

Gog Makes His Opening Chess Move!

Part 2

Due to the length of this article, I opted to split it into 2 segments, and not for any other special reasons. There is so much evidence available to demonstrate that we are about to arrive at an event that will alter life as we know it. That said, I wanted to present as much evidence to the reader that would awaken the Christian community to the seriousness of what lies on the near horizon of our world. Let's continue with the exegesis of Ezekiel 39 in our understanding how close we are to the War of Gog and Magog.

39:16. The primary argument is that "Hamonah," which is a feminine form of the Hebrew word for "multitude," is an echo of Ezekiel 7:12ff (2:471f). There the word "multitude" is found three times and refers to the "hordes" of sinning multitudes of people in Jerusalem. There is a certain sense of completeness that the place where God's name had been so badly ill-respected would be the place where Gog's hordes were defeated and buried. The cleansing of the city then prepared the way for Ezekiel 40-48 and the vision of not only a new Temple in Jerusalem but also a new name for it, Yahweh-Shamma "***The Lord is there***" (48:35).

39:17. Verses 17-20 take the defeat of Gog's hordes one step beyond the organized burial parties. Despite the best efforts to systematically locate, move and bury the dead, there would be too much work. Ezekiel was asked to call out to the carrion-eating birds and animals to finish the job. This is first mentioned in vs. 4 and is expanded here.

The language for this invitation comes from the sacrificial system. In a grotesque parody, Ezekiel describes this call as one great big sacrifice, but instead of animals, dead soldiers would be the sacrifices. Keep in mind that verses 17-20 are meant to be read as "a literary cartoon, and realism may be sacrificed for rhetorical effect".

39:18. The parody continues with an appeal to these creatures; they could have the pick of humanity. Bashan was well-known for its herds grazing on its fertile fields. For instance, Amos refers to a class of wicked women as "***cows of Bashan***" -(Amos 4:1).

39:19. In one more gross caricature not only would there be "quality" but there would also be quantity of blood and flesh for the scavenge ring creatures to eat and drink.

39:20. A pattern of paired items is seen in verses 17-20: vs. 17, birds and animals, flesh and blood; vs. 18, mighty men and princes, rams and lambs, goats and bulls; vs. 19, eat and drink; and vs. 20, horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers. The land of Israel is called "***my table,***" another crude metaphor when speaking of the place where a great human carnage had taken place. Throughout verses 17-20, there is created a sense of emotional dissonance: on the one hand is the language of a great sacrificial feast such as enjoyed by Israel in seasons of celebration (e.g., Nehemiah 8:12), but on the other hand is the gruesome imagery of human

flesh and blood being the main course! Ezekiel's intention is not to glorify what would happen to Gog, but in fact, to make us feel the horror of the event. People were going to die in unbelievable numbers.

39:21. Verses 21-28 summarize and give final interpretation to the apocalyptic vision of Gog. This section reviews the messages of both judgment and restoration communicated faithfully to the people throughout Ezekiel's prophetic ministry. It is a synopsis of the entire Book. God's "glory" in Ezekiel has been the display of His power and might as revealed in the opening chapters -(cf. 1:28; 3:23; 8:4). In the defeat of Gog's mighty forces, the might of God would be revealed to be massive and beyond human calculation. The entire world would learn a lesson about Israel's God, a theme that reoccurs in Ezekiel 38-39 (38:16, 23; 39:27). The punishment/judgment refers to the defeat of Gog due to the covetous and cruel nature of Gog's motives for invading a peaceful land -(cf. 38:10-13).

39:22. God was not only concerned about an increased depth of knowledge of Himself among the nations but also about His own people's spiritual understanding -(cf. 39:7, 13).

39:23. A summary of much of Ezekiel's own prophetic ministry of warning about the coming Babylonian conquests of Judah and giving it a proper interpretation from God's point of view - (cf. 20:32-38; 36:17-21). The phrase "*hid I my face*" expresses God's attitude of rejection of His own people because of their sinfulness -(cf. Isaiah 54:8; Jeremiah. 33:5). As it turned out, this turning away was but for a moment.

39:24. In chapter after chapter, Ezekiel sets forth God's prosecution of Israel. They were rebellious -(Ezekiel 2). They were idolatrous -(Ezekiel 8). They were ungrateful of God's blessings -(Ezekiel 16). Their kings were ungodly and unfaithful -(Ezekiel 17 and 19). They trusted in their own abilities to deal with other nations -(Ezekiel 23).

39:25. Even from the beginning of his prophetic ministry, Ezekiel had spoken of God's eventual deliverance of the people from captivity -(cf. 11:17-20). At the heart of God's saving acts is concern for the true knowledge of His character. One of those aspects is His zeal/jealousy for being recognized as the only true God -(cf. Exodus 34:14). This intense jealousy resonates throughout Ezekiel.

39:26. "Disgrace," was the proper attitude that Judah should have had toward their behavior. Their spiritual adultery in Ezekiel 16, in particular, focuses on shame as the result of their behavior -(vv. 52, 54, 56). But now God was looking forward to a new day when they would have learned their lessons and become a changed people.

39:27. More re-emphasis of familiar themes in Ezekiel. For example, God's promise to gather His people is found throughout the book of Ezekiel -(cf. 11:17; 16:37; 20:34, 41; 28:25; 34:13; 36:24; 37:21). God is saving the Jews for His Namesake!

39:28. *“Then will they know that I am the Lord their God”* is the recognition formula found often in Ezekiel -(e.g., 6:7, 10, 14).

