

The Blessed Hope!

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" –(Titus 2:13)

Diamond & Nugget #277



Ezekiel 38-39 'Gog Magog' War: How Near?

Zionist Jew U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken may have inadvertently fulfilled the prophecy of 1st Thessalonians 5:3. At the very time when the Lord returns, unbelievers will be rejecting the warnings of the Bible and crying, **"Peace and safety"** (security). But in the midst of their declarations that people do not need God to have peace (including health, well-being, and spiritual peace of heart and mind) or security (including the gaining of all that is certain and true), sudden destruction (ruin, death) will

come upon them. The words **ou mē** indicate strong negation and can be translated "by no means." There will be no possibility of escape -(See Jeremiah 6:14.)

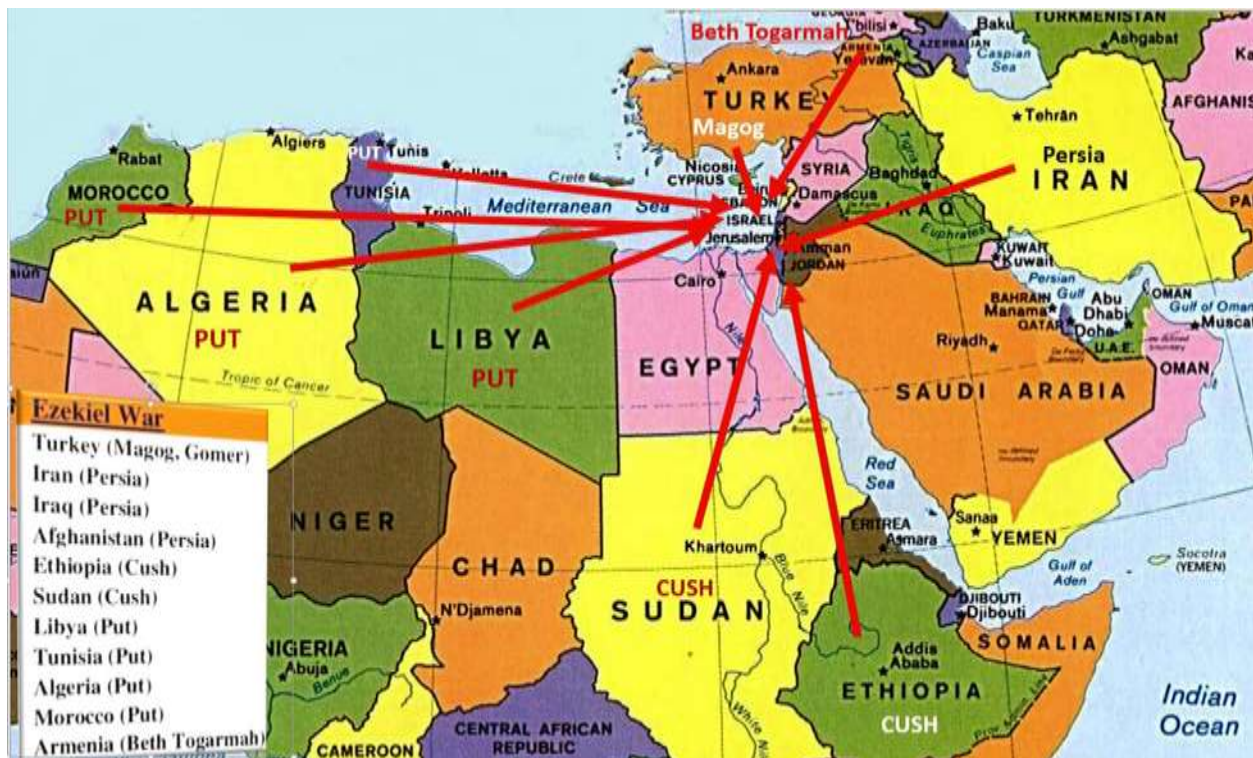
Blinken posted, "As I reflect on the miles traveled, countries visited, and intense diplomacy over the past year, I am proud of our work to build stronger partnerships and strengthen global peace and security."

The introduction to the "photographic journey" page, composed entirely of pictures of Blinken, said, "Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken calls America's partnerships its greatest strategic asset. In 2023, he traveled more than 380,000 kilometers and visited over two dozen countries to meet with our nation's partners. He pledged solidarity with allies and offered assistance after disasters."

This arrogant statement immediately brought to my remembrance 1st Thessalonians 5:3: **"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."**

ANCIENT HISTORY

The battle for the Promised Land – a quick history covering the ever-changing control over Israel, Palestine, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank.



As war breaks out yet again in Israel, Christians of course, become concerned. Putting aside the inevitable propaganda and sensationalist imagery from media outlets, we still can't get past images of Hamas (Muslim Islamic Resistance) soldiers spitting on the

bodies of young slain Israeli girls and stomping on the heads of dead IDF soldiers. Wars in Israel are different. They are fueled with anger and venomous hatred towards the Jewish people. At its root, the conflicts are always about ownership of the land.

The Land of Milk and Honey is promised to Abraham

Our entire Old Testament is a story, not just about the Jewish people but their land – the Land of Milk and Honey. From the earliest chapters in Genesis to the fiery culmination in Revelations – the story is centered in Israel. It's a tale about the land God gave to the Israelites, his people, who serve as foundation stones in the history of mankind.

In [Genesis 12:1](#), God instructed the Israelites:

“Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household, and go to the land I will show you.”

The land was “promised” to the Israelites a few verses later:

“The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring, I will give this land.”

God reiterated this promise in Genesis 15:18:

“On that day, the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants, I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates – the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

But do the promises made in our Old Testament “prove” the land belongs to Israel?

Israel’s borders in pre-historical times

Archaeological evidence suggests humans lived in the land of Israel for millions of years. The earliest evidence, a flint tool, dates back to 1.5 million years ago. Excavations in caves along the West Bank revealed artifacts dating to 10,800 BC related to the Early Natifian period. At this early date, settlements in the area were sedentary – agriculture had not been discovered yet, so the people in the land traveled about for food. The movement of people throughout the land was not uncommon. Even Israel’s physical borders (and the borders of other countries in the region) have changed throughout history.

The earliest available records (dating back about 3,800 years) say the region was known as Canaan and was occupied by a group of people called the Canaanites (the same Canaanites mentioned in the Old Testament Bible). Archaeological excavations of Canaanite sites suggest the occupants of the land were never politically united as a single kingdom but rather were made of different ethnic groups living nomadic lifestyles. We know this because burial sites, ancient structures, and religious artifacts differed throughout the region suggesting there were a variety of “cultures” living in the area. At this far back in time, we cannot definitively directly tie the land to any people.

Ironically, DNA evidence suggests modern-day populations of the region, both Israelites and Palestinians, are descendants of the ancient Canaanites.

As far back as the Bronze Age, the area's boundaries morphed, sometimes expanding, sometimes contracting, as the occupants and ethnic groups of the area moved about. Egypt ruled the area for a time, as evidenced by Egyptian texts that recorded military expeditions into the area. At various times, occupants consisted of various groups such as the Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites. It is at this point that the Bible narrative begins documenting the history of the land, of which all indications hint at a region that still hadn't been "owned" for any significant period of time by any distinct group of people.

How the Bible defines the borders of Israel

The borders of Israel are defined in various Old Testament verses, albeit vaguely. [Genesis 28:13](#) defines it simply as "[the land on which you are laying.](#)" Exodus expands the definition, describing the borders as the Red Sea (Southwest border), the Mediterranean (Western border), and the Euphrates (far East of Israel, in Iraq). However, even in Old Testament times, the Israelites commonly lived in a more constricted area east of the [Jordan River](#), roughly abiding by the modern-day borders of Israel.

It is important to note that all participants in the Israeli/Arab conflict believe in the Old Testament narrative. However, Muslims consider parts of the Old Testament that they do not agree with to be untrustworthy. Those parts, of course, included narratives concerning Israel's right to the land.

Ancient Israel

The kingdoms of Israel and Judah

The sister regions of the Kingdom of Israel (Samaria) and the Kingdom of Judah emerged in the region during the Iron Age, sometime around 1,300 BC. It was at this time that the 12 tribes of Israel, who had wandered in the desert for 40 years, crossed into Canaan under the command of [Joshua](#). Nine of the [twelve tribes settled in what is now roughly northern Israel](#), while the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, Simeon, and part of Levi, settled in southern Israel.

The Bible describes the two kingdoms as a "*United Monarchy*." What would become the Kingdom of Israel consisted of northern Israel, while the Kingdom of Judah ran from Jerusalem southward (except for a small strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea occupied by the Philistines, who themselves were refugees from Greece). The Kingdom of Israel was much more prosperous, while archaeologists have found that the Kingdom of Judah was relatively unoccupied, consisting mostly of small settlements. Notably, the Jewish people obtained their name from "*Judah*."



The Bible tells us that around 1,000 BC, Saul was the leader of the Kingdom of Israel, while [King David](#) ruled over Judah. After Saul died in a battle against the Philistines, David is believed to have unified the kingdom and ruled over all of Israel. Under his regime, Israel grew from a kingdom into an empire drawing in several vassal states from nearby countries. When David's son, Solomon, assumed leadership of Israel, he built a great temple in Jerusalem (the capital of the Kingdom of Judah) around 950 BC – the First Temple.

The Kingdoms are destroyed

About 200 years after the construction of the First Temple, in 722 BC, the [Neo-Assyrian Empire](#) (at the peak of their history) conquered the Kingdom of Israel. The Assyrians brought in other people from foreign lands to help settle the area. Some Jews migrated southward into the Kingdom of Judah. A small portion stayed behind, becoming what we know today as Samaritans. About 20% of the Jewish population was forcefully deported and became known as the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

The Conquest of Nebuchadnezzar II

150 years after the conquest of the Assyrians, the population of the Kingdom of Judah had grown much larger. Meanwhile, Egyptian influence in the region grew while Assyrian influence declined. According to Old Testament and confirmed by the [Babylonian Chronicles](#), in 586 BC, the Neo-Babylonian Empire, led by Nebuchadnezzar II, took advantage of changing dynamics in the region and conquered the Kingdom of Judah, destroying the First Temple. The Neo-Babylonian Empire was massive, stretching from Saudi Arabia and Israel through Iraq and parts of Iran. Its reign however, would be short-lived.

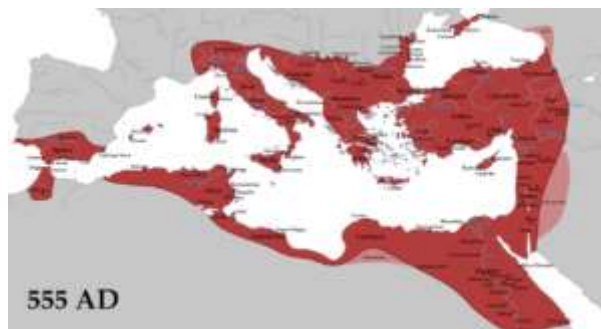
Cyrus the Great restores Israel



In 549 BC, Cyrus the Great, the king of Persia (modern-day Iran), revolted and overran Babylonian forces with nary a battle. It is theorized that the people of Babylonia, including exiled Jews, may have seen Cyrus the Great as a liberator and assisted him in his efforts to conquer the land. Indeed, one of his first acts was to allow the Jewish exiles to return to their homelands with permission to rebuild the temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

The Jewish-Roman wars

Allowed to self-govern themselves, Israel grew in strength and numbers. The era is known as the [Second Temple](#) period. During this time, many of the symbols of Jewish Identity evolved. Dietary laws were established, observance of the Sabbath became more important, and synagogues popped up throughout the area. For hundreds of years, the area grew and prospered. But by the time Jesus arrived, the Romans had begun expanding their empire throughout the area.



The Roman Republic invaded Israel in 63 BC; and in 6 AD, the area was annexed, and taking the name from the Kingdom of Judah, named the Roman province of Judaea. It was at this time that Jesus appeared on the scene. A series of wars between the Romans and the Jews continued until around 70 AD, when the Second Temple was destroyed by Roman soldiers, along with a sizeable portion of the Jewish population.

Jewish residents scattered, and skirmishes continued for many years. Jerusalem was rebuilt as a Roman colony, and Jews were expelled. The Jews that remained

throughout the area allowed Galilee to grow into a significant religious center – both for Judaism and Christianity.

Medieval times brought massive conflict to Israel

Around 300 AD, the Roman Empire gradually transitioned into what became known as the Byzantine Empire (aka the Eastern Roman Empire), a continuation of the Roman Empire based out of Turkey rather than Rome. In the 4th century, Roman emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and implemented laws to protect Christians from persecution. Many Jews fled the country. By the middle of the 5th century, the population of Israel was mainly Christian – and conflict continued to reign supreme.

For several hundred years, control of the region changed hands many times, with power transferring between the Umayyad (the second caliphate after Muhammad's death), Abbasid (the third caliphate after Muhammad's death), Fatimid caliphates, and Seljuks and Ayyubid dynasties. The Jewish population declined as Muslims began immigrating into the area and pressuring inhabitants to convert to Islam.

