

“THE END TIMES”

The Battle of Gog and Magog

Pastor Grant Williams 08/27/14 Week #8

Our world is not stranger to war. History tells us that in all of recorded history there has been less than 225 years of peace in this world. In the past thirty to forty years, most of the world's wars have been located in the middle east region. So when we think of Gog and Magog what makes this so special?

Ezekiel 38:1-23 Amplified Bible (AMP)

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

2 Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of [a]Magog, the prince of Rosh, of Meshech, and of Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 And say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince (ruler) of Rosh, of Meshech, and of Tubal.

4 And I will turn you back and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you forth and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords—

5 Persia, Cush, and Put or Libya with them, all of them with shield and helmet,

6 Gomer and all his hordes, the house of Togarmah in the uttermost parts of the north and all his hordes—many people are with you.

7 You [Gog] be prepared; yes, prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and you be a guard and a commander for them.

8 After many days you shall be visited and mustered [for service]; in the latter years you shall go against the land that is restored from the ravages of the sword, where people are gathered out of many nations upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste; but its [people] are brought forth out of the nations and they shall dwell securely, all of them.

9 You shall ascend and come like a storm; you shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your hosts and many people with you.

10 Thus says the Lord God: At the same time thoughts shall come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan.

11 And you will say, I will go up against an open country [the land of unwallled villages]; I will fall upon those who are at rest, who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls and having neither bars nor gates,

12 To take spoil and prey, to turn your hand upon the desolate places now inhabited and assail the people gathered out of the nations, who have obtained livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth [Palestine].

13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish, with all their lionlike cubs [or satellite areas], shall say to you, Have you come to take spoil? Have you gathered your hosts to take the prey? To carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take a great spoil?

14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord God: In that day when My people Israel dwell securely, will you not know it and be aroused?

15 And you will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army.

16 And you shall come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. In the latter days I will bring you against My land, that the nations may know, understand, and realize Me when My holiness shall be vindicated through you [vindicated and honored in your overwhelming destruction], O Gog, before their eyes.

17 Thus says the Lord God: Are you he of whom I have spoken in olden times by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for years that I would bring you [Gog] against them?

18 But in that day when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, says the Lord God, My wrath shall come up into My nostrils.

19 For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath have I said, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking or cosmic catastrophe in the land of Israel,

20 So that the fishes of the sea and the birds of the heavens, 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 tremble and shake at My presence; and the mountains shall be thrown down and the steep places shall fall and every wall [natural or artificial] shall fall to the ground.

21 And I will call for a sword against [Gog] throughout all My mountains, says the Lord God, every man's sword shall be against his brother [over the dividing of booty].

22 And with pestilence and with bloodshed will I enter into judgment with [Gog], and I will rain upon him and upon his hordes and upon the many peoples that are with him torrents of rain and great hailstones, fire and brimstone.

23 Thus will I demonstrate My greatness and My holiness, and I will be recognized, understood, and known in the eyes of many nations; yes, they shall know that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service].

Ezekiel 39:1-29 Amplified Bible (AMP)

1 And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince (ruler) of Rosh, of Meshech, and of Tubal.

2 And I will turn you about and will lead you on, and will cause you to come up from the uttermost parts of the north and will lead you against the mountains of Israel;

3 And I will smite your bow from your left hand and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand.

4 You shall fall [dead] upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your hosts and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to the ravenous birds of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

5 You shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken [it], says the Lord God.

6 I will send fire on Magog and upon those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service].

7 And I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name any more; and the nations shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

8 Behold, it is coming and it will be done, says the Lord God; that is the day of which I have spoken.

9 And [when you, Gog, are no longer] they who dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth and shall set on fire and burn the battle gear, the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, the handspikes or riding whips and the spears; and they shall burn them as fuel for seven years,

10 So that My people shall take no firewood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they shall make their fires of the weapons. And they shall despoil those who despoiled them and plunder those who plundered them, says the Lord God.

11 And in that day, I will give to Gog a place for burial there in Israel, the valley of those who pass through on the east side in front of the [Dead] Sea [the highway between Syria, Petra, and Egypt], and it will delay and stop those who pass through. And there shall they [a]bury Gog and all his multitude, and they shall call it the Valley of Hamon-gog [multitude of Gog].

12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, that they may cleanse the land.

13 Yes, all the people of the land will bury them, and it shall bring them renown in the day that I shall be glorified, says the Lord God.

14 And they shall set apart men to work continually who shall pass through the land, men commissioned to bury, with the help of those who are passing by, those bodies that lie unburied on the face of the ground, in order to cleanse the land. After the end of seven months they shall make their search.