39:29. Twice earlier in this section, God mentions His earlier recourse of hiding His face (verses 23f). Now this posture would be changed. His “about face” would result in blessing for Israel. The mention of the Spirit recalls God’s promise given in 36:27 and 37:14. His own divine presence would reside again with His people. This anticipates the divine glory returning in Ezekiel 43. *“The house of Israel”* is Ezekiel’s frequent reference to the Hebrew people of either the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah. So often the phrase in Ezekiel is associated with their sinful ways -(e.g., 6:11; 8:6), but now they would become recipients of God’s Holy Spirit -(cf. Joel 2:28-32). Just as John’s visions of the awful plagues and judgments bring a sense of horror to us as we read the Book of Revelation, so should these two chapters. There should be no sense of jubilation or triumphalism over the death of sinners, even over the death of the likes of Gog’s hordes. Such apocalyptic images in Scripture should cause the believer to work harder for the gospel while it is yet the spiritual day of grace.

Previously, I pointed out the major issues that divide the two different views of the Bible: Reformed/Covenant Theology and Dispensational Theology. In clarification, a recap becomes essential here to point out that most folks that go to mainline Protestant denominational churches are never taught the basics of their denominational belief system. I am a graduate of Reformed/Covenant seminaries, hold three earned Master’s Degrees from these academic institutions; however, I hold to the opposite view of Dispensational Theology. Seem strange you would probably think, but I discovered the flaws of Reformed/Covenant Theology, apart from and independent of my formal academic learning. The recap I share here is based upon a Dispensational interpretation of the Bible. It has the fewest unresolved or questionable issues as to Scripture interpretation.

The Reformed/Covenant Theology camp has many problematic issues interpreting the Bible on a broad list of topics, but none is more important than their ill-conceived view that God is through with the Jews. The Apostle Paul in Romans 10:21 said, *“But to Israel He saith, All day long I have stretched forth My hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.”* Romans 11:1-2 affirms God’s affection for His people, *“I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which He foreknew.”* The root of this errant theology comes out of Roman Catholicism which early on referred to the Jews as Christ killers, and that the Jews were broken off from the blessings intended by God, and thus transferring the blessings to the church. By the end of the second century A.D. Roman Catholicism had poisoned the world hatred for the Jews. All of this is Satanic heresy, but endemic to “Replacement” theology. Church leaders wrote extensively during the first five centuries of the Church disparaging the Jews. The Roman Catholic Institution poisoned Christianity against the Jews for the next thousand years. Martin Luther’s Reformation was even against the Jews as well. At the Nuremberg Trials after World War II, many of the defendants on trial said they were just following Martin Luther’s teachings.

We see the residual effects of hatred for Jews in the contemporary “BDS” movement by denominations such as the Presbyterian and United Methodist churches. “BDS” stands for “*boycott, divest, and sanction*” a policy to punish Israel for how it has treated the Palestinians.

The battle of Gog (the chief prince of Rosh) and Magog and its aftermath continues in Ezekiel chapter 39. Important details are given here to help us understand the context of this conflict. Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 lays important ground work so as to understanding how Israel makes the transition to having “knowledge” of God. In Ezekiel chapters 40 through 48, we see a blessed obedient nation, receiving the blessings of the ‘*Glory of the Lord*’, who is dwelling in the midst of His people.

In Ezekiel chapters 33 through 39, we see a people still in transition who have the promise of blessings but have not yet received but part of them to this day.

The event which leads to Israel’s salvation is Israel’s conflict with the nations. Throughout Ezekiel 38 and 39, one of the chief aims of the conflict is for the nations to come to the “knowledge” of the one true God. When the nations are waged in conflict against Israel, and they lose, they will be forced to give God the glory. Some events have already happened such as the establishment of Israel as a nation. The gathering of a small group of people (Jews) from throughout the world after a long period of desolation and putting them back into the lands of their ancestors is an amazing event. Even more amazing is that the event was written about 2500 years before it occurred. Through this conflict, Israel and the nations will be forced to examine current events in light of Bible prophecy, even though they are reluctant to do so. The nations will be forced to come to terms with the God of Israel in the last-days, as events are fulfilled just as Ezekiel foretold.

This transformation is accomplished in a period known as the “Tribulation” or Daniel’s 70th Week. This tribulation period lasts for seven years and follows the events of chapters 38 and 39. This period is referenced in chapter 39 but the details are more fully covered in Daniel, Zechariah, Matthew and Revelation. In these books, Scripture fills in the details of what takes place in the world following the defeat of Gog and his alliance of nations. Here, we see exactly what happens and what Israel needs to do to have the “everlasting covenant” promised by God in Ezekiel.

What caused the second temple to be destroyed and Israel to be cast out of the land in 70 A.D.? Daniel links the destruction of the temple and the city of Jerusalem to the “Messiah (being) cut off”. Daniel 9:25-26 states ***"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah (Christ) shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined."***—(Daniel 9:25-26).

Jesus also warned of what was to follow after He was rejected by the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Like Daniel, Jesus warned that the temple would be destroyed, followed by a period of persecution which would lead to a time of tribulation unlike any other in history. Jesus also proclaimed that Israel's only hope would be to recognize Him as Messiah. He proclaimed that He would not return until this happened. ***"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"*** -(Matthew 23:37-39).