By the end of the 11th century, the Crusades began with Christian crusaders invading the land to wrest control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Muslims. They largely succeeded until Muslim rule was restored by the Mamluk sultans of Egypt in 1291.

Modern Israel Israelites seek a home

A couple of hundred years of stability ended in 1516 when the Muslim-led [Ottoman Empire](#) conquered the entire region. Afterward, Muslims in the region fought each other for hundreds of years. In 1799 Napoleon attempted to conquer the area but was repelled. At various times, Egyptian power threatened the empire, civil war-like revolts ensued, and in 1840, the Brits got involved in helping the Ottomans protect the land from outside invaders.



Certainly, Jewish communities existed in Israel even then, especially in the cities of Jerusalem, Tiberias, Hebron, and Safed. Christian communities dotted the area too. But Jews, as a whole, aspired to return to “Zion,” their homeland. Throughout the 1800s, waves of Jews migrated to the Ottoman-ruled area now called Palestine.



Austro-Hungarian journalist [Theodor Herzl](#) is credited with founding political Zionism, a movement that sought to establish a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. The first wave began in 1881, known as the First Aliyah. It consisted of Jews mostly seeking to escape anti-Semitic policies in Europe.

The Second Aliyah began in 1904 and resulted in 20,000 Jews purchasing land and permanently settling in Palestine. Immigrants established their own city named Tel Aviv. As Palestinians began objecting to Jews returning to their homeland, Jewish settlers began arming themselves and forming protective militias to defend against anti-Semitic attacks.

World War I prompts Brits to restore the land to the Israelites

During World War I, Zionist volunteers helped the Brits seize Palestine. The territory was divided between British and French conquerors. The British-administered area included modern-day Israel.

Demoralized and angered, Arabs began to riot against British rule. Meanwhile, Jewish immigrants – during the Third (1919) and Fourth (1924) Aliyahs – continued arriving in waves. When Nazism arose in Germany, the Fifth Aliyah created an influx of a quarter of a million Jews.

Arabs grew angrier and launched the Arab revolt of 1936-1939. British security forces and Zionist militias suppressed the fighters, but many lives were lost. An estimated 10% of the Palestinian Arab population was killed or wounded. However, as a result, the British began restricting Jewish immigration into Palestine to help ease tensions. By this time, about a third of the worldwide Jewish population had returned to their homeland.

By 1947, the Brits decided it was not worth their efforts in the area. Negotiations between Palestinians and Jews were attempted to no avail. Ultimately, the British General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 – the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine. At the time, Jews owned almost 10% of the land. Palestinians owned about 20%. Oddly, the remaining 70% was owned by foreign landowners. A compromise to a

near-impossible situation was reached. They partitioned Palestine into two states – one Arab and one Jewish.

The land is split between Israelites and Palestinians



The [Arab League](#) rejected Resolution 181 outright, refusing any plan involving sharing the land with Jews. They proclaimed a three-day strike which resulted in riots breaking out across Jerusalem. Two weeks after the UN implemented Resolution 181, civil war broke out in the region. On May 15, 1948, the British evacuated the region leaving Arab militias and Jewish regiments fighting each other.

This is a good point to stop and pause to think about who really occupied Israel first. From the Palestinian point of view, the land was theirs. It had recently been taken from them after hundreds of years of occupation. However, to the Jews, it was their land, having lived on it for thousands of years prior to the Palestinian conquest. Who owned the land before the Jews is impossible to ascertain – technically, the Jews owned the

land first in ancient times, but Palestinians owned the land more recently. Thus, it's impossible to answer the question of who owned the land of Israel first.

Israel is formed

As seen still today, when conflict arises regarding the Jews, the whole of the Middle East takes advantage of the situation. The chaos triggered by Resolution 181 drew the armies of other countries into the war. Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Yemen, Morocco, [Saudi Arabia](#), Sudan, and Iraq entered the region launching the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Their primary goal was clear – to prevent the re-establishment of a Jewish state in the area. Thus began a war where most of the Middle East faced a tiny Israeli population to determine how the land should (or should not) be divided.

After a year of fighting, a ceasefire was declared. Temporary borders, called the Green Line, were established, giving Jordan the [West Bank](#) (including East Jerusalem) and Egypt the Gaza Strip. About 700,000 Palestinians fled Israel leaving about 150,000 to become Arab citizens of the newly formed country. Arabs would call the event the Nakba (*“the catastrophe”*).

On May 11, 1949, Israel was admitted as a member of the UN by a majority vote. Throughout the next decade, Israelites would suffer continuous attacks from Arab countries, mostly from the Egyptian-occupied Gaza Strip.

The Six-Day War

In 1956, Egyptians nationalized the [Suez Canal](#), prompting concern from the UK and France that the Straits of Tiran would be blocked to Israeli shipping. Together, the two countries overran the [Sinai Peninsula](#), then withdrew in return for guarantees of Israeli shipping rights in the Red Sea via the Straits of Tiran and the Suez Canal.

Ten years later, amidst heightened tensions in the area, in May 1967, Egypt gathered its army near the Israel border, expelled UN peacekeepers, and blocked Israel's access to the Red Sea. As usual for the region, other Arab states joined in and mobilized their forces toward the Israeli border. Israel announced that the movements were tantamount to a declaration of war. On June 5, they launched a pre-emptive strike against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In response, Iraq attacked Israel. **In less than a week, Israel captured land all around its borders – the West Bank from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and the [Golan Heights](#) from Syria. In less than a week, Israel gained territory four times its original size. The war came to be known as The [Six-Day War](#). It remains a massive embarrassment for the Arab states.**

The Yom Kippur attack

On October 6, 1973, as Jews observed Yom Kippur (i.e., the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in Judaism), Egyptian and Syrian armies launched surprise attacks against Israeli forces in the Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. The Yom Kippur War ended in 19 days, with Israel successfully repelling both opposing armies from the land. Between 10k and 30k lives were lost during the three-week war, engraining more hatred on both sides.

The Israel-Egypt peace treaty

Egypt conceded in 1979 and became the first Arab country to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. The border with Egypt was defined, and Israel withdrew all forces and settlers from Sinai but continued to occupy the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Golan Heights. They continue to occupy the areas today.

Never-ending conflict in the Land of Milk and Honey

Should Israel belong to the Israelites or the Palestinians?

Most people, including most Christians, believe the land of Israel belongs to the Jews. They held the land first (at least as far back as we can tell), had it forcefully taken from them by Muslims, and then forcefully took it back. The argument, however, is mute.

Israel has agreed to create a Palestinian state with the condition that the attacks against them cease. Radical Palestinian groups, however, refuse the proposition because their religion calls for not just possession of the land but the elimination of all Jews worldwide.

It's impossible to negotiate with demands like that.

Since winning the Six-Day War in June 1967, the nation of Israel has grown into a world military power and has proven its ability to defend itself. But according to the Bible, the greatest threat to modern Israel's continued existence has yet to happen.

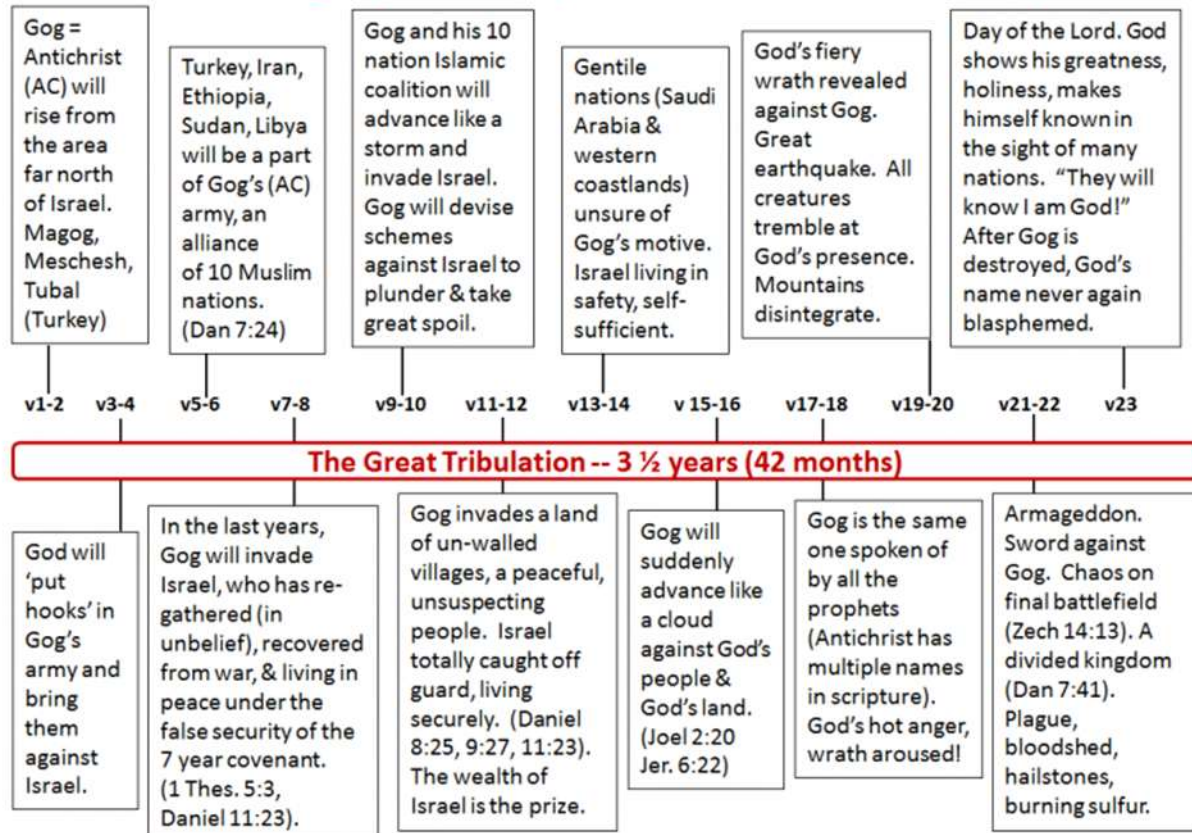
This is when Israel will be attacked by a coalition of nations from every direction. The prophet Ezekiel describes this invasion, known as the Battle of Gog and Magog, in Ezekiel 38-39. This coalition of invading nations will be motivated by a seething desire to eradicate Israel, enrich themselves, and entangle Israel's allies in the war.

Participants of the Ezekiel 38-39 War

The prophecy of the Battle of Gog and Magog begins with a list of ten proper names in [Ezekiel 38:1-7](#).

Now 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, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.’ ⁴I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. ⁵Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; ⁶Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you. ⁷Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.”

Ezekiel 38 – Gog’s (Antichrist’s) Future Invasion of Jerusalem/Israel



Gog

While the other nine proper names in [Ezekiel 38:1-7](#) are specific geographical locations, the name Gog, which occurs eleven times in Ezekiel 38-39, is clearly an individual who heads the coalition of invaders. He is also directly addressed by God several times - ([Ezekiel 38:14](#); [39:1](#)) and is called a prince - ([Ezekiel 38:2](#); [39:1](#)).

Ezekiel may have used ancient names familiar to the people of his day and these names have changed many times throughout history, but the geographical territory remains the same. Regardless of what names they may carry at the time of this invasion, a literal interpretation holds that these specific geographical areas will be involved.

Let's take a look at each of these ancient locations and examine them and then we will identify the modern counterpart.

Magog

The Jewish historian Josephus said the land of Magog was inhabited by ancient Scythians. The Scythians were northern nomadic tribes who inhabited the territory from Central Asia across the southern steppes of modern Russia.

Magog today probably represents nations from the former Soviet Union: Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Afghanistan could also be part of this territory.

Rosh

Bible scholars have often identified Rosh with Russia. But this conclusion has not been unanimous.

The word **rosh** in Hebrew simply means “*head, top, summit, or chief.*” It is a very common word used in all Semitic languages. Although most Bible translations translate **rosh** as a common noun – “*chief,*” the Jerusalem Bible, New English Bible, and New American Standard Bible all translate Rosh as a proper name indicating a geographical location.

Several arguments support taking **Rosh** as a proper name but the most impressive evidence is simply that this translation in this context is the most natural. [G. A. Cooke](#) translates [Ezekiel 38:2](#), “***the chief of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.***” He calls this “*the most natural way*” of rendering the Hebrews.

After establishing that **Rosh** should be translated as a proper name for a geographical area, the question now is where is **Rosh**? The great Hebrew scholar [Wilhelm Gesenius](#) noted that **Rosh** is “*undoubtedly the Russians.*”

Ezekiel 38-39 emphasizes repeatedly that at least part of this invading force will come from the “***remote parts of the north***” -(Ezekiel 38:6, 15; 39:2). The Bible usually provides directions about Israel, which, on God’s compass, is the center of the earth (Ezekiel 38:12).

If you draw a line directly north from Israel, the land that is most remote or distant to the north is Russia.

Meshech and Tubal

Meshech and Tubal are normally mentioned together in Scripture. Aside from Ezekiel 38:2, Meshech and Tubal are mentioned two other times in Ezekiel -(Ezekiel 27:13; 32:26).

