)

Notice that Gog's burial place is located "east of the sea." This probably refers to the mountains of Abarim, east of the Dead Sea, in ancient Moab, which will then be renamed "Hamon-gog," or "the Valley of the Hordes of Gog." All bodies of Gog's armies will be taken to this valley for burial. They will establish a new city at the burial site to serve those who are cleansing the land. The name of the city will be "Hamonah," or "Hordes."

And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: **after the end of seven months shall they search**. And the passengers that pass through the land, when any **seeth a man's bone**, then shall he set up a sign by it, till **the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog**. And also the name of **the city shall be Hamonah**. Thus shall they cleanse the land. (Ezekiel 39:14-16)

Bones may be all that is left to bury (verse 15), as we see that birds and animals will pick the carcasses clean.

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: **I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured**. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.... And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto **every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the**

field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I **do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood**. Ye shall **eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth**, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall **eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken**, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus **ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD**. (Ezekiel 39:4-5, 17-20)

In addition to burying bodies, Ezekiel says it will take seven years to burn the weapons as a source of energy.

And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall **set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years**: So that **they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire**: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD. (Ezekiel 39:9-10)

We have seen Gog's epitaph, but who is he really?

Who Is Gog?

Gog is clearly the leader of the people of Magog. Some call him, the "Prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal."⁵² "Gog" means "high supreme, a height, or a high mountain." The meaning of the word "Gog" points to it being a title like Czar, President, or General, rather than the name of a person.⁵³ His identity cannot be known for certain, but the Septuagint version of Amos 7:1 has a different translation than what we find in our English Bibles.

Thus the Lord showed me, and behold a swarm of locusts were coming, and, behold, **one of the young devastating locusts was Gog, the King**. (Amos 7:1 LXX)⁵⁴

Proverbs 30:27 indicates that "the locusts have no king." The locust of Amos may be thus interpreted as not natural locusts. Revelation chapter 9 describes demon locusts as having a king. This leads to a better

understanding of the reappearance of Gog in Revelation 20:8 (the post-millennium rebellion) as a demon king. In Daniel chapter 10 we see mention of the demon powers behind each of the major governments on earth. If it can be associated with Gog, the Sumerian word "gug" means darkness.⁵⁵ Gog may be controlled by a demon.

The language of Ezekiel makes it clear that Gog is a person, and according to Ezekiel 38:15 and 39:1-2 he comes from "the north parts." The *New American Standard Bible* indicates "the remotest parts of the north," while the *New International Version* says that Gog is from the "far north." The location of Gog's home is in the direction that is remotely north of Israel. The Caucasus mountain range is between the Black and Caspian Seas in the southern part of the former Soviet Union. It is enlightening to realize that the word "Caucasus" means "Gog's Fort," and is derived from the words "Gog" and "Chasan" (fort). Like the rider on the red horse of Revelation 6:4, Gog's intent is to wage war.⁵⁶

Could Gog and Magog Be Armageddon?

That the Gog and Magog invasion and Armageddon are two different events can be seen in that certain facts pertain only to the Gog and Magog war of Ezekiel 38 and 39, while other facts pertain only to the battle of Armageddon. In the Gog and Magog war we find the following to be true: (1) Only certain nations are involved; (2) Civil war breaks out in the ranks of the invading army; (3) The Jews bury the dead; (4) The invasion is from the north; (5) Israel is dwelling in safety; and (6) Israel has allies. In the battle at Armageddon we find the following to be true: (1) All nations are involved; (2) Vultures bury the dead; (3) The beast and the false prophet are taken; (4) Satan is now imprisoned; (5) The invasion is from the east; (6) The invasion is stated to be incited by demons; (7) The war is fought by the returning Christ; (8) The great tribulation is in progress.⁵⁷

Therefore, the Gog and Magog invasion should not be confused with the battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:12-16), which occurs at the time of the Second Coming of Christ. Gog and Magog is a war between select nations, while Armageddon is a world conflict. During the Gog and Magog invasion the armies of Gog will fall on the mountains of Israel, while at Armageddon the invading armies will assemble on the Plain of Esdraelon, below Megiddo, and perish during the final battle at the Lord's return.⁵⁸

Where Does Daniel 11:40-45 Fit?