The event not revealed in Ezekiel, but revealed elsewhere in the Bible is Israel's need to turn to the Lord God who was rejected as Israel's Messiah when he came the first time. Only when Israel repents for their rejection of the Good Shepherd of Ezekiel 34, will the Good Shepherd return. This Good Shepard is Jesus Christ, the rejected Messiah -(John 10:11,14), who returns in glory and power to His people, Israel, in the ***"latter years"*** and in the ***"latter days"*** - (Ezekiel 38:8,16).

'For thus says the Lord God: ***"Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country."*** -(Ezekiel 34;11-13).

It goes without too much discussion that Ezekiel 38/39 marks the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week, the final seven years until the Second Coming of their Messiah, and referred to the Time of Jacob's Trouble. Jeremiah 30:7 states, ***"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."*** I said this would be a recap and so we will tag phrases and expressions that help us focus on what Ezekiel 38/39 alludes to when it comes to prophecy. Although God miraculously delivers Israel from the coalition of nations, the problems are just beginning, in what will be the worst imaginable seven years for the State of Israel. The Bible offers no comfort to the rest of the world left behind to face the carnage of the Tribulation. It is errantly presumptuous to believe the first 42 months will be somehow a time of peace and security, and the final 42 months will be sheer hell. The "Seal" judgments of Revelation 6 cover the entire seven years of Daniel's 70th Week. Your opportunity for "escape" from what is about to engulf the world is fleeting like the sands in an hourglass. It's not too late, to ask God to "Save" you from the wrath to come. God has given us several parables in the New Testament, in which you are invited to the Marriage of the Lamb of God! Let's begin a recap summary of two of the most important chapters of the Bible.

Son of man: Ezekiel is called to testify against Gog, the leader of this alliance of nations. Ezekiel summarizes the prophecies in chapter 38 in the first six verses, he also gives us additional details about this battle and how it affects more than just Gog and his allies.

Prophecy against Gog: Clearly Gog is the leader or prince of this confederacy of nations which come against Israel. Ezekiel is told to prophesy to the leader of this alliance. If this event is near at hand could Putin be Gog? He very well could be the leader of this alliance of nations. However, we really won't know until the actual event takes place, but it is always fun to speculate!

I will turn thee back: God Himself is involved in this battle in two ways. He causes Gog to come down from the far north and then when Gog comes, the God of Israel turns him around. God demonstrates His omnipresence to the nations through the miraculous events leading to the defeat of Gog. These events can be summarized as follows:

1. Israel is created as a nation after many years of desolation and being captive by other nations.
2. Gog creates an alliance of powerful nations that come against the newly created nation.
3. Israel seems defenseless, a nation without walls.
4. God supernaturally defeats the alliance.
5. God receives the glory as the nation's look to the prophets who foretold of the defeat.

You shall fall: According to Ezekiel, the armies will actually reach as far as the mountains of Israel, and there they will fall. The weapons are described here as bow and arrows which God literally knocks out of the hands of the alliance via an earthquake, pestilence, hailstones and rain. God supernaturally fights on Israel's behalf against the nations. This battle is not limited to the battlefields of Israel; this battle will be worldwide. Weapons in both the right and left hands are included in the description. The bow in the left hand is the engine to power the arrows in the right hand, both the missiles and their delivery systems will be destroyed. Today in Israel the anti-missile system (ABM) is called the Arrow ABM System developed in Israel to intercept missiles aimed at this country.

I will send fire: God promises to send fire on the land of Magog and the nations. Israel will not suffer the terror alone; the whole world will also suffer the terror of Gog's alliance.

on Magog: God's fire will fall on Magog. This fire could be from missiles or it could be completely supernatural in nature. In this war Gog is taken by surprise, advancing as far as the mountains of Israel before God's judgment falls.

live in security: The nations at first think they are immune from this battle but this changes when fire also falls on the lands who think they are living in security. The Hebrew word used here is **Betach**, meaning safely or carelessly, as if the battle or events on the mountains of Israel have no effect on them. However, these nations will also feel the effects of this conflict.

in the coastlands: The coastlands refer to the distant lands, the farthest reaches. The lands which seem immune to the conflicts in Israel could be a reference to the British Isles or other

nations bordering the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea. All these nations are distant from Israel and are also known as coastlands or isles. A better suggestion might be the hundreds of small island dotting the coast of Italy, Turkey, and Greece

They shall know: This conflict will make the name of the Lord God known to the nations. The coastlands, the nation's living in security, and Magog will know the Lord. Ezekiel's word will be a testimony to the nations and Israel in those days.

The purpose of the Ezekiel War: God prepares to deal with Israel in Daniel's final 70th Week.

I will: God will reveal Himself to Israel and the nations.

Midst of my people: Prior to this event, according to Ezekiel, the name of God will not be well known. After this event, the Battle of Gog, God will make His name known in the midst of His people. Israel, seeking to know their God, could very well begin or complete the third temple as a result of the Islamic threat being removed when Gog and his allies are defeated. Today, Israel is largely a secular state with a religious orthodox minority. There is no overwhelming desire to rebuild the temple in Israel; it is mainly a very vocal minority that wants this to happen.

Nations shall know: God confronts the relativistic, secular world by declaring the nations or *Goim* will have knowledge of Him. The events of this war will cause the whole world to look to the God of Israel. This will place Israel and its relationship with God at the heart of this worldwide event.