In Ezekiel 27:13, they are mentioned as trading partners with ancient Tyre. It is highly unlikely that ancient Tyre (modern Lebanon) was trading with Moscow and the Siberian city of Tobolsk. The preferred identification is that Meshech and Tubal are the ancient Moschoi and Tibarenoi in Greek writings or Tabal and Musku in Assyrian inscriptions.

These ancient locations are in present-day Turkey.



Persia

The words Persia, Persian, and Persians are found thirty-five times in the Old Testament. In [Ezekiel 38:5](#), Persia is best understood as modern-day Iran. The land of Persia became the modern nation of Iran in March 1935, and then the name was changed to the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979.

Libya (Put)

Some ancient sources indicate that Put or Phut was a North African nation. The New Living Translation documents this identification in footnotes for several passages, including Isaiah 66:19; Jeremiah 46:9; and Ezekiel 27:10; 38:5.

From the *Babylonian Chronicles*, tablets that recorded ancient Babylonian history, it appears that Put was the “distant” land to the west of Egypt, which would be modern-day Libya and could possibly include nations further west such as modern-day Algeria and Tunisia.

The Septuagint renders the word *Put* as *Libues*.

Ethiopia (Cush)

Modern versions often translate the Hebrew word Cush in Ezekiel 38:5 as “Ethiopia.” Ancient Cush was called Kusu by the Assyrians and Babylonians, Kos or Kas by the Egyptians, and Nubia by the Greeks.

Secular history locates Cush directly south of ancient Egypt, extending south past the modern city of Khartoum, which is the capital of modern Sudan. Thus, modern Sudan inhabits the ancient land of Cush.

Gomer

Gomer has often been identified by Bible teachers as Germany, or more particularly East Germany before the fall of Communism. This identification is superficial and not the literal meaning of the word in its cultural and historic context.

Gomer is probably a reference to the ancient Cimmerians or *Kimmerioi*. Ancient history identifies biblical Gomer with the Akkadian *Gi-mir-ra-a* and the Armenian *Gamir*. Beginning in the eighth century BC, the Cimmerians occupied territory is what is now modern Turkey.

Josephus noted that the Gomerites were identified with the Galatians who inhabited what today is central Turkey.

Beth-Togarmah

The Hebrew word ***beth*** means “house,” so Beth-Togarmah means the “house of Togarmah.” Ezekiel 27:14 mentions Togarmah as a nation that traded horses and mules with ancient Tyre.

Ezekiel 38:6 states that the armies of Beth-Togarmah will join in, too, from the distant north. Ancient Togarmah was also known as Til-garamu (Assyrian) or Tegarman (Hittite), and its territory is in modern Turkey, north of Israel.

Based on these identifications, Ezekiel 38-39 predicts an invasion of the land of Israel in the last days by a vast confederation of nations from north of the Black and Caspian Seas, extending to modern Iran in the east, as far as modern Libya to the west, and Sudan in the south.

Therefore, Russia will have at least five key allies: Turkey, Iran, Libya, Sudan, and the Central Asian nations of the former Soviet Union.

Timing of the Battle

The battle of Gog and Magog will occur in the future, in the end times, but when in the future? While there is a general agreement about many of the details in Ezekiel 38-39, the timing of battle is the most debated issue. Scholars have located the battle at almost every major point in the end times from the Rapture all the way to the end of the Millennium.

Some believe the battle will take place before the Rapture; others believe it will occur between the Rapture and the Tribulation; others believe it will take place in conjunction with the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Great Tribulation. Some believe it occurs at the end of the Millennium since Revelation 20:8 refers to Gog and Magog. Others maintain that it will unfold in phases throughout the Tribulation.

Thankfully, we are not left to our own speculation in timing the events of Ezekiel 38-39. The passage gives us clues that suggest when this battle will take place. One of which is when Israel is at peace -(Ezekiel 38:11).

[Daniel 9:27](#) tells us that there's coming a time when Israel will sign a peace treaty with the Antichrist, which will guarantee protection for the Jewish people and Israel will be able to relax. This is the first half of the Tribulation or what's called Daniel's seventieth week.

This peacetime moment in Israel's history fits the prophetic scenario perfectly. With these guarantees of secure borders and international peace, Israel will turn her energies toward increasing wealth rather than defense. But the peace treaty will be shattered less than four years later.

The Purpose of the Ezekiel 38-39 War

What is the purpose of this invasion? The passage gives both the human and the divine purposes for the invasion.

The invaders will have four main goals: the land, money, total destruction of Israel, and power. First, the invading forces will desire to acquire more territory -(Ezekiel 38:8). Any military invasion of this magnitude and scope always includes land.

Then there's money. The invaders will come to plunder Israel and amass wealth - (Ezekiel 38:12). One might wonder, "What wealth does Israel have?" No one knows for sure what this will entail, but discoveries of vast gas reserves off the coast of Israel could be part of the equation as oil becomes more scarce in the future, triggering energy wars. Make no mistake – greed will be a key motive behind the Gog invasion.

The third is racism. The invading horde will come to destroy the people of Israel and wipe them off the face of the earth -(Ezekiel 38:10, 16). This is in keeping with the hatred we see for the Jewish people in Israel's neighbors today.

Fourth is power. These nations will use this attack to challenge the Antichrist, who will be Israel's ally as a result of the peace treaty -(Daniel 9:27). Their attack on Israel will also be an attack against the Western confederacy, attempting to draw it into an open confrontation.

Finally, while the invaders will have their evil intent, God will also have His own motivation. He says that through this attack He will be sanctified in the eyes of the nations: ***"You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes"*** -(Ezekiel 38:16).

Result of the War

When the forces invade Israel, there will be no stopping them. They will be bent on war and destruction. The timing will seem perfect, and the invaders will not back down. It will look like the biggest mismatch in history. The Arab invasion of Israel in 1967 and 1973 will pale in comparison. The Jewish people will be unable to overcome their enemies by

their own strength and ingenuity. Gog and his army will cover Israel like a cloud. It will look like Israel is finished.

However, God will come to the rescue of His people and will quickly annihilate the invaders by supernatural means -(Ezekiel 38:18-22).

Ezekiel 38-39 describes what we might call “One-Day-War” or even the “One-Hour-War” or “When Gog Meets God.” God will mount up in His fury to destroy these godless invaders.

This coalition of nations will brashly swoop down on Israel to take her land, but the only piece of land they will claim in Israel will be their burial plots -(Ezekiel 39:12). They will set out to bury Israel, but God will bury them.

The Prophetic Significance

Is the world stage being set for the fulfillment of this incredible prophecy? Many major developments point toward the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy, but three key elements stand out.

First, the Jewish people are back in their land, fulfilling the major pre-condition for this invasion.

Second, the nations predicted in Ezekiel 38 all have the will and desire to wipe out the Jewish people and these nations are forming alliances with one another.

Third, according to Ezekiel 39:2, 4, Israel will possess the **“mountains of Israel” when this invasion occurs**. God tells the future invaders: **“I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.”**

“You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.”

The famous Six-Day-War in Israel in 1967 helped set the stage to fulfill this prophecy. Before the Six-Day-war the mountains of Israel were in the hands of the Jordanian Arabs, except for a small strip of West Jerusalem.

Only since that war have the mountains of Israel been in Israel. Thus many pieces of the prophetic puzzle are already in place for the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Conclusion

Events in the Middle East today strikingly foreshadow this coming invasion. The continued unrest and smoldering hatred for Israel are necessary ingredients for what the Bible predicts.

The Magog Invasion

Ezekiel 38 & 39

- The occasion in which God Himself intervenes to quell the ill-fated invasion of Israel by Magog and its allies
 - Persia, Cush, Phut, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Meshech, Tubal
- The passage appears to anticipate the use of nuclear weapons.

Nations are rising and falling. The world is focused on the Middle East. Israel is in the crosshairs. No one knows when the Lord will come or how much time remains before the Battle of Gog and Magog plunges the Middle East into war.

There will undoubtedly be many twists and turns, some expected and others we could never imagine in today's climate. But God's Word is clear – when the world stage is set, this invasion will occur right on time in the unfolding of God's end-times script.

EZEKIEL BIBLE PROPHECY AND WORLD WAR III

God warns Iran (Persia), with Russia (Magog), and a coalition of allies (including Turkey, Libya, and Sudan) will attack and will invade Israel. In Ezekiel 38-39 the Bible warns this coming war between Iran (Persia) and Israel will take place sometime after Israel has been re-gathered into Her land as a nation (which was fulfilled on May 14, 1948) ... This prophetic war has never yet taken place ... the only time in history Persia (Iran) has ever gone to war against Israel was to help Israel throw off the yoke of the Byzantine Empire around 614 AD.

EDGAR CAYCE: "IF" THERE WILL BE A WORLD WAR III – IT WILL START IN DAMASCUS (SYRIA)! Most know of Edgar Cayce as a clairvoyant or psychic, but few

known for being a devout Christian and Sunday School teacher. He was often referred to as The Sleeping Prophet”.

This War will be unlike any other war in history ... this war will unleash a series of irreversible events which will change the world forever. God has set aside two whole chapters in the Bible to warn Mankind of this coming war. Keep in mind that this prophecy is history told in advance and it will shake the world as to God’s involvement!

The Bible warns the U.S. will not or cannot defend Israel. According to the Bible, Israel must stand alone ... with God. For when this coming war does finally start, the United States will be unwilling (or unable) to help Israel defend herself. Even though the Bible warns the invading armies will be ultimately destroyed by God, it will be a devastating war for both Israel and the whole world. Bible scholars are divided as to whether this coming war is part of the prophetic battle of Armageddon or will just precede Armageddon in order to prepare a path for the Antichrist (a coming World Leader who will enforce a Peace Plan (“covenant”) upon Israel) which will trigger the final prophetic 7-Year period of time which God has set aside for Israel and the World which is sometimes called the “Apocalypse”. Ezekiel Bible Prophecy and World War III

EDGAR CAYCE : THE “HOPE OF THE WORLD” WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF RUSSIA !

All people of the World should be sitting on the edge of their seats with white knuckles watching this terrible prophecy slowly start to unfold ... while those who call themselves Christians (followers ... both Jew and Gentile ... of Jesus (Yeshua), the promised Messiah) are told to “*examine*” themselves in the Word and in their faith to insure they are not just ‘almost’ Christians -(Matthew 7:21-23) who are “*lukewarm*” in their faith in Jesus (Yeshua) and God’s Word -(Revelation 3:14-16) ... for Jesus warns all to, “***Watch, therefore, and pray always (not just sometimes), that you will be counted worthy (through His worthiness) to escape all these things (the terrible events of the coming ‘Apocalypse’) that will come to pass***”. -(Luke 21:36) ... for the Bible promises believing Christians (faithful and sincere believers in Jesus Christ (Yeshua Ha’Mashiach in Hebrew) who are alive at that time and have endured in their faith in God’s Word are not “***appointed***” to this coming time of “***God’s wrath***” that will be “***poured out***” upon the “***whole world***”. -(1st Thessalonians 1:10, 1st Thessalonians 5:9-11)

EZEKIEL 38:1-10

“Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, set your face against Gog (a powerful leader), of the land of Magog (translated ‘Scythia’ in Greek .. the area of modern day Russia), the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal (Meshech and Tubal are in and around Turkey) and prophesy against him, and say...”

Thus says the Lord GOD:

‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog (a powerful human or dark-angelic leader behind Russia), the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. (Turkey) I will turn you

around, put hooks into your jaws (Israel's Leviathan gas fields, mutual defense treaty, or UN effort) ***and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords*** (weapons).

(The Russian army will march again) ***Persia (IRAN)***, (Iran is listed first, meaning it will be the 'lead' ally) ***Ethiopia*** (Sudan ... "Cush"), ***and Libya*** (northern Africa) ***are with them, all of them with shield and helmet. Gomer and all its troops;*** (Germany-France, eastern Europe, or "Galatia"- Turkey) ***the house of Togarmah (Armenia) from the far north and all its troops – many people are with you.*** (NATO member Turkey will join this coalition) ***Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.*** (Russia will act as a "guard" ... and supplier of weapons) ***After many days you will be visited.*** (Meaning, this would happen far from Ezekiel's time) ***In the latter years you*** (Russia-Iran-Turkey) ***will come into the land of those brought back from the sword*** (Israel!) ***and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate*** (this war will take place after Israel became a nation in 1948) ***they*** (the children of Israel) ***were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. You will ascend, coming like a storm,*** (they may attack from the air, or from the south, or both) ***covering the land*** (of Israel) ***like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.***" -(Ezekiel 38:1-10)

THE BIBLE WARNS RUSSIA WILL ALSO ACT AS A GUARD FOR SYRIA AND IRAN
"Prepare yourself (Russia – "Magog") ***and be ready, you*** (Russia) ***and all your companies*** (allies) ***that are gathered about you*** (SYRIA – IRAN); ***and be a GUARD for them.***" ("Them" is Iran, Turkey, and the other allies listed) -(Ezekiel 38:7) A "guard" protects, defends, blocks threats of "international sanctions"... and provides weapons, technology, intelligence, command, and control ... and often stays quietly hidden in the shadows until the time is right.