15 And when these pass through the land and anyone sees a human bone, he shall set up a marker by it as a sign to the buriers, until they have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog or of Gog's multitude.

16 And Hamonah [multitude] shall also be the name of the city [of the dead]. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

17 And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God: Say to the birds of prey of every sort and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves and come, gather from every side to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, even a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel at which you may eat flesh and drink blood.

18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, of goats, and of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan [east of the Jordan].

19 And you shall eat fat till you are filled and drink blood till you are drunk at the sacrificial feast which I am preparing for you.

20 And you shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men, and with soldiers of every kind, says the Lord God.

21 And I will manifest My honor and glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgment and justice [in the punishment] which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them.

22 So the house of Israel shall know, understand, and realize beyond all question that I am the Lord their God from that day forward.

23 And the nations shall know, understand, and realize positively that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they trespassed against Me; and I hid My face from them. So I gave them into the hand of their enemies and they all fell [into captivity or were slain] by the power of the sword.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them and hid My face from them.

25 Therefore thus says the Lord God: Now will I reverse the captivity of Jacob and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel and will be jealous for My holy name.

26 They shall forget their shame and self-reproach and all their treachery and unfaithfulness in which they have transgressed against Me, when they dwell securely in their land and there is none who makes them afraid.

27 When I have brought them again from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and My justice and holiness are set apart and vindicated through them in the sight of many nations,

28 Then shall they know, understand, and realize positively that I am the Lord their God, because I sent them into captivity and exile among the nations and then gathered them to their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations any more [in the latter days].

29 Neither will I hide My face any more then from them, when I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord God.

There are several elements of this battle that make it significant in history:

1. This battle was prophesied in Ezekiel chapter 38-39 which in and of itself isn't that significant since many battles including Armageddon have been prophesied in scripture. What makes this battle significant is first, it gives us a list of the major nations involved.

2. This battle was prophesied some 2,600 years ago, it is a battle that is specifically related to End Times prophecy.
3. The enormous armies that will be involved in the battle. The size of the army attacking Israel, can only be defeated by direct intervention of God. There is not other explanation of the final results of this battle.
4. Note that this is not a war. Wars can happen over a period of time and with many venues. This battle happens at one time and on one venue. In fact probably the only thing comparable to they battle will be Armageddon.
5. I want to point out that this battle is not Armageddon. The listing of nations involved in this battle is very specific, but there will be some nations not involved in the battle. The battle of Armageddon will involve all the countries of the world.
6. This battle, more than any other battle in history will display the sovereignty of God, and how God is determined to protect his chosen people.

So, what we are going to look at today concerning this battle are the countries involved, the timing of the battle, and the aftermath of the battle. I'm sure you will see that many aspects of this battle are being prepared even as I'm speaking tonight.

1. Who are the countries involved?

Ezekiel is very specific about many of the countries involved in the prophecy. The names he calls them here may not be familiar to you but when I give you their modern day names I think you'll be surprised by some.

Now, look at the first seven verses of Ezekiel 38. This is where the major countries involved with the battle are identified. It should not be surprising that many of the nations named here can be traced back to the descendants of Noah in Genesis 10.

Ezekiel 38 Amplified Bible (AMP)

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

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

3 And say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince (ruler) of Rosh, of Meshech, and of Tubal.

4 And I will turn you back and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you forth and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords—

*5 **Persia**, **Cush**, and **Put or Libya** with them, all of them with shield and helmet,*

*6 **Gomer** and all his hordes, the house of **Togarmah** in the uttermost parts of the north and all his hordes—many people are with you.*

7 You [Gog] be prepared; yes, prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and you be a guard and a commander for them.

The one name mentioned in this passage that is not a country is the name Gog, it is the name of a leader. The word means “ruler” or “the man on top.” In verse 2, Gog is explicitly called “the prince”. Ezekiel is by most biblical scholars accounts, identifying the leader of this massive army as “Gog”.

Now, we are going to go through the names of the countries listed in Ezekiel and identify them as to their location/modern name today:

1. Magog:

History tells us that the ancient Scythians inhabited the land of Magog. The Scythians were northern nomadic tribes who inhabited territory from Central Asia across the souther parts of modern Asia across the souther parts of modern Russia.

This would include the following countries: Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

2. Rosh:

There is common thought among most scholars for reasons that we won't get into today that Rosh is modern day Russia.

3. Meshech and Tubal:

They are identified in ancient history with the Mushki and Tabal of the Assyrians and the Moschi and Tibareni of the Greeks who inhabited territory that is now part of the nation of turkey.