Some commentators attempt to link Daniel's account of the actions of the King of the South, to include Egypt in the conflict as an ally of Gog. We will present this view for reference, but do not believe that Ezekiel 38-39 and Daniel 11:40-45 represent the same conflict.

Following this section we will explain why we believe Ezekiel and Daniel are not parallel accounts. As you follow this narrative, keep in mind that it is a good description of the movements of the Antichrist's armies during the Tribulation if you leave out the forced references of the participation of Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38-39.

Commentators who believe that Daniel 11:40-45 and Ezekiel 38-39 are the same conflict, and also believe that they both occur during the Tribulation, believe that because of the covenant, the intervention of the Antichrist as an ally of Israel is plausible (Daniel 11:36-45). If this is the correct view, then the Gog and Magog invasion may be an introductory battle to a larger conflict, which ultimately will culminate in the final battle known as Armageddon. Then Egypt will be brought into the conflict, as predicted by Daniel, as the King of the South. It's possible, since Egypt is not mentioned in Ezekiel 38 and 39, that Egypt will only be brought into the conflict, as a result of the actions of the Antichrist and his armies, after the destruction of Gog and his armies as described by Ezekiel. Egypt is Mizraim, a son of Ham, and brother to Cush and Phut (Gen 10:6).

There are many characteristics of Ezekiel 38-39 that are absent from Daniel 11:40-45 reinforcing the belief that Daniel 11:40-45 is a Tribulation event separate from the Gog and Magog war. We will now describe Daniel's prophecy from the perspective of some commentators who believe that Daniel 11:40-45 and Ezekiel 38-39 represent the same conflict.

The first thing we notice in Daniel's prophecy is that a willful king enters the stage of world history. This king sounds very much like Satan proclaiming his five "I wills" in Isaiah chapter 14:

How art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer**, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.** (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Notice now in Daniel 11:36:

And the king shall do according his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. (Daniel 11:36)

This clearly speaks of the Antichrist. He will have great pride and will exalt himself above every god. He will speak blasphemy against God. The words "marvelous things" can be rendered "monstrous things." At first he will succeed, deceiving all. He will be "all things to all people." He will look like the Messiah to the Jews, and will be the ideal of the humanists. He will look like Christ to apostate Christianity. A panic-stricken world will run after him "till the indignation be accomplished." The "indignation" is God's indignation against the nation of Israel, which rejected Jesus as Messiah and proclaimed the following:⁵⁹

Then answered **all** the people, and said, **His blood be on us, and on our children.**
(Matthew 27:25)

This rejection has lasted nearly 2000 years. The Great Tribulation will finally open Israel's eyes.⁶⁰ The description of the Antichrist continues:

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. (Daniel 11:37)

That he will not "regard the God of his fathers" could indicate that he comes from a religious family, possibly Jewish.⁶¹ There is no evidence anywhere in Scripture that he is Jewish. Daniel foretells that the Antichrist comes from the last day's revival of the Roman Empire:

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and **the people [Romans] of the prince [Antichrist] that shall come shall destroy the city [Jerusalem] and the sanctuary [the Temple];** and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. (Daniel 9:26)

In the above verse, the "people" of the future "prince" are the Romans, who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD.