EZEKIEL 38:11-17

'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that Day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: You (the one who leads Russia) ***will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages;*** (the cities in Israel are no longer 'walled') ***I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates' to take plunder and to take booty,*** (Greed, envy, and arrogance will fuel this invasion) ***to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited,*** (look at Israel today) ***and against a people gathered from the nations,*** (this will take place after 1948!) ***who have acquired livestock and goods, which dwell in the midst of the end.***

Ezekiel Bible Prophecy and World War III

Sheba (Saudi Arabia), Dedan (Kuwait), (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will not join this invasion) the merchants of Tarshish (may be England), all their young lions (may be former colonies like Canada, Australia, and the U.S.) will say to you, ***'Have you come to take plunder?*** (Greed, envy, and arrogance will fuel this invasion ...) ***Have***

you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder? “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, (“Gog” is either the powerful angelic being or a powerful human leader of “Magog” ... Russia!) Thus says the Lord GOD: On that Day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it?

Then you will come from your place out of the far NORTH, (literally “uttermost parts of the North” ... take a globe and look “FAR north” of Israel) you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. You will come up against My (God’s) people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I (God) will bring you against My Land (Israel), so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” (For God will destroy this invading army ...)

Thus says the Lord GOD: “Are you (Gog) he of whom I have spoken in former days (Prophecy fulfilled!) by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I (God) would bring you against them?” -(Ezekiel 38:11-17)

EZEKIEL 38:18-23

“And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord GOD, “that MY fury will show in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the Earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’

I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord GOD. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. (The invading armies will be decimated by God!) Thus I (God) will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.” -(Ezekiel 38:18-23)

THE TIME HAS COME !

We are not exactly sure when this attack/invasion will take place but, from current news headlines, it looks as though it is now getting very close. As noted above, if you study your history books you will find the only time in history Iran (Persia) has invaded Israel was in 614 AD, and this invasion was to help Israel break the yoke of the Byzantine Empire.

The current threats of war the U.S. and NATO members are making against Syria and Iran will involve Russia, China and ... Israel represent the first time in history the world

has seen the imminent fulfillment of this prophecy. Add the fact Russia is fully backing Iran and Syria will quickly turn against Israel when the U.S. will attack, and all of these nations either are, or soon will be, armed with nuclear weapons, you will find the world may soon be facing this terrible prophetic war.

THE INVADING ARMIES WILL BE DESTROYED

In Ezekiel 39 the Bible goes on to warn the invading armies will be utterly destroyed ... by GOD! Also in Ezekiel 39 there are hints this coming war may go nuclear because Israel will wait months to enter the battlefield after the battle, they will “set apart men regularly employed” (professionals) to bury the dead, and later if a bone is spotted it is to be “marked” for the professionals to bury (exactly the same procedures that are now found in our military nuclear – biological – chemical “battlefield cleanup” manuals today) ... the aftermath of this invasion will be very, very gruesome.

Some scholars feel it must be part of, or the beginning of “The Battle of Armageddon” (because of some of the terminology used), and others believe it must happen sometime before Armageddon and will set the stage for the coming “Antichrist” (who will rise over 10 nations which were part of the Roman Empire) to fill the world power vacuum that will be left after this coming war. The United States will be “neutralized” sometime before this attack and will be unwilling or unable to help defend Israel, for the Bible warns Israel must stand alone ... with God! More importantly, many good Bible prophecy scholars believe the strange prophetic event called “The Rapture” must take place sometime before this coming battle.

Ezekiel Bible Prophecy and World War III

Many people will simply yawn and ignore these Bible prophecies and the headlines we are now seeing. Yet, God does NOT fulfill His prophecies or prophetic warnings in secret, but so all the world can see. For many years now a number of Bible prophecy teachers and scholars have been warning the one piece of the puzzle missing was for Turkey (a NATO ally-nation) to turn toward Russia and Iran and against Israel (as this prophecy predicts.) The world has waited over 2,500 years to see the headlines we are now seeing ...

This prophetic war between Iran and Israel has never yet taken place ... and it is very much a part of the coming “Apocalypse” and Armageddon scenario. God has been warning and preparing this generation for this coming war for well over 10 years ... and the headlines concerning this coming war can now be found almost daily all around the world.

God is trying to get our attention and to draw those who are His back to Him before it is too late. With open arms and with tears of joy God promises to welcome and to shelter and comfort ALL who will come to Him before these events take place (or before their earthly bodies die) ... yet, the Bible warns God will not mourn, nor have mercy, on those who reject and ignore and mock His Word and His warnings.

The October 7th Gaza Hamas invasion should have gotten the world's attention as a potential lighting the fuse for what will certainly spread regionally to Israel's neighbors. Israel has acknowledged it is fighting a war on "seven" fronts, and has hardened its stance on fighting to the death to protect its people, land, and existence. Approaching 100 days as of January 10th, Israel seems unlikely to any of the things needed to win at the war being waged by Iran and its surrogates.

Putting together the Ezekiel 38 39 coalition that invades Israel

Don Koenig posted back on November 5, 2018:

"It looks like the Ezekiel 38 39 coalition of nations that comes against Israel in these latter days is now being formed. For various reasons I do not believe Gog will pull off this invasion of Israel for a number of years yet. Nevertheless, if this invasion is going to happen within the next decade like many students of Bible prophecy believe, the alignment we see forming has to occur."

Russia is presently gearing up for what Putin believes is inevitable war with the West. Putin himself born of a Jewish mother has aligned himself with the Russian Orthodox Church and thinks of himself as a Christian Savior figure that stands against the Western antichrists. He believes evil people controlling the West want total control of Eastern Europe and Russia. This is not just delusion on Putin's part. Certain Luciferian globalists want Russia taken out of the picture and they want control of the vast Russian natural resources. The U.S., UK, NATO alliance have used the Ukraine War to weaken the Russian military; however, they are stronger than before they entered the Ukraine.

The globalists also want America taken out of the picture. What better way to get rid of both problems than by provoking a nuclear exchange between these military superpowers. Then the Roman Empire would rise again. Some believe if Witch Hillary Clinton had been in power the nuclear exchange with Russia would have already occurred.

Russia is about six years into a ten-year military modernization program. Russia recently held the largest military exercise since the Cold War. About 250,000 military were involved. I think the wording for the Ezekiel 38 Gog invasion requires millions of troops so this 250,000 is just a warmup for the gathering of forces. Russia cannot gather millions to come down against Israel today but the way things are going that day is not very many years off. The Russian Duma authorized a 1.3-million increase in its military special operation with the Ukraine.

Iran today is aligned with Russia and Turkey is rapidly moving into the Russia camp. Ezekiel tells us that Put (Libya) and Ethiopia (today that is the Sudan) also will take part in this invasion. Since the Muslim Brotherhood lead Arab Spring there had been anarchy in those two nations but now strong war lords have taken control. The leaders in both of these nations are now making deals with Russia. Libya and the Sudan obviously cannot put together any sort of invasion force now but this could be a different story about a decade down the line.

The prophecy says many others will join with those that are specifically mentioned in Ezekiel 38. I think some of those others are the —‘Stan’ nations. There are over three hundred million people in those Stan nations and they are Muslim. Many of these nations were part of the old Soviet Union. Putin has said that his biggest regret is the breakup of the Soviet Union. He wants to put it back together again. He could partly do that with economic and military alliances with the Stan nations south of Russia.

Add up the people in the Stan nations with those specifically identified in Ezekiel 38 and the Gog forces can originate from a population of over a billion people. Fielding millions then becomes feasible. The burying of the mostly Muslim armies of these nations also would eliminate the Islamic threat and allow for the rise of the European superpower with its Antichrist.

Even the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 that are not part of the Gog invasion are now aligned according to the prophecy. Sheba and Dedan (The Arabians) are now aligned with Tarshish, and her young lions (Western Europe and English Commonwealth nations). The Arab Gulf nations now want peace with Israel.

One of the big mysteries about this invasion is why Sudan and Libya come against Israel with no mention of Egypt. These nations certainly have to go through Egypt to invade Israel. One possibility that some have taught is that Egypt and Syria will go to war with Israel before the Ezekiel 38 war and Israel will decimate them. Another possibility is that Israel is pushing the Palestinian refugee people south into Egypt; there is a reference in Ezekiel 28 alluding to the destruction of the Tower of Syene that will lead to flooding the Nile Delta and much of the country. Then the Gog invasion would be the hook in the jaw response to that. The problem with that conjecture is that Israel is said to be living peacefully before the Gog invasion.

From teachings I learned over the years, I think a more likely possibility is that Egypt will become a failed state before and during the first part of the tribulation. Egypt almost had a civil war when the Muslim Brotherhood took over but was then overthrown by the Army. After President el-Sisi is gone a huge civil war between the secular army and the Islamists becomes inevitable. This civil war and the failed state is mentioned in Isaiah 19:2-4.

“And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbor; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.” -(Isaiah 19:2)

“And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.” -(Isaiah 19:3)

Later during the tribulation, the forces of the Antichrist invade Egypt and most of the Middle East. With that in mind, we might also take note that NATO is now acting like it's back in the Cold War. Military spending is rising and military equipment is being built

up. NATO also just had an exercise involving around 50,000 troops. The arms buildup in Europe will continue. At some point under the Antichrist their forces come down and occupy most of the area. NATO unfortunately is rife with corruption and lacks a unified strategy of what is needed to block Russia.

⁴¹“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. ⁴²He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³But 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 11:41-43)

Initially the bulk of the buildup of Gog's army might not even be in response to Middle East issues. It could be that this new Soviet Union was already fighting together as an alliance in Eastern Europe until they are turned around and brought down with the hook in the jaw -(Ezekiel 38:4).

It is not hard to see how America could be taken out of the equation to make the destruction of Gog's army one from God rather than one from America's nuclear arsenal. The optimistic solution to the demise is that the Rapture leaves America decimated. The pessimistic solution is that an EMP or an economic collapse does the job. It could even be a combination of all the above. China and North Korea are open about their desire to destroy the U.S. China has placed nuclear missiles in Cuba as part of their efforts to neutralize the U.S. Then there is the issue of thousands of Chinese illegals (young men) crossing the southern border with Mexico.

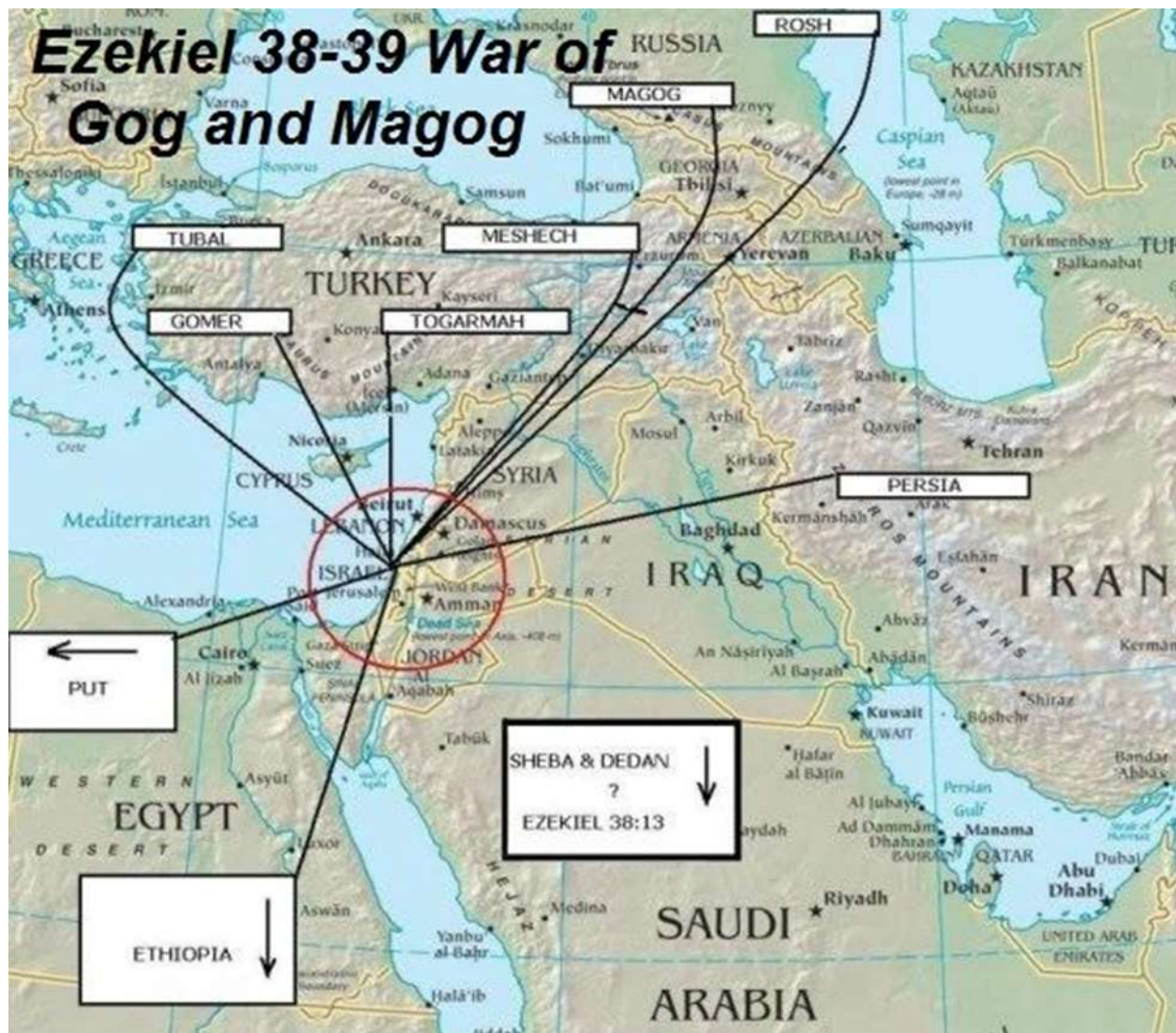
China has been gearing up for a war with America and America is foolishly living in its glass house infrastructure preparing to throw stones from sitting duck aircraft carriers. China can easily put out our lights at home. Once the lights go out we would become a Mad Max nation in a matter of weeks. The Chinese are on track to invade Taiwan and have made it clear that the U.S. will not be there to defend Taiwan.