4. Persia:

There is no doubt about the identity of this country. It held it's name until march 1935 when it became the nation of Iran.

5. Cush:

This word is often translated "Ethiopia" in modern versions. But it is more than that. History locates Cush directly south of ancient Egypt extending down past the modern city of Khartoum which is the capital of modern day Sudan. This means that Cush includes the countries of Ethiopia and the Sudan.

6. Put:

It is clear from ancient history that Put was a north African nation. From the ancient Babylonian Chronicle it appears that Put was the distant land to the west of Egypt, which would be modern day Libya.

7. Gomer:

The Gomerites were identified with the Galatians who inhabited what today is Central Turkey. Thus Gomer then is part of what is now Turkey.

8. Togarmah or (Beth-Togarmah)

This country also has its origin in certain parts of what is now called Turkey.

Now, Ezekiel is also clear on two other aspects concerning nations. He clearly states that there will be other nations involved but remain unnamed. Ezekiel also points out in Verse 13...

Ezekiel 38:13 AMP

13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish, with all their lionlike cubs [or satellite areas], shall say to you, Have you come to take spoil? Have you gathered your hosts to take the prey? To carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take a great spoil?

So, there will be countries that will not be involved in the invasion:

Namely the countries around the Arabian Peninsula and some western countries that some theologians included England and other countries that are related to her - Canada and the United States.

All the countries involved are going to be allied in atleast three areas:

1. The majority of these countries have oil reserves and are oil producing countries.
2. Islam dominated....Of all the countries mentioned, only two (Georgian and Ethiopia) are not dominated by the Islam religion. Remember, keep two things in mind about Islam that we have studied over the last couple of weeks. They believe that their messiah will come back at a time of great chaos in the world and will do all that they can to create the chaos. Secondly, Islam has a great hatred of Israel and any nation that supports Israel. They want to see the nation of Israel wiped off the map and all Jewish people killed.
3. Something is going to happen to bring about a time of peace for the nation of Israel and it will infuriate these countries surrounding Israel and cause them to attack. A discovery of oil in Israel could easily bring peace for Israel and instability of the economy for the countries surrounding it.

2. The Battle of Gog and Magog

Now, let's talk about the battle, We know that the battle will be a surprise attack from the north.

Ezekiel 38:7-11 AMP

7 You [Gog] be prepared; yes, prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and you be a guard and a commander for them.

8 After many days you shall be visited and mustered [for service]; in the latter years you shall go against the land that is restored from the ravages of the sword, where people are gathered out of many nations upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste; but its [people] are brought forth out of the nations and they shall dwell securely, all of them.

9 You shall ascend and come like a storm; you shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your hosts and many people with you.

10 Thus says the Lord God: At the same time thoughts shall come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan.

11 And you will say, I will go up against an open country [the land of unwallled villages]; I will fall upon those who are at rest, who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls and having neither bars nor gates,

Now, we also know that Israel will stand alone in this battle. There are two reasons for this. First there will be no time for friendly nations to react to this invasion, nor would they be allowed to if they could.

The rise of Islam in the world of countries that once allied themselves with Israel would keep them out of the fight. This leaves Israel on her own against this attack.

Israel is 260 miles at its longest point, 60 miles at its widest point and between 3 and 9 miles at its narrowest point. It has a population of 7.8 million people according to the U.N. in 2010. We also know that Israel has one of the finest if not the best military force in the world.

But, its forces will be no match for this foe. Consider that according to the U.N.'s department of social and economic affairs, the total population of the countries attacking Israel comes to 513,518,706 people.

Now, even if a tenth of the population of these countries made up their armies, they would total 51.3 million soldiers. This is seven times the total population of Israel.

Using the same tenth for Israel it would mean that their army of 742,000 would have to defend against over 51 million soldiers or a ratio of 70 to 1 - these are considered conservative estimates.

Add to this, the nuclear capabilities of Russia and now Iran, the massive financial and material reserves of these countries, Israel would not stand a chance. Israel will not even be allowed to put into operation the "Samson Option".

How is the battle going to be fought?

This battle will prove the old saying “One plus God is a majority”! The interesting thing about this battle is that not one Israeli will be killed. In fact, the Israeli army will not fire a single shot during the battle. They won’t have time to set up a defense.

Israel’s protection will come from God in four awesome ways. They are ways that no person could mistake them as being anything but coming from God.

1. Massive earthquakes

Ezekiel 38:19-20 AMP

19 For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath have I said, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking or cosmic catastrophe in the land of Israel,

20 So that the fishes of the sea and the birds of the heavens, 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 tremble and shake at My presence; and the mountains shall be thrown down and the steep places shall fall and every wall [natural or artificial] shall fall to the ground.