Referring again to Daniel 11:37, the inference of "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers" is that he will not regard the God worshiped by his ancestors.⁶² It may be that he comes from a pagan family, believing in many gods, but he will have none of that. This is supported by the fact that many experts believe the wording should be instead, "the gods of his fathers." The plural, "gods," then is a reference to pagan gods. This means the Antichrist would be a non-Christian Gentile.⁶³

That he will not regard (value, esteem) the "desire of women" has the possible meaning that down through

the ages the desire of the Jewish mother was to be the mother of the Messiah. Since they do not believe that the Messiah has come, that desire is still valid. Another possible meaning of "desire of women" is that he will be a homosexual.⁶⁴ A simple explanation is that he has no time or thought for women.⁶⁵

One other possibility is that since this statement, "desire of women," is placed in context between two nouns referring to actual gods, it must refer to some individual deity sought after by women, such as the Goddess of Nature worshiped primarily by women throughout history. This goddess is Beltis, or Mylitta, of the Babylonians. The Assyrians called her Ishtar. To the Phoenicians she was Astarte. She is the Queen of Heaven mentioned by Jeremiah. She is Tanata of the Persians, Isis of the Egyptians, Shing Moo (Holy Mother) of the Chinese, Aphrodite of the Greeks, Artemis (Diana) of the Ephesians, and Venus of the Romans. She is Friga of the Scandinavians. She is found as Amida, with her son Xaca, found by Francis Xavier as the goddess of Japan. She is also the woman to be worshiped as indicated by Strauss, Comte, and the Theosophists. She is today the Virgin Mary of the Eastern and Western Catholics. In this regard she is "Our Lady of Lourdes" and "Fatima," and numerous other appearances venerated by the Catholics.⁶⁶ That he will not regard any god, and even exalts himself above all gods, indicates that he will oppose pagan gods as well as God almighty.⁶⁷ The Antichrist's god is a very different god entirely, as we see in the next verse.

But in his estate shall he **honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not** shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.
(Daniel 11:38)

Satan is the "God of forces". This is whom the Antichrist will give his allegiance to.⁶⁸ "Forces" indicates power. The Antichrist will spend great wealth to obtain power, and use it to honor his god, Satan. He will place great confidence in military power, used to solidify world domination and control.⁶⁹ Notice that Revelation clearly indicates that Antichrist (the beast) obtains his power, position, and authority from Satan (the dragon).

And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.... And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast:** and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? **who is able to make war with him?**
(Revelation 13:2, 4)

The Antichrist is a Satan worshipper.

Thus shall he do in **the most strong holds with a strange god**, whom **he shall acknowledge and increase with glory**; and **he shall cause them to rule over many**, and **shall divide the land for gain**. (Daniel 11:39)

He will acknowledge and build up his god (Satan) among the strongholds of world power. This is false religion. He will appoint his own supporters to positions of power as well. He will divide up the land of Israel and apportion it to his most trusted followers.⁷⁰ Now watch what he does:

And at the time of the end shall **the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind**, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (Daniel 11:40)

In Daniel's prophecy we see that the Kings of the North and South enter the battle simultaneously. This would include Gog with his northern and southern alliance. It would also appear that armies of Antichrist enter the battle on the side of Israel. Israel is being attacked from the north and south. As we have seen, the armies of Gog are to fall by the hand of God, and utterly destroyed.⁷¹ The Antichrist enters Israel (the glorious land) with his armies.

He shall enter also into **the glorious land**, and many countries shall be overthrown: but **these shall escape** out of his hand, even **Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon**. (Daniel 11:41)

For **I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle**; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (Zechariah 14:2)

He will lose control over the eastern part of his one world empire.⁷² In Revelation chapter 12 there is additional insight regarding Edom, Moab, and Ammon:

And **the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand**

two hundred and threescore days. (Revelation 12:6)

The wilderness is most likely the area of Edom, Moab, and Ammon. Petra is located in Edom. Many believe that Israel will flee to Petra during this time as reported in Isaiah.

Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from **Sela [Petra]** to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon. Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. **Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land**. And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness. (Isaiah 16:1-5)

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. (Isaiah 26:20-21)

Today the country of Jordan represents Edom, Moab, and Ammon.⁷³ "Sela" is Petra.⁷⁴

Continuing now into the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist and his western coalition (the armies of his revived Roman Empire - Rev 13:1, 2; 17:7-18; Dan 7:7, 8, 15-24), now enter the scene. After the defeat of Gog, Antichrist moves his armies south toward the southern nations of Gog's armies.⁷⁵ It is at this time that Egypt may enter the battle for the first time. Antichrist is also after the wealth of the African Continent.