With America disabled for any reason, the rest is not hard to envision. With America out of the picture, Russia would seek to take back Eastern Europe, get in a war with NATO and then look south. She would ask her western, southwestern and southern allies to gear up to assist her.

Russia will see the invasion of Israel as an opportunity to take riches. The Muslim nations will see it as an opportunity to get rid of Israel. God will see it as a way to get glory by defeating Islam. The invading armies will mostly end up destroying each other and Israel will get the job of cleaning up the mess. The coalitions of nations we now see shaping up tells us the time of this fulfillment of Bible prophecy is reasonably soon.

It is evident that China and Russia are working fulltime to undermine the U.S. dollar as the “reserve” currency of the world. China and Russia have been adding gold to their treasury as a means to dethrone the dollar. Many of the OPEC countries are willing to

trade oil for the Chinese Yuan and Russian Ruble. The U.S. National Debt passed \$34 trillion dollars a few weeks ago and is in denial of being a failed state, a banana republic at that. The legal system is corrupt and there is no rule of law in the country.



By Christine Darg, Jerusalem Channel

I've been watching news headlines for years concerning the amazingly detailed End-Time prophecies recorded in Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39. Yet the topic is hardly ever mentioned in church pulpits – it only gets talked about in prophetic circles.

We believers are supposed to understand the times and be on the alert as watchmen on the walls! As news developments are becoming more urgent in the Mideast, the pressing question is– how imminent is the prophesied Ezekiel War? Will it happen before Israeli elections in April, as at least one of my Israeli friends believes? Will this great war of divine intervention somehow coincide with Purim, the annual Israeli holiday

that remembers Jewish victory and salvation from the Persians (i.e. Iran) in the days of Queen Esther and Mordechai?

There's an unhealthy trend in evangelical circles today that basically wants to ignore the biblical reality of the Second Coming. And the irony is the boycott of the subject comes at a time when the Lord is soon to return according to all of the biblical signs Jesus gave us!

If you check out the topics of one Christian conference after another, I daresay you'll find that very few mention the Second Coming of Jesus..... or the subject of Israel as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. When it comes to eschatology– the study of the end times– many believers have mistakenly swallowed the lie that End-time prophecy is just too confusing or complicated to tackle.

However, Ezekiel 38 and 39 are very straightforward and easy to understand, namely that the restored nation of Israel in the last days will be suddenly invaded by a coalition of nations led by an enemy from the north BUT God will miraculously intervene to save Israel and defeat the coalition of nations. God promises a worldwide revival as a result.

Meanwhile, pastors and preachers are failing their congregations if they don't prepare them for the Last Days, and if they don't teach what the Bible says concerning doctrines related to the return of the Lord and the culmination of human history. The truth of the Second Coming literally fills the pages of the New Testament. Yet it never ceases to amaze me how some people get their backs up over this subject, especially the doctrine of the rapture, or the translation to heaven of the church, before the Great Tribulation.

Jesus prepared his followers by saying that in the world we should expect tribulation, but there's a future period called by the Bible the Great Tribulation. The time period called the Great Tribulation will be in a league entirely all its own. In Luke 21: 36 Jesus gave instructions that we should ***"stay awake at all times, praying that we may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."***

The doctrine of the immanency of the Lord's Second Coming would be eliminated if the Rapture happens sometime after the beginning of the 7 years specified in the Bible as the Great Tribulation. Daniel, the prophet, identified the Tribulation as a seven-year period, and the second half of the Great Tribulation will be the worst part.

How would a person know if they're living in the time of the Great Tribulation? The key is found in the Olivet Discourse by Jesus. He said it will be ***"When you see the abomination of desolation standing where it shouldn't be,"*** desecrating the rebuilt temple of God, and verse 19 adds, ***"Those days will be a time of tribulation such has not occurred since the beginning of creation until now, and never will."***

Furthermore, the Gospels tell us that ***"if the Lord had not cut short those days, nobody would be saved."***

The Great Tribulation will be the worse time in history – events will be more deadly and more disastrous exponentially- and it's all foretold by John in the Book of Revelation, from chapters 6 to 19. In his Olivet Discourse, Jesus said that ***“After that tribulation”*** – when the Great Tribulation is finished, ***“the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken”*** – ***“Then”*** – ***in the midst of the darkness with no sun, no moon, and no stars*** – ***“they will see the awesome sight of the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”***

And then He'll send His angels to the far corners of the earth to collect all the elect together to enter into His Davidic kingdom. So the Bible tells us that when the Antichrist sets himself up to be worshipped in the rebuilt third temple of God, a horrendous time will be triggered that will set off the countdown of judgments that will end with the majestic return of King Messiah to take control of this world for a thousand-year kingdom.

So don't think for one moment that this world is going to drag on and on indefinitely in its present state, with all of its rebellion against God, and with all of its religious deception and cruel dictators. Jesus gave us signs of his return when he will judge and rule this world, so we'll be prepared. The first disciples of Jesus wanted to know the sign of his coming. In the Lord's Olivet Discourse recorded in all three of the synoptic Gospels, Jesus warned that before his return, the world will be characterized by all manner of deception. He said the world will experience birth pains of massive disasters; wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, plagues, natural disasters. And he said human history will be characterized by relentless persecution — both Jews and Christians have suffered unspeakable things.

Jesus described the intermittent period between his Ascension and his return, as a time of Gospel preaching, the times of the Gentiles. History has proven the accuracy of His predictions and warnings. But soon, Halleluiah, the Lord will be King over the whole earth. Revelation 20 says His rule will last a thousand years, and at the end of the thousand years, the whole universe will implode and be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells forever. All of this is our hope. I'm looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

One of the aspects of the lengthy ministry of Billy Graham that I found so effective and encouraging was that he consistently taught about the Second Coming of Jesus. Billy Graham faithfully made reference to the many Bible verses about the Second Coming. He consistently warned people that Jesus is coming and to be prepared to meet God.

Most eschatologists teach that before the Rapture and the Great Tribulation, an invasion of Israel detailed in Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39 must first take place. Listen to how Ezekiel chapter 38 begins: ***“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh,***

Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 'Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.'

Verse 8 goes on to say, ***"After many days you will be visited. In the latter years, you will come into the land of those who have been brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they [speaking of the Jewish people] were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely."***

So, my friends, this chapter is speaking of the last days that precede the Great Tribulation period and that precede the Day of the Lord. The indication is that the nation of regathered Israel will be living in an imperfect peace situation because of the animosity of Israel's neighbors as described so accurately in Psalm 83. In that psalm, Israel's enemies are confederate saying, ***"Come let us wipe them out as a nation that the name of Israel will be remembered no more."*** Israel hasn't enjoyed genuine peace since its rebirth in 1948, but only tenuous peace after the many wars and ceasefires. But in Ezekiel 38, a thought comes into the mind of Israel's enemies to the north to devise an evil plan, saying, ***"I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely"*** —to do what?—***"to take plunder and to take a spoil."*** The motive is economic. So who is this enemy to the north described with Biblical names — Gog, Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal? Well there's agreement among most prophecy scholars that Gog is a title of a strong leader, a prince of Rosh, meaning Russia; Magog was the name of a grandson of Noah who settled in territory that's Russia today. The first century Jewish historian Josephus identified the offspring of Magog as the Scythians —who were brutal, horse-riding nomads that resided in the area of modern-day southern Russia and Eastern Ukraine.

Some scholars say Meshech and Tubal were once a part of territory that's now Russia as well. God says in Ezekiel 38: 4, ***"I will put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army,"*** and verse 5 is very important because it says the alliance that will come against Israel includes Persia, which is modern-day Iran, Israel's mortal enemy.

Iran constantly threatens and boasts that it's going to wipe Israel from the map. Iran is self-confident and has admitted to supplying both missiles and missile technology to Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah operatives in Jordan. Besides Iran, Ezekiel prophesies that "many other nations" will be part of the invasion, including Cush, (modern day-Sudan); Put, (modern-day Libya); Gomer and Beth Togarmah, believed to be ancient names for Turkey. Have you noticed how Russia and Turkey are aligned now with Iran? You may wonder—where are the world's super powers, America and Britain? Some scholars believe they can be found in verse 13 of Ezekiel 38. That verse says ***"Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to Gog, 'Have you come to take a spoil, .. to take great plunder?'"*** Sheba and Dedan mentioned in this verse are in Saudi Arabia but who are the merchants of Tarshish? The scriptures indicate Tarshish was a faraway island that the runaway prophet Jonah was trying to reach. So in the Hebrew Bible, Tarshish was far across the sea from the Land of Israel. The merchants were the sailors who back British tin and metals from afar. Some

scholars believe Tarshish is Britain because of verse 13's mention of lions; the lion is the symbol for Britain – and the young lions of Tarshish would represent America and the British colonies.

So the nations are lining up just as Ezekiel 38 predicted: Russia already has a foothold and major military presence in Syria; and Sheba and Dedan, representing Saudi Arabia, are now in alliance with the USA and Israel– against Iran. In verse 13, the United States, if it is a young lion of Tarshish, asks a question—what is Russia daring to do? Have you come to plunder? To loot?

In light of all this biblical background, I want to share a recent “Breaking Israel News” headline which asked the question based upon Ezekiel 38 – Is, *“Russia: A Friend of Israel or Prophetic Enemy from the North?”* Recently Russia released what seemed to be conflicting statements in the wake of Israeli airstrikes against Iranian military sites in Syria. Russia decried the Israeli airstrikes but at the same expressed its *“deep concern”* about Israel's security. So it's essential to understand Russia's intentions for the region. Russia's role takes on apocalyptic implications when considering verses in Ezekiel 38 that identify the War of Gog and Magog as a multi-national coalition led by a nation from the far north. If you look at a map, Moscow is directly far north from Israel.

Let's read Ezekiel 38: 14-15: ***“Thus says the LORD: Surely, on that day, when My people Israel are living securely, you will take note, and you will come from your home in the farthest north, you and many peoples with you—, a vast horde, a mighty army.”*** The Breaking Israel News article pointed out that Russia has an economic motive for attacking Israel — it's called the East-Med gas pipeline. On December 20th, 2018, the Prime Ministers of Israel, Cyprus, and Greece met in the Israeli city of Beersheba and all three parties signed a high-level agreement concerning one of the longest and deepest underwater gas pipelines in the world that will deliver natural gas to the European Union. The EU is keen to support the project and to diversify its natural gas imports away from the heavily sanctioned Russian Federation. The article went on to claim that Russia is economically bankrupt held together by the sale of vodka and resources like natural gas to Europe. But Israel's natural gas discovery in December 2010 makes the Jewish state a net exporter of energy, and this threatens Russian dominance in supplying energy. Then in October 2015, Israel discovered oil in the Golan Heights. Israel's oil find is in one of the most contested pieces of real estate in the world. Two days before the announcement, Russian President Putin ordered troops and heavy artillery into Syria.

Isaiah 45: 3 promises, ***“I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”*** Ezekiel 38 uses metaphor– hooks in your jaws– to describe that Russia and its allies will be lured by God himself into the fray. And then Russia and its allies will be miraculously defeated by God himself! Verse 8 tells us that the war will take place in the latter days when Israel has been regathered and is living in relative peace. But verse 11 of Ezekiel 38 gives us the detail that the purpose of the war will be to seize Israel's resources.

In light of the upcoming Ezekiel War, we also continue to watch Isaiah 17 very closely, which opens with ***“The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.”*** Although Damascus, Syria’s capital, was conquered many times, the city was never totally destroyed. But Syria is suicidal as the state sponsor of the terror group Hezbollah and allows the presence of the Iranian-backed terrorists as well as Russia’s military presence. Verse 14 of Isaiah 17 is a bombshell in light of the coming Ezekiel War and the invaders’ plan to plunder Israel. It says, ***“In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they are gone! This is the portion of those who loot us, the lot of those who plunder us.”***

Again, I want to mention the possible role of Britain and the United States because Ezekiel 38: 13 mentions the verbal protests by Israel’s allies, the Tarshish nations, the lion and her lion cubs—which could be Britain, USA, Canada and Australia — but apparently the Tarshish nations only engage in diplomatic rhetoric. They apparently don’t intervene; instead, DIVINE intervention wins the day, and the God of Israel will receive all the glory! The God of Israel not only intervenes, he crushes the invaders, bringing shock and awe to the world!