This is the day: This event will stand out as a turning point in the world, the whole earth will be forced to deal with the Lord. This day will signal the start of the end-times, as Israel will be free to begin its work on the third temple now that the Islamic threat is removed. Secondly, people in the nations will now look to the God of Israel and the amazing events of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

Israel after Gog is judged

Then: This is what occurs after the defeat of Gog. What happens to all the equipment and armament left behind by this army? What happens to all the dead bodies? This is important to know because it gives us the context of events.

set on fire: During this period of time, Israel will set the weapons on fire. This does not necessarily mean that Israel uses the weapons for fuel; they could smelt the metal of the tanks, arms and equipment of the army for constructing homes and other building material.

burn the weapons: From Ezekiel's perspective the melting of metal would be equivalent of burning the metal.

seven-years: There is a period of time following the defeat of Gog in which Israel will make fire with the weapons of the defeated armies; this will last for seven years. This corresponds exactly with Daniel's 70th week; it could be months or even years. However, the defeat of Gog is a catalyst to the events which take place in the tribulation

not take wood: Rather than use wood, they will use the metal and equipment left behind for fuel and building material. Wood is not only used for fuel, but to also build things.

because: As Israel was in Egypt in the days of Moses when the Egyptians gave them gifts (plunder) which they later used on their journey -(Exodus 3:22), could it be inferred here that Israel had a past dealing with Gog? From Ezekiel 38-39, we see Gog never had a chance to plunder Israel. But, we are told that Israel will "plunder those who plundered them". This is verification that Russia is being referred to here as each of the nations referenced in the invasion had some sort of dealing with Israel while they were captives of those nations. Jeremiah refers to Israel being called out of the "North Country", the equivalent of Israel being called out of Egypt. -(Jeremiah 31:7-9).

Gog a burial place: The dead of Magog will have a burial place east of the Dead Sea in a valley which will later be called Hamon Gog. This is where the armies of Gog will gather against Israel.

east of the sea: This is in current day Jordan. Could these armies have been coming to give support to the Arab nations? In the past, Russia has threatened to attack Israel if they went too far in their response to Syria and Egypt. Could this be just such an occasion?

Seven months: The dead are gathered for seven months; could this be the amount of time before the tribulation?

They will gain renown: The whole world will be watching these events unfold. Israel, in the end-times, will be the focus of the earth. Those in Israel will literally acquire a "name for themselves". The Hebrew word used here is ***Shem***, which means name or reputation.

And as for you: Now, Ezekiel is told to speak to the animal world; to order them to come and feast on the remains of Gog and the alliance. Later, in the Book of Revelation, the birds are ordered to partake of a second feast on the mountains of Israel at the end of the Tribulation when they feast on the armies of the Beast. While the birds will be ordered supernaturally, Ezekiel is transmitting God's command for us to hear.

I will set My glory: Out of these events, the world will behold the "Glory" of God. It would be easy to try to explain these events in natural terms with human weapons, or with the "mighty" nations giving aid to Israel against Gog. The whole point of these events is that God will get the glory, not man, for the rescue of Israel. For this reason, it's very likely America and the West are immobilized in this conflict. This could be for several reasons noted previously:

1. Politics has turned the U.S. away from supporting Israel, or the polarization of the two parties prevents a U.S. response to Israel's time of greatest need.
2. The rapture has occurred.
3. Financial ruin prevents them from getting involved.
4. Or worse, destroyed by China and Russia in an EMP or nuclear attack.

All the nations shall see My judgment: God is the focus here, not the power of man. The nations watch the judgment take place and in the end, people turn to the God of Israel. This prepares people for what is coming and, as the nations prepare the world for a "one world" religion, those who see the delivery of Israel will seek the God of Israel. This will conflict with the "one world" religion and will start the persecution of the faithful; as people begin to turn toward the Lord they will be persecuted in the last-days.

Israel shall know: From this day forward, Israel will begin to be re-united with the God of Israel; however it will not be until the end of the tribulation that they will they know Jesus as their Messiah and King. The tribulation will be a period when the nation will come to terms with the God of Israel.

The Gentiles shall know: The nations will also understand the connection between Israel, its unique history and its troubles prior to becoming a nation. The world will connect the dots which will lead to the God of Israel. Today the world is skeptical of Bible prophecy, attributing the re-establishment of Israel as "self-fulfilled" prophecy. Following the events of Gog, the world will understand God has a unique relationship with this nation.

Unfaithful to Me: The nation rejected God as in the days of Ezekiel when they worshipped the gods of Babylon and Egypt and they were judged. In the days of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, they were also unfaithful and they were judged with the destruction of the temple, the city of Jerusalem and were scattered amongst the nations.

According to their transgressions: Israel being scattered amongst the nations is a sign; the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple are also signs. God judges; He does not ignore sin but gives humanity time to repent. Today it's popular to think of God as "non-judgmental"; this is completely erroneous. God is merciful and gives nations and people time to change but He still judges. Sin has to be atoned for, as that through the Cross!

'Now I will bring back: Just as Israel was scattered for judgment, their return is through God's restoration. When Israel is obedient they will be blessed above all the nations of the earth. In the Millennium, the Glory of the Lord will rule from the temple in Jerusalem. The temple becomes the House of God; the mercy seat is His throne from which He rules the nations.

Hallowed in them: The Holiness of God is manifested through the nation of Israel as it is separated from the other nations. Through this manifestation, these nations will then see who the "True" God is.

I shall have poured out My Spirit: In the “latter-days” the Spirit of God falls on the nation and they finally see Jesus Christ, the rejected Messiah, as their only hope.