He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and **the land of Egypt shall not escape**. But **he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps**. (Daniel 11:42-43)

Disturbing news will soon reach Antichrist concerning threats from the north and east. If Antichrist's armies are in the African nations, then to the northeast of them is Israel. Israel may be getting nervous and rebelling.⁷⁶

But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. (Daniel 11:44)

The Antichrist will turn around and march into Israel, destroying and annihilating many. He will then establish his headquarters in Jerusalem, between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.⁷⁷

And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. (Daniel 11:45)

From this point, the Antichrist will begin his reign of terror, culminating in the battle of Armageddon. While Antichrist prepares to battle the threat of the Kings of the East, Jesus returns and does battle with Antichrist and the remaining nations. The Eastern and Western (Revived Roman Empire) nations, which have now ceased their hostilities toward one another, join forces against the new threat coming from the sky.⁷⁸ The return of Jesus Christ will finally defeat the Antichrist and his unbelieving hordes at the battle known as Armageddon.

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of **the kings of the east** might be prepared. (Revelation 16:12)

And I saw heaven opened, and behold **a white horse**; and **he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True**, and **in righteousness he doth judge and make war....** And **he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS....** And I saw **the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.** And **the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.** And **the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the**

horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:11, 16, 19-21)

Contrary to the foregoing narrative, we believe that it is better to view the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45 as a separate event that occurs during the Tribulation involving the Antichrist and his armies, not including the armies of Gog. A comparison of Ezekiel 38-39 and Daniel 11:40-45 reveal that a significant number of characteristics of Ezekiel 38-39 are missing from Daniel 11:40-45. These missing characteristics are listed by Douglas Berner as follows:

Characteristics of Ezekiel missing from Daniel:

1. *Israel "dwelling securely" in the land at the time of Daniel 11:40.*
2. *The presence of God or any first person statement by God.*
3. *God's anger being aroused against any of the leaders mentioned.*
4. *God's judgment being inflicted directly as a result of the invasion.*
5. *An earthquake, fire from heaven, or any of the other destructive elements of Ezekiel 38.*
6. *The armies turning against themselves so that the soldiers will be fighting their own allies.*
7. *Any aspect of this series of battles or destruction having direct global consequences.*
8. *All the people on the earth shaking in fear at the presence and judgment of God.*
9. *The destruction of the armies being the direct result of God's supernatural intervention.*
10. *The destruction of the armies being responsible for Israel and the nations knowing God.*
11. *God's name being exalted or magnified as a result.*
12. *God's sacrifice - the feasting of the birds and beasts on the dead armies.*
13. *The burying of the dead and the cleansing of the land.*
14. *The burning of the weapons or the plundering of the dead soldiers.*
15. *The destruction of the "king of the north" resulting in a phase of restoration for Israel.*

Characteristics of Daniel missing from Ezekiel:

16. *The end-time leader described as "him" or "he" of Daniel 11:40.*
17. *Any leader or leadership group of Israel at all.*
18. *Any kings - none of Gog's allies are described as kings - particularly the king of the south.*

19. Egypt, by name or description, or particularly by the title "king of the south."
20. None of the specific leaders of Gog's allies is even mentioned at all.
21. Any leader conquering Israel, or successfully passing through Israel to attack North Africa.
22. Gog and Magog being counterattacked and defeated by any other end-time leader's army.

As can be seen above, Ezekiel 38-39 and Daniel 11:40-45 do not compliment each other, and is not simply a matter of one supplying additional information not found in the other. These are two separate events.⁷⁹

Why Is All This Important?