Let’s look at Ezekiel 38: 18, ***“When Gog attacks the land of Israel, the Sovereign Lord says, “My hot anger will be aroused, My fury will come up in my face. In My zeal and in My blazing wrath, I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; ...With pestilence and blood I’ll enter into judgment with Gog; I will rain on him and his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. I will magnify Myself, I will sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.”***”

So, you see, this supernatural war is going to be one of God’s GREAT, great interventions in human history!! The God of Israel is going to magnify Himself in the sight of the nations, and Ezekiel 39: 7 declares that He will make His name known in the midst of His people Israel. Furthermore, God says in Ezekiel 39: 21, ***“I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward.”***

You see, all of this prophecy couldn’t be fulfilled until Israel was restored. Recently I was told adamantly by a Palestinian that the Jewish people are no longer God’s chosen people, and to try to back up her argument, she quoted a prominent religious leader in the Mideast who disparaged the Jewish people, saying they’re no longer the chosen people. I answered, ***“With respect, the Word of God is more reliable than the opinion of a religious leader. God is a covenant-keeping God, and he has promised to keep covenant with Israel because of his unfailing character despite their own failings.”***

Ezekiel 39 goes on to say, ***“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be***

jealous for My holy name.” And God adds in Ezekiel 39: 28, ***“Israel will know that the Lord their God sent them into captivity among the nations but also that I brought them back to their land leaving none behind any longer.”*** You see, God is going to intervene and do all of this for his own glory and because he is a covenant-keeping God. . . .The Ezekiel War will sanctify the name of the real one and only true God in the eyes of the nations. What a great breakthrough that’s going to be for preaching the Gospel!

Will Ezekiel War involve a nuclear exchange?

Ezekiel says, Some eschatologists wonder if the Ezekiel War will involve a nuclear exchange? Well, we also have this interesting detail in Ezekiel 39 telling us that for seven months the house of Israel will be involved in burying the bodies of the defeated coalition, in order to cleanse the land. Ezekiel 39 alludes to certain cleansing procedures mentioned in verses 11 to 16 possibly due to nuclear contamination. The bottom line out of all of this is that the Jewish people and the nations will recognize God’s hand in victory, and a great revival will ensue.

This gives me great hope despite the current darkness and lawlessness in the nations especially in the west. God prophesies in Ezekiel 39: 22, ***“I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. So, from that day forward, the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God.”*** Then, verse 28 and 29, ***“They will know that I am the LORD their God, when I regather them to their own land, after exiling them among the nations, not leaving any of them behind.”*** And—listen to the glorious conclusion of Ezekiel 39—God says, ***“I will no longer hide My face from them, for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD.”*** Friends, this prophecy calls for a Selah moment and this promise of Holy Spirit outpouring corresponds with the glorious prophecy of Zechariah 12:10 where God promises to outpour the spirit of grace and supplications upon the house of David and Jerusalem. Zechariah prophesies, ***“They will look on ME, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for HIM as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”*** Furthermore, the Ezekiel War chapters are followed by chapters about the restoration of the Temple of God and the return of the glory of the Lord during the Millennium. So watch the Mideast and heed the words of Jesus in his Olivet Discourse, ***“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know the summer is near. Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. ... Therefore, be on the alert— What I say to you, I say to all, watch for the Lord’s appearing!”***

Amen and Amen. I pray to God that he’s working in the hearts of anyone who has not yet received Jesus as Savior and Lord. If that’s you, I urge and encourage you to receive him today— now! And in the meantime, let’s take fresh courage in light of the amazing divine intervention that’s coming in the Mideast. While we can, let’s be strong

and take action, sharing the Gospel, and doing the exploits the Lord calls each one of us to do. And let's stay in touch on social media or at our website at exploits.tv where you can sign up to receive our free color magazine Exploits. I'm Christine Darg, Maranatha and shalom!

Why will Russia lead this attack against Israel? One reason is anti-Semitism. For centuries Russia has been notorious for hatred and persecution and massacring of Jews living in that land. And now that Communism at least for a while has lost its grip on the government of Russia, anti-Semitism has been permitted to raise its ugly head again and there's an organization there in Russia called Pamyat that sees the ultimate purpose of its existence as that of eliminating every Jew from the land of Russia. And so persecution has begun to break out against the Jews again.

But there is another reason why Russia will lead this attack against Israel. According to the British intelligence service, here is the current thinking of the disgruntled officers of the Russian military. They are saying that in spite of what has happened to Russia since it began to fall apart at the seams, Russia can still have Super-power status in the world if it will ally itself with the Islamic nations of the world against Israel. And God, some 2500 years ago through Ezekiel 38 was foretelling that is precisely what is going to happen in world history. Russia has to constantly watch over its shoulders with China and the Muslim world. Either one has the potential to try to annex Russia's land mass as well its assets.

Israel's War: The Prophetic Signs of Ezekiel 38 Decoded

For the first time in thousands of years of history, nations that will come against Israel right after the Church is raptured are literally lining up and getting into position for the Ezekiel 38 War. This lineup makes it pretty clear that the Church leaves soon. Moreover, the nations of the world are aligning against Israel exactly as the Bible said they would. It's not similar—it's precise. And it's flawless to watch. Jesus came to earth at a specific time, and He will return at a specific time. Meanwhile, we live in this pressure vacuum while the earth prepares for Jesus' return—whether it be opposing nations and their armies, Gentiles and Jews, or even the Church. Everyone is under this umbrella of pressure squeezing right down to the end because Jesus of Nazareth is about to be revealed as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Joel saw it and said, **"Wake everybody up!"** -(Joel 3:9). Isaiah saw it. Hosea saw it. Every prophet saw it and was in awe of God coming back to the planet. The first coming was quiet, but the Second Coming will be the universal grand finale event of all events. Even now in preparation, there are rumblings and birth pangs from every corner of the earth and even in the heavens. A lot of what happens as we count down to the return of Jesus involves that one little piece of real estate called Israel. That's definitely true when it comes to the Ezekiel 38 War.

There's a showdown coming all right! Ezekiel says when Russia comes down on Israel, it's the only time you see God intervene for Israel so the heathen will know He is God.

God takes 82 percent of Russia out in one fell swoop, or five sixths of Russia, according to Ezekiel 38:20.

Nations Boldly Line Up

The nations that don't attack Israel in the Ezekiel 38 War are making peace with Israel now while those nations that move against Israel are boldly lining up. Let's compare how the nations divide up in Ezekiel 38 with what's currently happening in world news, and you'll see clearly how close we are to the Rapture of the Church.

All the other nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 have old historical ties with Turkey or are portions of Turkey and Russia. The main players are Russia, Turkey, Iran (Persia). Ethiopia and Libya are involved as well. Ezekiel 38 says Israel will be attacked from the *far north*, so let me say this to help you visualize the area. In your mind, run a straight line north of Israel, and you'll see it heads directly into Russia, Turkey, and connects with eastern Asia. The borders were different in Bible days versus now, but it's still all connected and points to the exact same region. The Bible clumps Turkey with western Russia and doesn't really define the two.

All of these nations are systematically helping the Palestinians surround Israel even now. These nations are blatantly and aggressively verbalizing their end-game goal to annihilate Israel.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erodğan said last year that Jerusalem and the Temple Mount don't belong to Israel. That's crazy! That would be like saying Washington, D.C. and the Washington Monument don't belong to the United States.

The Palestinians even said this past year that Big Ben doesn't belong to England. *"It belongs to us,"* they said. How insane. But the Bible says the Antichrist will try to change dates and times in history -(Daniel 7:25), and we see a prelude to that with these nations and their not-so-veiled threats toward Israel. Even now, they are demonstrating the spirit of the Antichrist.

Erodğan has said he would call on Islam, and they will ascend to the Temple Mount and take Jerusalem. Does that not sound familiar? Does it not remind you of Lucifer who said, ***"I will ascend to the sides of the North and be like the Most High"*** -(Isaiah 14:12-14)? It's that same spirit, that same mentality.

Turkey's actions are so bold that they are almost unbelievable. Turkey is training Hamas in Libya. Turkey is working its way into Greece. Turkey is already in northern Syria. Turkey is in the edge of Iraq. Technically, Turkey has Israel surrounded. A few weeks ago in December, 2023, Turkey attacked the U.S./NATO air base at Incirlik, Turkey where the U.S. has fifty nuclear bombs based.

Russia also has nine airbases in Syria. Every single week, Israel must bomb the outskirts of Damascus to preemptively strike munitions plants there. Russia has said

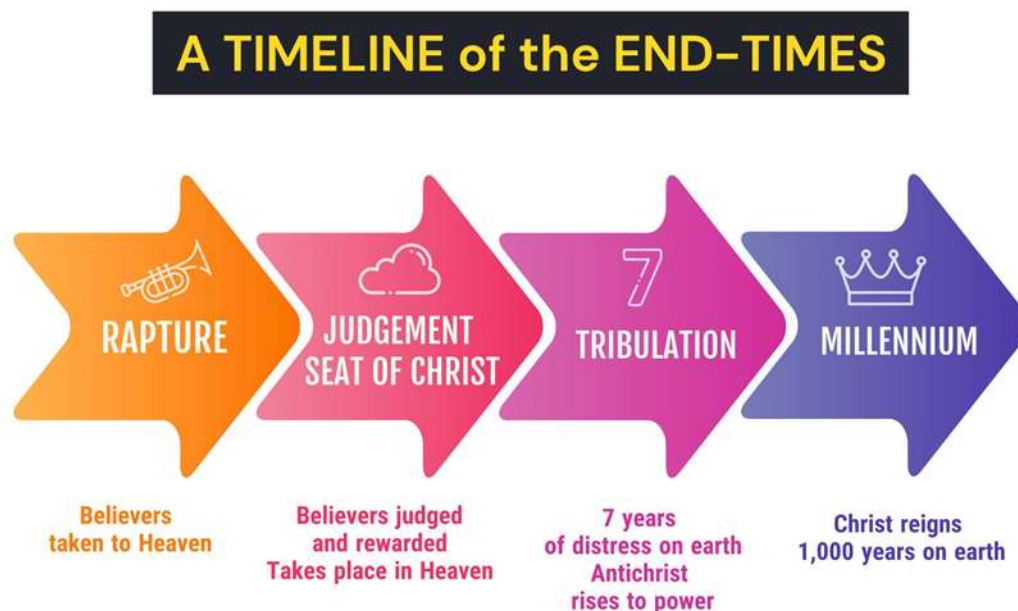
they won't allow Israel to do it anymore, but Israel does it anyway. On top of it all, Iran is close to getting a nuclear weapon.

The Bible says in Isaiah 17:1 that Damascus will no longer be a city. I don't know whether that happens before or after the Rapture, but a lot of end-time scholars believe it's the action that instigates the beginning of the Ezekiel 38 War. Certainly, Damascus being wiped off the map would be a perfect precursor to bring Russia and Turkey down on Israel. I believe we'll also see radioactivity during the Ezekiel 38 War. The Bible talks about troops returning to deal with it when they are more suited to handle the hazards - (Ezekiel 39).

Afghanistan in the News

A lot of people are wondering if the turmoil in Afghanistan in 2021 has anything to do with the Ezekiel 38 War. Of course it does. It is a precursor to how quickly nations can be altered, and it is also a pathway for how Russia will come down on Israel. The group that took over Afghanistan is among those who want to annihilate Israel. Afghanistan is a doorway to a corridor that makes way for Russia to invade Israel.

The Bible says the Euphrates River runs dry right before the Second Coming, and ISIS has been damming up the Euphrates over and over again. Several months ago a news report stated that the Euphrates River was dried up. All these groups are doing things to facilitate what happens at the Second Coming. So, when you see nations altering themselves in a day, you're seeing a setup for what happens just before we leave.



World War III

We read in Ezekiel 4 that God puts a hook in Russia's jaw, and they come down to Israel for food or money. Turkey is the instigator, but Russia is the invader. The Ezekiel

38 War is all about Russia coming down on Israel for spoil. Even now, these guys are showing their true colors, and you have a front-row seat.

Ezekiel 38 is showing us that right after the Rapture of the Church, World War III will break out on the face of the earth. Russia has for some time now attempted to provoke war. They fly their airplanes in the Baltic Sea and over Alaska without their transponders on, which you can only do when you're at war. (Transponders send out beacons alerting other nations where your planes are.) They buzz our Israeli and American jets and spy planes. A Russian submarine came up right off the coast of Los Angeles a while back, and the captain came out and literally thumbed his nose at America. Their actions are to provoke confrontation, which didn't happen 30 years ago. It didn't happen 20 years ago, but it happens frequently today.