Israel in the Tribulation

Following the battle of Gog, Israel goes through a period of tribulation unequalled in the history of the world. In the end, the nation finally turns to Jesus Christ the Messiah. Jesus describes this period as the *Great Tribulation*; Jeremiah describes it as the time of *Jacob’s Trouble*; Daniel describes it as a *time of trouble*. Regardless of the designation, in the end Israel is delivered. This deliverance comes through Jesus Christ, the Glory of the Lord, who returns.

Events following Gog’s defeat

- Israel is victorious over the Gog alliance
- Israel makes a false peace with the nations for seven years
- The third temple is rebuilt
- Worldwide persecution of non-conforming Christians and other faiths begin - (Revelation 6:9-12)
- Two witnesses in Jerusalem bring God’s judgment on the Earth
- After 3.5 years the agreement is broken, the Antichrist/Beast enters the temple and proclaims himself god
- Israel flees into the wilderness for 3.5-years
- God pours out his wrath on the nations
- Israel cries out to God for redemption, as the nation’s gather against her
- Christ returns with the armies of Heaven, fulfilling His word
- Nations are judged
- Israel, along with righteous, enter the Millennium
- Saints rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years

Earlier I noted the Jesuit/CIA hatred for Russia and their public secret they want Russia destroyed. I believe it was in 2016 when Russian President Vladimir Putin slammed Pope Francis for pushing political ideology instead of running the whole church. Putin warned Pope Francis, saying that the leader is not a man of God. *“Pope Francis is using his platform to push a dangerous far-left political ideology on vulnerable people around the world, people who trust him because of his position,”* The Russian chief executive said, *“If you look at what he (the Pope) says it’s clear that he is not a man of God. At least not the Christian God. Not the God of the Bible,”* President Putin addresses the crowd at the Naval Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Kronstadt.

"He dreams of a world government and a global communist system of repression," the fiery leader added. *"As we have seen before in communist states, this system is not compatible with Christianity."*

In the past years, the Pontiff has become increasingly active in pushing the globalist agenda and far-left talking points upon the masses. Pope Francis even called for a global central bank and financial authority, and more recently he said *"Americans need to be ruled by a world government as soon as possible for their own good."*

The Catholic leader was also reported on referring the China's *"one child policy"* for Western nations, as well as telling a congregation in Rome that having a personal relationship with Jesus is *"dangerous and harmful."*

Putin is a practicing Christian, he is not a Roman Catholic, and the pope is not his leader. Based on recent statements of the Russian leader, Putin does not even consider Pope Francis to be Christian. During the Cold War, the United States and much of the West argued that the Soviet Union was a *"godless nation."* Vladimir Putin took that pendulum, swung it in the other direction, and landed it on the Zionist regime. As Patrick Buchanan put it then, *"In the new war of beliefs, Putin is saying, it is Russia that is on God's side. The West is Gomorrah."*

The Russian leader is rarely openly critical of foreign leaders, instead preferring to use diplomacy to win people over to his side. However notorious globalists including George Soros, Jacob Rothschild and Bill Gates have received tongue lashings before and now Pope Francis has joined their company. The openness and condemnation of the pope by Russian president Vladimir Putin leaves no doubt as to the bitterness held by Putin.

If you think that Putin is just pulling your leg here, then get this: The *'Washington Times'* reported this: *"In his state of the nation address, Mr. Putin also portrayed Russia as a staunch defender of 'traditional values' against what he depicted as the morally bankrupt West. Social and religious conservatism, the former KGB officer insisted, is the only way to prevent the world from slipping into 'chaotic darkness.'* As part of this defense of 'Christian values,' Russia has adopted a law banning "homosexual propaganda" and another that makes it a criminal offense to 'insult' the religious sensibilities of believers..."

Although Mr. Putin has never made a secret of what he says is his deep Christian faith, his first decade in power was largely free of overtly religious rhetoric. Little or no attempt was made to impose a set of values on Russians or lecture to the West on morals, with the exception of de-certifying Jehovah Witnesses.

Certainly Putin put the moral equation back on the table. Kevin Barrett declared that Putin here was trying to *"put the fear of God in the New World Order."* Barrett moved on to make the forceful argument that much of the Zionist establishment in the West is afraid of Putin because the establishment leaves in fear. *"Russian President Putin is resisting,"* said

Barrett. *“That is why the Western propaganda machine is calling him names.”* Barrett continued to argue cogently:

“It is worth noting that Russia and Iran – the two nation’s most successfully resisting NWO regime change – are doing so in the name of God.... Putin’s reference to Satanism was a pointed rebuke to the New World Order elites, who – though they push militant secularism on the societies they are trying to undermine – are closet Satanists.”

Anyone who doubts this should run the name ‘Lt. Col. Michael Aquino’ through a search engine. Aquino, an avowed Satanist and credibly-accused mass child abuser, was rewarded for his crimes against children with an appointment as Chief of Psychological Warfare for the U.S. military...

Vladimir Putin has convinced himself that he is the leader of a uni-polar world, resisting the globalist agenda of Rome and Washington, D.C., vowing never to submit or surrender to the globalist agenda of a one-world government. He and Trump share similar views and the globalists are in sheer panic over this dilemma, the two super-power leaders, like bulls in a china shop, taking down the original plans of the Rothschild Financial Dynasty that began, one deal after another!

Nolan Peterson, a former special operations pilot and a combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, is *‘The Daily Signal’s’* foreign correspondent based in Ukraine. Peterson posted a report on March 26, 2018 about NATO bracing for the next move of Putin. The substance of the article is a realistic picture of what is in store for NATO should they think about a war with Russia. This speaks to the effort of NATO to provoke a war with Russia.