This earthquake will be used to conquer and confuse the invaders.

2. Infighting among the troops of the various nations

In the chaos after the powerful earthquake, the armies of each of the nation will turn against each other.

Ezekiel 38:21 AMP

21 And I will call for a sword against [Gog] throughout all My mountains, says the Lord God, every man's sword shall be against his brother [over the dividing of booty].

This is not a new tactic for God to use. he used it in the book of Judges chapter 7 and 8 when 135,000 men marched against Israel. By the time that battle was finished God had killed 120,000 men.

Let's say you were in a sword fight and the lights go out. What are you going to do to protect yourself? Kill anything that moves around you. There are no friends or comrades at that point. Today we would refer to it as "friendly fire".

3. Disease

Ezekiel 38:22 AMP

22 And with pestilence and with bloodshed will I enter into judgment with [Gog]...

Gog and his troops will experience a horrible lethal plague that will add to the misery and devastation already inflicted. This plague will not be like anything we have seen before. It will be extremely lethal and quick. They will not know how or have the time to come up with an antidote.

4. Torrential rain

Ezekiel 38:22b AMP

...and I will rain upon him and upon his hordes and upon the many peoples that are with him torrents of rain and great hailstones, fire and brimstone.

Hailstones, fire and brimstone just as in Sodom and Gomorrah will be poured out from heaven on the invading army.

3. The Results Of The Battle

When we look at the aftermath of this battle the word of Genesis 12:3 should come to mind...

God was in complete control and cursed those countries that attacked Israel. Keep in mind we are not told the number of casualties of this battle but what we are told is this:

1. The bodies will be eaten by the birds of the air and wild animals.

Ezekiel 39:4 AMP

4 You shall fall [dead] upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your hosts and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to the ravenous birds of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

2. For seven years they will burn the bows and arrows spears and the other weapons used in the battle.

Ezekiel 39:9 AMP

9 And [when you, Gog, are no longer] they who dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth and shall set on fire and burn the battle gear, the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, the handspikes or riding whips and the spears; and they shall burn them as fuel for seven years,

3. For seven months a special detachment from the army will be burying the dead.

Ezekiel 39:11-16 AMP

11 And in that day, I will give to Gog a place for burial there in Israel, the valley of those who pass through on the east side in front of the [Dead] Sea [the highway between Syria, Petra, and Egypt], and it will delay and stop those who pass through. And there shall they [a]bury Gog and all his multitude, and they shall call it the Valley of Hamon-gog [multitude of Gog].

12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, that they may cleanse the land.

13 Yes, all the people of the land will bury them, and it shall bring them renown in the day that I shall be glorified, says the Lord God.

14 And they shall set apart men to work continually who shall pass through the land, men commissioned to bury, with the help of those who are passing by, those bodies that lie unburied on the face of the ground, in order to cleanse the land. After the end of seven months they shall make their search.

15 And when these pass through the land and anyone sees a human bone, he shall set up a marker by it as a sign to the buriers, until they have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog or of Gog's multitude.

16 And Hamonah [multitude] shall also be the name of the city [of the dead]. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

4. The timing of the battle

The important aspect of this battle for us is the timing. It's also the aspect that we cannot be dogmatic about. While we can't say specifically when the battle will take place we can say something about it.

1. It will happen when Israel is at a time of peace
2. It will happen in the last days or end times. Some place this prophecy just before the rapture of the church and other place it just after the rapture of the church at the beginning of the tribulation. They suggest that this battle might be what brings the antichrist to power - not when he reveals himself but to take over for the first 3 1/2 years of peace. There are others who say it will be a combination of both. It will happen before the rapture and the the aftermath of the battle will be felt after the rapture of the church. The exact timing isn't important but what is important is to know that it will happen in the end times and to look for the signs.
3. We know that all of the details necessary for the battle are in place now. Israel has been a nation for 66 years. With the rise of Islam and the oil crisis/high/unstable prices, the identified nations now exhibit a hostility for Israel to the point where they are willing to wipe them off the face of the earth - and make no apologies for it.

4. We know that we are closer to this battle than we have ever been before. It's not just living in the last days as a generality. We have this evidence to point to the fact that Jesus is coming for His children is soon.

So, we can we as Christians do with this information?

Realize that at some point this battle is going to happen and the Lord is coming back for His church. We should be living our lives and being a church that is telling people that Jesus is coming and leading as many people as possible to Him. Lastly, keep looking up for the time of our redemption is at hand.