The actual timeframe of the Gog and Magog invasion is unknown. There are those that support time frames ranging from pre-rapture to pre, mid, or end of the tribulation. There are even some that believe the Gog and Magog invasion will take place at the beginning or end of the millennium. John Phillips, and others, see the Gog and Magog invasion occurring during the time of the seven-year pact with Israel, after the Rapture, after the rise of the Antichrist, and still at a time when Israel dwells in safety.⁸⁰ World events are fast taking shape that makes this battle a real possibility for the very near future. It could conceivably happen at any moment, but it must be at a time when Israel is dwelling confidently (almost carelessly) in her own land. We should ever be watchful for the signs of Christ's return, and the prophetic events leading to the Gog and Magog invasion should serve as a warning for His imminent return. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus spoke of discerning the signs of the times.

He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, **ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?** (Matthew 16:2-3)

Paul also gave us clues to the signs of the last days in his second letter to Timothy.

This know also, that in the last days **perilous times shall come**. For men shall be **lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more**

than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Jesus also had this to say about the signs of the last days.

Then said he unto them, **Nation shall rise against nation**, and kingdom against kingdom: And **great earthquakes** shall be in divers places, and **famines**, and **pestilences**; and **fearful sights** and **great signs shall there be from heaven**. (Luke 21:10-11)

The Bible has plenty more to say, but don't the preceding verses seem to be the signs of these times? One thing is certain, you do not want to be on the wrong side in this cosmic conflict that has been waging throughout all of history. God preached the first Gospel message to Adam and Eve in the garden after their fall.

And I will put **enmity between thee and the woman**, and **between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel**. (Genesis 3:15)

This cosmic battle has waged throughout history with Satan's efforts to defeat Messiah (the promised seed). But God has shown us that Messiah will receive a non-fatal wound to His heel, as fulfilled by His death and glorious resurrection. Satan (the serpent's seed) will receive the deathblow to the head.

It is not too late to get on the winning side. The time is now. Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and avoid the eternal devastation of the last judgment.

And I saw **a great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw **the dead, small and great, stand before God**; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works....** And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire**. (Revelation 20:11-12, 15)

Nicodemus asked Jesus some pertinent questions, and was told that: "Except a man be **born again**, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Being "**born again**" (a changed, committed life in Christ)

is not an option to the Christian. Without being born again, unrepentant man cannot **see** correctly; his very thoughts are futile (Romans 1:21-22). The first step is to determine to get right with God, acknowledge that you are a sinner, and ask forgiveness (Romans 3:23). Then make a commitment to follow Jesus, making Him the Lord of your life. Romans 10:9 says that if we **confess the Lord Jesus** with our mouths, and **believe** in our hearts **that He was raised from the dead**, then **we will be saved**. But, how can you **believe** unless you have **heard** the Word of God (Romans 10:14-15)? Romans 10:17 gives the answer: "So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**"

Give God a try; what can you lose? Begin by talking to God in **prayer**, first asking for forgiveness, then pray regularly, unceasingly, talking to God in your own words. Get hold of a Bible and **read** the Gospel of John. Find a good Bible believing church, so that you can **hear** the Word of God and **fellowship** with other believers. Remember, "**faith** (belief) comes by **hearing** and **reading** the Word of God. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 to: "**Seek ye first the kingdom of God**, and His righteousness; and all these things [your needs] shall be added unto you." Remember we spoke about seeing the kingdom of God earlier. What is that kingdom? Paul answers that question in Romans 14:17: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**" Perhaps you have been seeking the wrong things in life?

Let me share with you the last written words of my friend Jack O'Keefe, a man of whom it can truly be said that he tried to make a difference in an indifferent world. After sharing information about distressing events happening in our country and world, he writes:

One item of caution: reading such material, seeing videos of what's happening and has happened, etc., can really get you down. Replace some of the propaganda reading and the TV with the Bible and sincere prayer for God's guidance, protection, discernment and strength. Keep your eye on Jesus as your Guide and you can't go wrong. Don't you think it's time to take His offered Hand instead of trying to do it all yourself?

Right on Jack! You are in His hands now. Aloha Jack. See you later. AΩ

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