Since 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s military aggression in Ukraine has rearranged the national defense chessboards of countries across Eastern Europe.

In turn, the NATO military alliance has deployed weapons and troops eastward, to “make clear that an attack on one Ally would be considered an attack on the whole Alliance,” said NATO’s website. And the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has approved delivery of American anti-tank weapons to Ukraine.

Yet, U.S. and NATO military leaders may have it wrong when it comes to anticipating Russia’s next military move in the region, a U.S. think tank says.

“The Russian military is well-positioned to launch a short-notice conventional war in Ukraine and a hybrid war in the Baltic states, the opposite of what Western leaders seem to expect in each theater,” Catherine Harris and Frederick Kagan wrote in a March joint report for the Institute for the Study of War and the American Enterprise Institute’s Critical Threats Project. That assessment challenges U.S. and NATO military orthodoxy about what Russia’s next military offensive might look like.

“U.S. leaders and their European allies are unprepared for the ways in which Putin is poised to wage war in Ukraine and the Baltics,” Harris and Kagan wrote. Yet, one thing seems certain—the Russian military threat to both the Baltics and Ukraine is not likely to taper off anytime soon. Putin’s rubber-stamp election victory March 18, 2018 guarantees at least another six years with the ex-KGB lieutenant-colonel at the helm of Russian foreign policy.

“We are painfully aware that if there is a medium-intensity conflict and we are going to be part of it, it is going to be against Russia,” Maj. Ivo Zelinka, deputy commander of the Czech Republic army’s 43rd Airborne Battalion, told The *‘Daily Signal’*. *“In addition,”* Zelinka said, *“Russia did learn a few new tricks since the Soviet times, but surely did not forget any.”*

Consequently, when it comes to military spending, Eastern Europe will be the fastest-growing region in the world in 2018, according to the annual Jane’s Defense Budgets Report. *“Growth has been particularly spectacular among the three Baltic states,”* the report said, adding that by the end of 2018, defense spending among NATO’s Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania will have more than doubled in real terms compared to 2014 levels.

Similarly, since 2014, Ukraine has rebuilt its armed forces into the second-largest standing army in Europe, behind only Russia.

Russia’s defense budget has declined since its 2015 peak. Yet, Moscow appears to have reposted its military forces within its Western Military District, which borders on Ukrainian and NATO territory.

Harris and Kagan wrote for this month’s report for the ‘Institute for the Study of War’ and ‘American Enterprise Institute’:

The ground forces deployments around the periphery of Ukraine give an indication of what preparations for a short-notice mechanized invasion might look like—pairs of regiments co-located under distinct headquarters along separate but converging lines of advance with well-secured rear-areas, all within 50 miles of the border. This disposition looks nothing like the ad hoc hockery that would be required for a mechanized invasion of the Baltic states.

Russia invaded and seized Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in March 2014. The following April, Moscow launched a proxy war in eastern Ukraine’s Donbas region.

Four years later, about 60,000 Ukrainian troops remain deployed along a 250-mile-long, entrenched front-line in the Donbas opposite a force of about 35,000 pro-Russian separatists, foreign mercenaries, and Russian regulars. (Ukraine and NATO say about 3,000 Russian soldiers are operating in Ukraine, mainly in command and control roles.)

Europe’s only ongoing conflict has so far killed about 11,000 Ukrainians and displaced more than 1.7 million people. Stuck in an endless cycle of waxing and waning violence, it’s a static, trench conflict, comprising episodic artillery and rocket barrages as well as small arms gun

battles. Despite punitive Western sanctions, Russia still feeds the conflict with weapons, cash, and its own troops.

Ukraine's national security doctrine officially refers to Russia as the "aggressor nation." Consequently, Ukraine has rebuilt and repositioned its armed forces specifically to defend against a Russian invasion.

Ukraine's military has increased in size and capability since 2014. Since 2014, Ukraine's military center of gravity has shifted from its Soviet-legacy western bulwarks (meant to repel a NATO invasion) to the eastern border with Russia. Also, Ukraine has increased its active force structure from 15 to 22 brigades, comprising more than 250,000 active troops, up from about 100,000 in 2014.

The country now *fields "an entire new generation of combat-hardened commanders who know Russian weaknesses and how to exploit them,"* wrote Phillip Karber, president of 'The Potomac Foundation', and Wesley Clark, NATO's former supreme allied commander in Europe and a retired U.S. Army four-star general, in a report for the 'Potomac Foundation', a Washington think tank.

Ukraine's military is still hobbled by a lack of arms, equipment shortfalls, and a need to modernize. Moreover, it remains outmatched in terms of troops, materiel, and technology by Russian forces in the region.

However, Ukraine's army is "ready and trained" and "larger and stronger" than it was four years ago, Clark and Karber wrote, adding that a Russian attack on Ukraine is "not as easy as it looks."

Détente No More! Relations between Russia and the West are worse than they have ever been in the post-Cold War era, many security experts say. And the Baltics are the tectonic boundary of those rising tensions, where the spectra of war looms most ominously.

"President Putin clearly appears to distrust NATO and harbor resentments toward it," wrote RAND Corp., a U.S. defense think tank, in a 2016 report detailing the Russian military threat to NATO's Baltic countries.

"[Putin's] rhetoric suggests that he sees the Alliance's presence on Russia's borders as something approaching a clear and present danger to his nation's security," the RAND report added.

That report, titled "Reinforcing Deterrence on NATO's Eastern Flank," found, after multiple war games, that invading Russia forces could be at the gates of Estonia's capital city of Tallinn and Latvia's capital of Riga within 60 hours.