After Russia invaded the Ukraine and Crimea in 2014, Putin seemed to develop a new thought pattern: We can do whatever we want to do. Russia demonstrates this attitude in many ways, and it's especially disconcerting that the U.S. Secret Service theorizes that Russian President Vladimir Putin has Asperger's Disease, which is a type of autism. Think about the fact that the head of a nation that has more nuclear weapons than almost anybody in the world all lined up for war may have mental issues. Like I said, right before your eyes, Russia is setting up for World War III.

Financially Strapped Russia

After the Rapture, something happens to Russia. They will say, *"Hey, we're taking Israel because we need her oil."* Keep in mind that by the time the Church is raptured, Russia will likely be completely bankrupt. For years, I've heard on-and-off-again reports of Russia facing near bankruptcy. During the Ukraine conflict Russia has managed to increase its wealth through oil and gas sales to China and India. The BRICS nations have become key trading partners with Russia.

Epic Chaos

Right after the Church leaves, there will be chaos all over the earth. Obviously, the media will come up with some pretty wild ideas about why so many people have disappeared. It will have catastrophic effects. Think of unsaved parents whose young children are raptured. Entire churches will be emptied out. That will not go unnoticed, and the massive chaos will set the stage for the greatest harvest in the Bible that takes place right after we're raptured.

In the midst of Russia taking over Israel and Christians around the world vanished, the world will face a great wake-up call. Many people will be saying, *"The churches of those crazy Christians are all empty. Maybe they knew something that we don't."* Russia will be saying, *"We need cash, and Israel is ripe for taking."* All combined, the scene is set for epic chaos.

Russia already just happens to have a S-300 missile defense system set up in Syria. It's got the most technologically advanced cyber warfare set up on the mountains of Syria to the point that Israel recognizes Syria eavesdrops on everything they do.

The whole world is set up for war. Twenty years ago, America and many other nations would have said, *"We stand with Israel. If you fight Israel, you will fight us as well."* That isn't necessarily the attitude right now. Beginning in 2014, America took a different position. In fact, not only did they take the position not to support Israel, but they also tried to basically prop up Iran to destroy Israel. There was a time that was unimaginable, but today it's the making of news headlines.

Do you understand the significance of this? Right before our eyes, the nations have lined up setting the stage for the Ezekiel 38 War.

Right now, in Syria it's the craziest coalition ever. Russia is fighting the Syrian rebels, who are trying to fight ISIS. Russia put up an air defense system that is unbelievably the most sophisticated in the world, and ISIS doesn't have any airplanes. Okay, they put up the most elaborate air defense in the world all over the nation of Syria to fight ISIS, but again, ISIS has no airplanes. Think about it.

A Showdown with God

The incidents are ready to fall like dominoes. The Rapture happens, the Church or the restraining force against evil is gone. Russia needs money; its mighty weapons are in place. Russia looks at prosperous and bountiful Israel and says, *"Let's just help ourselves!"*

Russia will try to swoop down and overtake Israel, but God will show off for Israel. He will defend her. God said, ***"Then all the nations will know that I am Lord (or God)."*** He's so awesome!

Let's look at Ezekiel 38:23:

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

Continue reading in the next chapter in Ezekiel 39:6:

"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."

Pay attention to the word carelessly, which means confidently. Let me give you my conjecture on this. My personal take is that right after the Rapture, the earth will see nuclear war. I believe that is the fire that comes on those isles. Isles is the word for coastal cities like Los Angeles, New York, Miami, etc. And again, this is Pastor Bob talking, but I believe these port cities will probably be nuked from Russia. Notice what the Bible specifically says in Ezekiel 39:

"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 39:7). As discussed in Chapter 5, God's tone changes after the Church leaves. God boldly deals with the heathen.

EZEKIEL SUMMARIZED

FULFILLED PROPHECY

Chapters 1 to 11

Ezekiel called to prophesy to Israel after seeing visions of the Glory of God & the Throne of God.
The glory leaves the Temple and the Mt of Olives

Chapters 12 to 24

Idolatrous Jerusalem to be besieged, burned, & Zedekiah removed to Babylon. The throne of David to be overturned three times & cease till Messiah reigns.

Chapter 25

Because Ammon, Moab, Mt Seir (Edom), and the Philistines rejoiced over Jerusalem's downfall they would be judged by Nebuchadnezzar

Chapters 26 to 28

Tyre's coastal city and Sidon to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and the Island city later by Alexander because she rejoiced over Jerusalem's downfall. Tyre's king possessed by Satan.

Chapters 29 to 32

Egypt to be judged by Nebuchadnezzar and desolate 40 years (570-530BC) because they failed to support Jerusalem. Tho' Pharaoh claim to be God he will go to hell with kings of other heathen nations.

Chapters 30

Ezekiel to be a Watchman to warn about FUTURE events

Chapters 31 to 36

Unbelieving Israel to return to the land in the LAST DAYS midst challenges from Arab neighbours.

Chapter 37

Three steps to Israel's restoration in LAST DAYS. Zionism (1881), Nationhood (1948), Conversion in the Tribulation (future). No longer 2 kingdoms when converted.

Chapters 38 and 39

The day of Israel's conversion when Islamic armies led by Russia, invade in first half of the Tribulation

Chapters 40 to 48

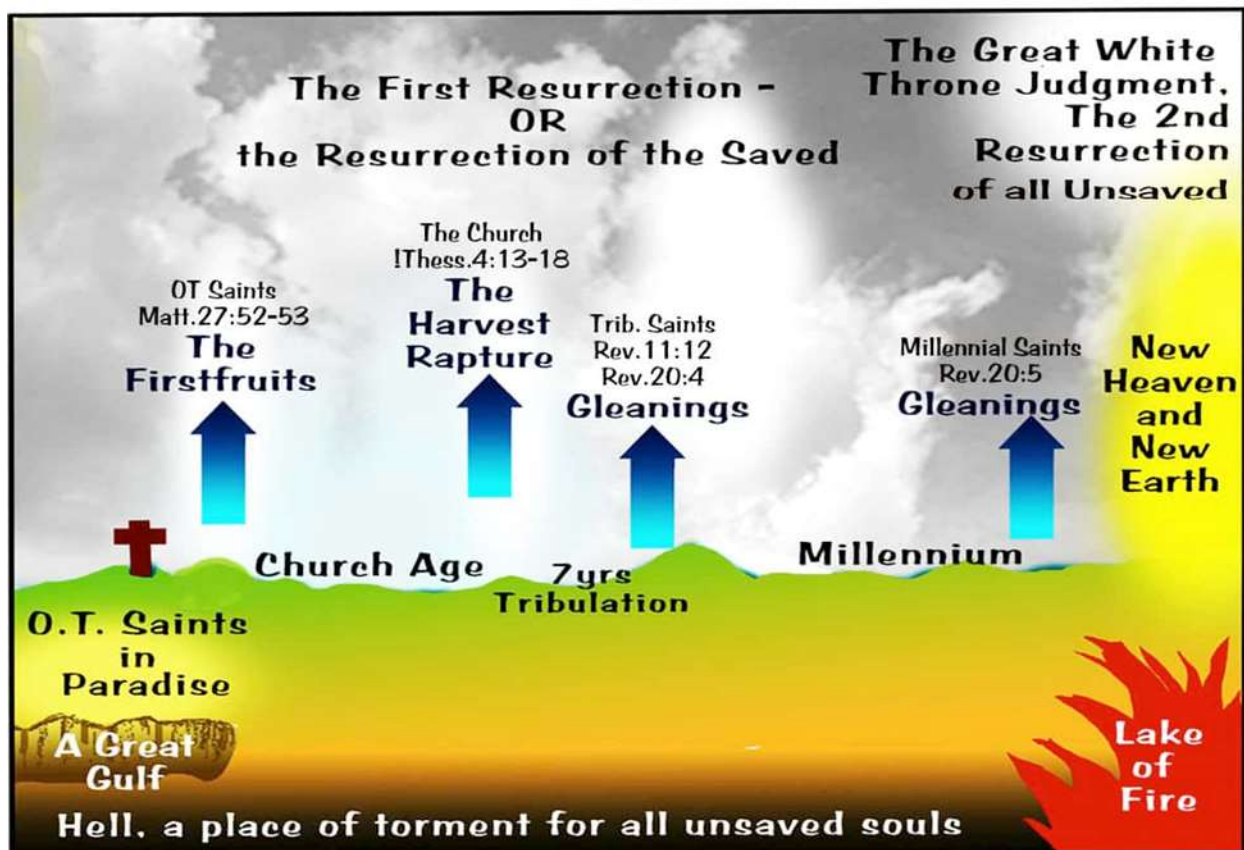
The Millennial Temple and priestly service specified. The Dead Sea healed and the land divided among the 12 Tribes when the Glory of God returns in the LAST DAYS.

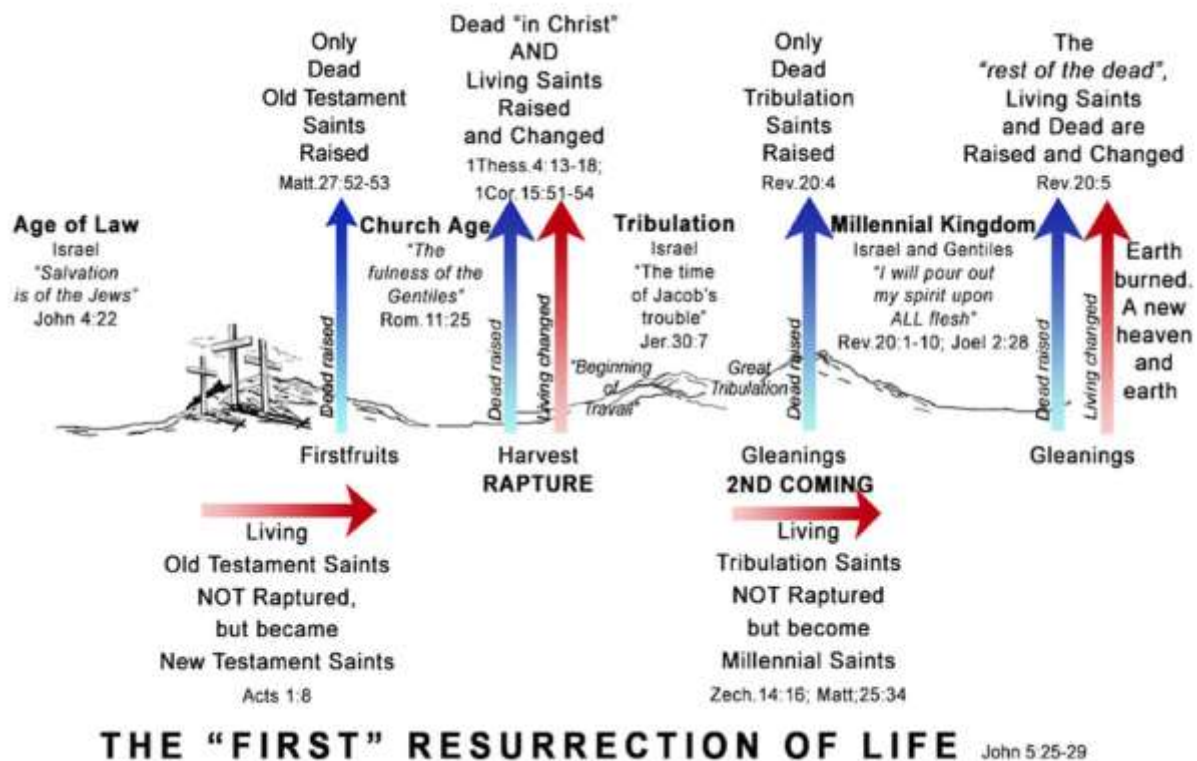
FUTURE PROPHECY

After the Ezekiel 38 War, munitions burn for seven years. In fact, there's so much radioactivity that they mark things and come back after they are better equipped to deal with it. *"What happens after the seven years?"* someone might ask. The Second Coming. Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives with the brightness of His coming and stops war.

While you're alive in 2024, you are watching Russia amp up. Man, I wish I had a printout of everything they've done recently. Russia is positioning more and more armaments in Syria, and they have let Hezbollah thwart Israel at every opportunity. Hezbollah is an Islamist political party and militant group in northern Israel that openly declares they want to annihilate Israel. They have 100,000 rockets and keep getting more from Russia. Israel recently pivoted from Gaza to Lebanon, and many see Benjamin Netanyahu doing so to save his retaining office. If that happens, the war will spread in the region.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said to Russia a while back, *"You do one more shipment down to Hezbollah, and we will fire on you."* So, there's all these little things that happen right before a world war, and you're watching the mechanics of it. The nations are gearing up for it because we are about to depart. This should send all of us a clear, loud message. It should tell us: *"Lift up your head!"* Why? The war that we have just talked about happens after we are gone. Friend, live in the mentality that you're about to be caught up in the air to meet Jesus because you are!





You could have blown me over with a feather when I heard Secretary of State Antony Blinken as recent as two weeks ago boasting with his statement.

We had peace and security under Trump but on Biden's watch, the world is flying apart at the seams at record speed. There's a war in Ukraine, a war in Israel and there are threats of other conflicts on the horizon.