To reverse Moscow's advantage, the report advocated a buildup of NATO air and land power in the region, to include seven NATO brigades permanently based in the Baltics, with three heavy armored brigades, supported by airpower, artillery, and other forces.

"A successful defense of the Baltics will call for a degree of air-ground synergy whose intimacy and sophistication recalls the U.S. Army-U.S. Air Force 'Air-Land Battle' doctrine of the 1980s," the RAND report stated.

Rattled, in part, by the RAND report's findings, the alliance announced a plan during the 2016 NATO summit in Warsaw to build up its military forces in the Baltics by rotating four battalion-size, combat-ready battlegroups throughout the region—including 800 U.S. troops stationed in Poland.

NATO officials said the move constitutes the *"biggest reinforcement of Alliance collective defense in a generation."* Those rotating forces are now in place, supported by other temporary deployments of NATO airpower. NATO also continues to run an air policing mission over the Baltics, which dates back to 2004. The 24/7 operation to defend Baltic airspace was run out of only one base in Lithuania until 2014, when it was expanded to include operations from Estonia's Ämari Air Base.

NATO's military buildup in the Baltics may not be the right tool for the kind of threat Russian forces pose to the region, some experts say. Russia has three motorized rifle brigades, one motorized regiment, and three airborne regiments based within close proximity to the Baltic states, according to open source reporting. Those forces are distributed within mainland Russia as well as Russia's Kaliningrad exclave.

The special operations-heavy makeup of Russian forces within striking range of the Baltics telegraphs a readiness for the type of hybrid warfare assaults Russia conducted in Crimea and eastern Ukraine, the report by Harris and Kagan said.

"Russian military leadership, practice, an ad hoc deployment along the Baltic borders all suggest Putin is much more likely to pursue a hybrid approach in the Baltic over a conventional mechanized invasion," they wrote.

In Ukraine, Russia is officially named the "aggressor nation." Thus, to launch a conventional invasion of the Baltics, Russian commanders would have to shift mechanized forces from other locations in Russia toward the region, and expose Kaliningrad to a NATO counterattack.

With its constellation of spy satellites and other reconnaissance assets, NATO would notice Russia internally reinforcing its military forces on a scale required to mount a successful land invasion of the Baltics, thereby betraying the element of surprise.

In contrast, with three mechanized divisions along the Ukrainian border, and the concurrent headquarters already established to command those forces, Russia has the pieces in position to launch a land invasion of Ukraine on short order both from the north and from the east.

“Russia has strengthened its military presence on the border with Ukraine as several mechanized divisions are fully prepared for intervention,” Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said in a speech to Ukrainian troops last week. In 2015, Russia re-established its 1st Guards Tank Army, which comprises about 700 tanks and which the Kremlin claimed could reach Kiev in 48 hours. In 2016, the Kremlin shifted its 20th Guards Army—with 400 tanks—from Moscow to the vicinity of Voronezh, which is about 400 kilometers, or 250 miles, closer to the Ukrainian border. And in 2017, Russia re-established and began forward-deploying its 8th Guards Army—with about 900 tanks—near the Ukrainian border. Elements of the 8th Guards Army are deployed near Ukraine’s Donbas border to support Russian proxy forces within the breakaway region.

“There are three mechanized divisions near the Ukrainian border compared to just one airborne division near the Baltic, which would not be optimal for large-scale mechanized offensives,” Harris and Kagan wrote.

So far in 2018, Russia’s proxy war in eastern Ukraine has quieted—the average number of cease-fire violations is at its lowest level in more than two years, international monitors say. Yet, cease-fire violations are not the only measure of Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine. Russian forces are waging a larger hybrid conflict that extends beyond the front lines in the Donbas, comprising weaponized propaganda, cyberwarfare, assassinations, and sabotage.

Russia also has used economic pressure as a weapon, such as cutting off natural gas supplies to Ukraine earlier this month amid a late-season cold snap, sparking an immediate countrywide heating crisis.

Similarly, Russia’s post-2014 brinkmanship against the West spans the gamut—aggressive warplane flybys of NATO aircraft and ships, global cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, as well as meddling in European and American elections.

Russian relations with the West recently hit a new post-Cold War nadir following the attempted nerve gas murder of a former Russian spy and his daughter on British soil.

“The West would be foolish to over-focus on any one form of possible future war with Russia,” Harris and Kagan wrote in their report, adding that the deployment of NATO armor and airpower to build a defensive bulwark against a Russian land invasion of the Baltics may not be an effective deterrent.

Many Western military analysts say that Russia’s war in Ukraine is a case study in Moscow’s contemporary “hybrid warfare” doctrine. Therefore, along that line of thinking, Western

military leaders would be wise to study Russian tactics in Ukraine to anticipate how a hypothetical Russian hybrid assault on a Baltic country would play out.

Echoing that sentiment, last week Poroshenko told reporters, *“NATO nations could learn from Ukraine how to resist Russia.”* When he was U.S. president, Barack Obama levied punitive economic sanctions against Moscow for its military aggression in Ukraine. Obama also kick-started the U.S. military’s pivot to Eastern Europe. Yet, despite years of appeals from Kiev, Obama never approved sending Ukraine lethal weapons. Reportedly, the Obama White House feared such a move would escalate the conflict and spark a tit-for-tat arms race between Russia and the U.S. over Ukraine.

The Trump administration, however, has taken a tougher stance against Russia in both Ukraine and across Eastern Europe. Notably, it has approved the delivery of American anti-tank weapons to Ukraine and upped the budget for U.S. military operations in Eastern Europe to deter Russia.

The formidable U.S. Javelin anti-tank missiles—set for delivery to Ukraine this year—won’t be enough to tip the balance of power in Ukraine’s favor should Russia invade. Yet, the Javelins will increase the cost in blood and treasure that Russia would suffer in such a war.

More importantly, Trump’s decision to supply Kiev with lethal weapons underscores both a commitment to Ukraine’s security as well as a commitment to deter Russia in Eastern Europe more broadly.

That’s a message, many believe, that Moscow is sure to consider when plotting its next move. *“Ukraine’s struggle against Russian revanchism is NATO’s,”* Clark and Karber wrote. *“It’s time the West recognize that.”*

In the mind of Putin, he may have “check mated” NATO in the Ukraine theater of war, enough so as to ward off any NATO support for a War with Gog and Magog! *“Putin is stopping the New World Order ‘creative destruction’ in Syria and Ukraine. He is part of a growing coalition opposing the NWO – not just religious traditionalists, but also progressive anti-globalization forces, including Hugo Chavez inspired anti-imperialists in Latin America.”*

Putin is known to play multiple chess matches simultaneously with six and eight opponents at one time, but his strategy and tactics leads me to believe he has insider information as to his opponents’ plans in the world of geo-politics. In fact, a few days before this was being typed, Russian foreign minister Sergie Lavrov, was addressing Russian school children. He was asked about how national security was provided for Russia, and he made a statement indicating they knew the plans of those seeking to destroy Russia. The implications of such a statement is profound! This suggests espionage, of one form or another. California’s Democratic Senator Diane Feinstein employed a Chinese communist spy as her senior office manager for twenty years ago until it was leaked on the Lou Dobbs Report, at first it was

reported the spy was her personal driver, only to surface that the spy ran her office in San Francisco. This meant he was privy to her knowledge on two major Senate Committees.

Events are already accelerating as a result of the U.S. sanctions on Iran, Russia, and Turkey. Turkey has reached the final stage of preparations for new military operations in neighboring Syria, the country's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday, August 12th, 2018. *"We are at the last stage of preparations to increase the number of regions in Syria where we provide stability through the 'Euphrates Shield' and 'Olive Branch' operations. With the help of God, we will liberate new territories in the near future and bring security there,"* Erdogan was quoted as saying by local news agency Anadolu.

The President of Turkey pointed out that 250,000 people have returned to the regions where Turkey has carried out military operations in northern Syria. Keep in mind Erdogan wants to be the head of a renewed Ottoman Empire.

Turkish troops, in cooperation with jihadist groups loyal to Ankara, have waged a number of military operations in Syria, mainly against Kurdish militants such as the 'Olive Branch' operation in Afrin in northwest Syria and "Euphrates Shield".

Damascus condemns Ankara's military operations, arguing that they violate Syrian sovereignty and have aided certain terrorist groups afflicting the war-torn country.

Ankara considers the Kurdish militant group, the People's Protection Units (YPG), a terrorist organization, as it is the Syrian branch of the Turkey-based Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) that seek for the Kurdish-majority regions of Turkey to be part of an independent Kurdish state.

Turkish military operations, backed by Syrian jihadist groups, have engaged in operations to take land from the YPG. This has been a major cause of tension between Ankara and Washington, as the US recognizes the PKK as a terrorist organization but has nonetheless backed and supported the YPG in partitioning Syria. The military option against the YPG can be seen a way for Erdogan to keep the Turkish people united against a 'common enemy' in order to prevent political cleavages from emerging at a critical time when the Turkish economy is being directly attacked by Washington. Ankara is facing the dilemma of juggling its crisis-ridden relationship with the US and NATO and the growing necessity of linking up with new partners such as Russia and Iran.

The announcement of a new military operation comes as the Turkish currency, the lira, is tumbling to all new lows in the wake of punitive US tariffs, devastating the Turkish economy. When President Trump placed additional sanctions on Iran, Russia, and Turkey he had to know that the outcome portends great risk in a backlash. Russian President Putin has seen the sanctions as harmful to the Russian State, and weakening his leadership image with the BRIC nations that have broken away from the Rothschild globalist polar world.

Syria and Turkey are on a collision course in Idlib. Syrian government forces have already positioned themselves along Idlib's border and have begun to shell rebel positions. Turkey, meanwhile, has strengthened its position there by persuading some of its proxy groups, including the National Army and the National Liberation Front, to band together. Lurking behind the scenes is Russia, which has no intention of confronting Turkey and so is not expected to fight in any Idlib offensive. Maybe the Syrian government isn't so chummy with Russia after all.

Belarus wants more control over its own economy. The country's president, Alexander Lukashenko, has again criticized Moscow for what he believes is unfair competition in the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union. He wants, among other things, to be able to sell state companies to Belarusian firms, not just Russian firms. Belarus' economy has depended heavily on Russia's for some time, but the president has only begun to complain now that Russia's economy has taken a nosedive. Losing Belarus would be problematic for Russia as it provides a valuable buffer space between Moscow and Europe.

All of this presents immense pressure upon the part of Vladimir Putin to move in a dramatic way to sure up his leadership in his world of friends of Russia. For Christians, the timing of events relevant to the Feast of Trumpets, a.k.a. Rosh Hashanah, on September 10/11, 2018 is very suggestive when it comes to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob Reid
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