Prominent conservatives on social media trashed U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken for touting his department's work to *"strengthen global peace."*

Blinken posted, *"As I reflect on the miles traveled, countries visited, and intense diplomacy over the past year, I am proud of our work to build stronger partnerships and strengthen global peace and security."*

The introduction to the "photographic journey" page, composed entirely of pictures of Blinken, said, *"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken calls America's partnerships its greatest strategic asset. In 2023, he traveled more than 380,000 kilometers and visited over two dozen countries to meet with our nation's partners. He pledged solidarity with allies and offered assistance after disasters."* That statement certainly seems to me to come from one that is completely out of touch with reality in the region. He has been labeled a sociopath just recently for his remarks.

This arrogant statement immediately brought to my remembrance 1st Thessalonians 5:3: ***"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."***

Zionist Jew Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken may have inadvertently as well as prematurely fulfilled the prophecy of 1st Thessalonians 5:3. At the very time when the Lord returns, unbelievers will be rejecting the warnings of the Bible and crying, ***"Peace and safety"*** (security). But in the midst of their declarations that people do not need God to have peace (including health, well-being, and spiritual peace of heart and mind) or security (including the gaining of all that is certain and true), sudden destruction (ruin, death) will come upon them. The words ***ou mē*** indicate strong negation and can be translated "by no means." There will be no possibility of escape -(See Jeremiah 6:14.)

IDF spokesperson says war with Hamas has 'shifted a stage' to less intense combat. Hagari tells NYT new tactics require fewer troops, airstrikes; Gallant earlier tells WSJ army set to switch from 'intense maneuvering' to 'special ops' in war in Gaza

Israel's defense leaders have indicated a shift in the military campaign against the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip, from intense battles to more targeted operations, with the military spokesperson confirming for the first time that this change is already underway.

Three Hezbollah leaders killed in Israel attack, terror group attacks IDF base UAV warnings and rocket sirens sounded across Israel on Tuesday morning.

Three members of Hezbollah were killed in an Israeli UAV attack on a vehicle in southern Lebanon, according to media reports on Tuesday morning. Two sources who spoke to Reuters said that the attack, which took place in Ghandouriyeh, was a targeted drone strike on a vehicle. Israel has been expecting a Hezbollah response since the assassination of the commander of Hezbollah's Radwan Force, Wissam al-Tawil, on Monday.

In recent days there has been a major escalation in the Middle Eastern conflict. Israel has launched a series of attacks against targets outside Palestine, including Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of key members of anti-Zionist organizations. Israel's targeted assassinations have been seen as an affront to Lebanese national sovereignty, increasing the risks of an open war between the Zionist state and Hezbollah.

Israel has been bombing its neighboring countries since the war began in October. However, the frequency and brutality of these raids has grown significantly in recent weeks. Lebanon has become one of the main targets of Israeli attacks, especially in strikes targeting strategic public figures. In one of these operations, Wissam al-Tawil, deputy head of the Radwan group, a special unit of the Shiite militia, was murdered. Al-Tawil was a high-ranking member of Hezbollah, which means there will certainly be a retaliation.

A few days earlier, a brutal Israeli attack in Beirut had left six high-ranking Hamas members dead, including the Palestinian organization's deputy head, Saleh al-Arouri. At the time members of Hezbollah were not targeted, and the strike was aimed at killing Hamas militants gathered in Beirut. However, the fact that the attack was carried out on Lebanese soil obviously generated outrage among members of the Shiite militia, who promised retaliation for the violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

Hassan Nasrallah, general secretary of Hezbollah, made two statements about these events. According to him, Hezbollah is already fighting Israel, but is using only a small percentage of its combat potential. The militia's involvement is "limited", being focused on neutralizing Israeli intelligence targets on the border. For now, the objectives of these operations are, according to Nasrallah, to generate military pressure against Israel and help the Palestinians by eliminating IDF's resources. However, Nasrallah made it clear that if Israel continues to violate Lebanese sovereignty, the group will launch a "war without restrictions", using full power against Zionist troops.

Fears grow over all-out Mideast war involving Iran, Israel and U.S. In the last week alone, Israel has killed a senior Hamas militant in an airstrike in Beirut, Hezbollah has struck a sensitive Israeli base with rockets, the United States has killed a militia commander in Baghdad, and Iran-backed rebels in Yemen have traded fire with the U.S. Navy.

Each strike and counterstrike increases the risk of the already catastrophic war in Gaza spilling across the region. And in the decades-old standoff pitting the U.S. and Israel against Iran and allied militant groups, there are fears that any one party could trigger a wider war if only to avoid appearing weak. The war in the Middle East after 96 days is still only in the very early chapters, and so much death and destruction are ahead. It would be presumptuous to imply that a long or protracted war will ensue. My perception is that various groups will establish a coordinated effort for a blitzkrieg attack intending to overwhelm the IDF with the intent of using attrition to so weaken the Israeli forces that they could annihilate the smaller regular Israeli army. The reserves called up for the October 7th invasion create problems for the Israeli economy by being on active duty this long. Several U.S. military analysts have commented that Israel cannot win a protracted war let alone a multiple-front war.

Ever since Hamas invaded Israel on October 7, murdering, torturing and raping over 1,200 innocent Jews, Israel's complex relationship with the United States has impeded the course of its righteous war against Hamas. It's true that America supplies Israel with the weapons and ammunition it needs to eradicate Hamas. But this largesse, like that of wealthy congregants, comes at a very steep cost.

Though the U.S. gives over \$3.3 billion in foreign aid to Israel each year, the long term impact of this support is deeply damaging to the nation it is meant to help. It has a suffocating effect on the development of domestic Israeli defense companies, because the terms of the aid package require Israel to purchase the great majority of its arms and ammunition from American companies. The result is that Israel has ceded its arms

manufacturing to the United States, placing all of its eggs in the American basket. Given the tenuousness of America's support for Israel over the years, this approach has left Israel vulnerable to American pressure, in more ways than one.

Now, that Ancient Prophet, Zephaniah speaks great wisdom:

"Israel's dependence on America is not merely bad policy. As the prophet Zephaniah teaches, it is a national sin and a spiritual brokenness that is preventing the people of Israel from fulfilling its Godly mission on this Earth."

Reckoning with God Himself!

Israeli leaders of almost all political parties, both left and right, suffer from the same devastating flaw. As they grapple with the great challenges of our time and manage Israel's complex relations with allied and enemy nations, they ignore the most influential "superpower" of all: God Himself.

One who believes that God 'does neither good nor harm', that God does not have a central role to play in the events of our time, denies the foundational doctrine of Divine Providence. A true believer in the Bible does not merely believe in the God of Genesis, the God who created the world. A person of genuine faith must also believe in the God of Exodus, the God who is involved in the world He created and rewards and punishes mankind, measure for measure.

From the beginning, the United States has made it clear that its support for Israel comes *"with strings attached."* The United States can, at any moment, withhold its military aid from Israel, leaving Israel in a dangerously vulnerable position.

Biden(Obama), Harris and his entire Administration is stridently anti-Israel. They are already attempting to pull those strings which they believe they have. Israeli leaders must resist those pressures, or Biblical prophecy concerning Israel will not be fulfilled.

Truly, the Ancient Prophet, Zephaniah, is calling out to the people of Israel. Like many other prophets, Zephaniah describes the events that will occur at the end of days, and the upheavals and suffering that will overtake the world. ***"The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens greatly, the sound of the day of the Lord, wherein the mighty man cries bitterly. That day is a day of wrath; a day of trouble and distress; a day of ruin (shoah) and desolation (m'shoah); a day of darkness and gloom; a day of clouds and thick darkness"*** -(Zephaniah 1:14-15).

Tellingly, Zephaniah is one of the very few prophets to speak of ***"shoah,"*** a Hebrew word for ruin and desolation which would later be used in modern times to refer to the Holocaust. When using this painful word, it's possible he was also referring to events of our own generation – to the horrors of October 7, when more Jews were murdered in a single day than on any day since the Holocaust.

For these sins, the terrorists of Gaza will pay. ***“For Gaza shall be deserted... At noon they shall drive her out, and Ekron shall be uprooted. Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of Cherethites! The word of the Lord is against you, Canaan land of the Philistines, and I will destroy you so that there shall not be an inhabitant”*** -(Zephaniah 2:4-5). As Israel systematically uproots Hamas from Gaza, whole swaths of that strip of land lie empty and deserted, just as Zephaniah prophesied.

In these verses, the people of Gaza are referred to as the *“nation of Cherethites.”* There is no nation, in the Bible or throughout history, called the Cherethites. The word derives from the Hebrew word ***“kareit,”*** meaning *“to be cut off.”* In biblical law, one who is punished by God with kareit has no future; his soul is cut off from God. This, ultimately, will be the fate of the people of Gaza, who overwhelmingly support the murder of innocent Jews.

“And it shall be a lot for the remnant of the house of Judah” -(Zephaniah 2:7). Gaza will one day – hopefully sooner than later – become a destination for Jews returning from exile. ***“For the lands of the Philistines [i.e. Gaza] are among the lands that fell within the portion of the tribe of Judah during the conquest of Joshua the son of Nun, and it will once again be a Jewish land, where Jewish shepherds shall bring their flocks to graze and where they will sleep soundly at night”***

But Zephaniah does not merely predict the events of our time. Like the other prophets who speak of the end times, he makes a unique contribution to our understanding of these tumultuous events.

Despite their many failures, Israel’s leaders care deeply about the safety and well-being of its people. Many Israeli leaders served bravely as IDF soldiers, putting their lives on the line to protect God’s people. Yet Israeli leaders of almost all political parties, both left and right, suffer from the same devastating flaw. As they grapple with the great challenges of our time and manage Israel’s complex relations with allied and enemy nations, they ignore the most influential “superpower” of all: God Himself.

“And it shall come to pass on that day, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and I will visit upon the men who are settled on their lees, who say in their heart, ‘The Lord shall do neither good nor harm’” -(Zephaniah 1:12).

One who believes that God *“does neither good nor harm,”* that God does not have a central role to play in the events of our time, denies the foundational doctrine of Divine Providence. A true believer in the Bible does not merely believe in the God of Genesis, the God who created the world. A person of genuine faith must also believe in the God of Exodus, the God who is involved in the world He created and rewards and punishes mankind, measure for measure.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Kirya, the IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv, on Tuesday before he was expected to

join a meeting of Israel's War Cabinet. According to Israeli media reports, during the meeting, Blinken raised a request for a significant increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza.

"The secretary reaffirmed our support for Israel's right to prevent the terrorist attacks of October 7 from being repeated and stressed the importance of avoiding further civilian harm and protecting civilian infrastructure in Gaza," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said after the meeting.

He also delivered a warning to Israel to not get enmeshed in a larger war in Lebanon, according to a Washington Post report.

"President Biden has dispatched his top aides to the Middle East with a critical objective: Prevent a full-blown war from erupting between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah," the Post reported on Sunday.

"Blinken was set to arrive Monday in Israel, where he will discuss specific steps to 'avoid escalation,' his spokesman Matthew Miller said before boarding a plane to the Middle East."

The skirmishes between Israel and Hezbollah on the Lebanese border reached new heights this week, with Israel assassinating senior Hamas commander Saleh al-Arouri in Beirut and Hezbollah hitting the IDF Northern Command headquarters with a drone.

On Tuesday morning, before the meeting with Netanyahu and the War Cabinet, Blinken met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who impressed upon him that South Africa's lawsuit against Israel for the claim of "genocide" in Gaza was "preposterous."

"Yesterday, I had a long conversation with the [U.S.] Vice President," Herzog told Blinken after their fifth meeting since the start of the war on Oct. 7.

What Paul said about the Day of the Lord with its judgments catching men by surprise applies only to the wicked, the careless, the unbelieving, the spiritually unprepared. This verse makes a strong contrast between believers and unbelievers. Paul was confident in the reality of the believers' faith and their dedication to the Lord. The Day of the Lord will not overtake Christians to seize them and carry them into the vortex of judgment. It will, however, not be because they know when it is coming. The day and the hour will be hid from them the same as it will be from everyone else.

But they will not be caught unprepared because they are not in darkness. Amos rebuked the people of his day who were talking about the Day of the Lord but doing nothing to prepare for it -(Amos 5:18). For them, it would be a day of darkness and not light. This was because they were already walking in moral and spiritual darkness. God is light, and He has made provision for Christians to walk in the light -(1st John 1:5-7).

Believers are not only walking in the light, they are "*children of light*." They are characterized by and share the nature and character of light. (See Luke 1:78, 79; 2:32; John 1:9; 8:12 where Jesus is the light.)

Believers are also "*children of the day*." Some take this to mean the Day of the Lord. But the context shows Christians are children characterized by "day." Thieves come in the night. True believers are always in the day, spiritually speaking. Light is their way of life. They do not belong to darkness -(Ephesians 5:8-11). Given what nearly a hundred days of war has brought, I take Tony Blinken's prophetic words as our call to be wide awake and ready to Depart!

Blessings,

Pastor Bob, EvanTeachr@aol.com
www.pastorbobreid.com

